

West Mead Township Board of Supervisors

Public Study Session Minutes

September 12, 2023 - 6:00 p.m.

Present: Supervisors Bovard, Jordan and Shartle. Also present: Kim Mourer, Jim Oakes, Brandt Fuller, Paul Martin, Penni Dallas, Chief Brown, Alan Shaddinger, Mike Crowley and Jill Dunlap.

Note: This is a public meeting of the Board of Supervisors for purposes of general discussion of administrative, regulatory enforcement; police and road department and personnel; building and grounds; budget and related matters and issues related thereto that may or may not require action. It is also used to review and comment on the public meeting agenda for the regular public meeting.

The Chairman noted the above item.

Public Comment:

None

Meadville Area West Mead Township Representative Jim Oakes of the Meadville Area Sewer Authority and Director Kim Mourer were present to provide an update on the Meadville Area Sewer Authority. Kim Mourer explained the status of the new plant upgrades to be in compliance with DEP regulations and they should help substantially lower their energy costs. Construction costs for the project are anticipated to be \$28,000,000.00 with a grant obtained by Senator Michele Brooks for \$16,000,000.00 and the remaining to be provided for using a PennVEST 1% loan. Jim Oakes noted he is serving his first year as a Board member and indicated there is a lot to learn when new. Kim Mourer also noted the work being done by her, Barry Porter and Jill Dunlap in getting payment plans in place for those West Mead residents who are behind in their payments. She estimated \$50,000.00 has been secured by their work.

Brandt Fuller of the New Beginnings Church of God was present to discuss a request to pipe in the ditch located along Leslie Road, from their driveway toward Shartle Road. He noted during storms the ditches run full and questioned if a perforated pipe system could be placed in the ditch and covered so they can mow and maintain it instead of weed eating as they currently do. He indicated they would pay all costs involved. Jordan saw issues with closing it in and noted no more water should be directed toward Route 77. He indicated geotextile fabric may be useful in the bottom of the ditch. Shartle noted the driveway could be widened 40 feet more on each side to help alleviate people driving off the entrance of the parking lot. Bovard indicated we may wish to involve the Township Engineer to review the situation. Shartle noted he was not in favor of this. All agreed further discussion could take place as no work would be done in 2023.

Jordan moved, Shartle seconded to ratify Shields Paving Inc. to complete paving work which includes fibers on Beechwood Drive, in conjunction with the city of Meadville paving project being done on adjoining streets, in the amount of \$11,261.00. Vote – All Approved.

Shartle discussed using a telephone pole at the Fairgrounds Parking Lot Area on Leslie Road to locate some type of light fixture to illuminate the area year round. The fire siren for West Mead #2 Fire Department was removed leaving the pole unused at this time. Jordan moved, Shartle seconded to authorize the Secretary and Roadmaster to investigate various options for pole light fixtures. Vote – All Approved.

The Roadmaster discussed the possible purchase of Boom Mower Tractor and Pickup Truck. Shartle and Jordan discussed various options and quotes obtained. They also discussed a HydroDig piece of equipment as well as an option from JCB. Bovard noted these could be discussed further during upcoming budget meetings. Jim Oakes questioned the budgeted amounts and how purchases would be paid for. Bovard and Dunlap discussed the use of Capital Funds for equipment purchases, as we have been borrowing and paying our Capital Fund Account back instead of securing loans or leases in recent years.

The Board reviewed the items on the 7:00 meeting agenda.

Being no further business, Jordan moved, Shartle seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Dunlap
Secretary