**Town of West Milford**

**Council Minutes**

**March 18, 2025**

Council Members Present: Mayor Todd Somers, Recorder Jeff Barnhart, Councilors Jackie Somers, Patty Flowers, Chip Myers, Cody Goldsmith, Absent (Work) Councilor Drake Toothman

Mayor Somers called the meeting to order at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance and Lord’s Prayer recited by all

Public Comment-Comment was received regarding Fire/Police fees, discussion was held and numbers presented as far as collection amounts budget was also questioned and discussed, Discussion was also presented regarding blight properties on Deerbourne Street as well as abandoned vehicles on Bowie property located on Main Street near Rt 19; Code Enforcement will be notified

Water Report: Mayor Somers read water report with each councilor having copies, Motion to accept report by Councilor Cody Goldsmith, 2nd by Councilor Chip Myers, Motion carried

Treasurer’s Report: No Treasurer Report provided; due to preparing the 2025-2026 Budget for approval

Attorney Comments: Comments centered around mirroring Election cycle with State/County Election as well as obtaining .gov email addresses for the town

Law Enforcement: Capt McIntyre-Deputy Zack Kesling attended with No Comments

Code Enforcement: Vincent Smith-Not Present

**Mayor Report**: Mayor Somers gave an update on Demolition of 82 Liberty Street, Spruce Creek should be starting this month. Update on Park Grant that reimbursement needs sent for the last payment, contractor is waiting on the pavilion and the basketball court needs the lines painted, It was reported that Recorder Barnhart submitted the AARP Grant for picnic tables and park benches, grant was for $25,000 and should hear back in May 2025. Update on Old Mill and Float the Fork Festival; entertainment has been booked, food concessions are set and still looking for additional vendors/crafters. Next festival meeting is Sunday, March 30, 2025 at 2pm, Mayor reported that the 2 bank accounts for the park and water improvement accounts were opened at Wesbanco, Mayor informed council that Enviro Clean attempted to install the new hydrants with the stand alone town project county ARPA funds and ran into construction problems. Dean Randolph to provide an update during New Business. Discussed setting a date for council work session to strategize and prioritize projects with no date set

**Unfinished Business:**

Water Project Update-Ryan Holcomb-Didn’t attend

Region VI Update-Seth Devault attended and discussed the Water Project financial side and payment, it was decided that Seth would handle paying the contractors. Seth also requested to have the checks from the Water Improvement Acct to given to him on April 3 pre closing meeting. John Stump-Bond Counsel also discussed the loan and grant. They monthly payment for the USDA loan is $1,481 and $148 to Reserve Account; total monthly payment is $1,629

**New Business**

Consideration to act upon the proposed Rules of Procedure Resolution was discussed by Bond Counsel John Stump; motion by Recorder Barnhart, 2nd by Councilor Patty Flowers, motion carried

Consideration and act upon a Proposed Supplemental Resolution was discussed by Bond Counsel John Stump, Motion by Recorder Barnhart, 2nd by Councilor Chip Myers, motion carried

Consideration of Draw Resolution for the payment of invoices from the Bonds was discussed by Bond Counsel John Stump and Region VI will handle payment; Motion made by Councilor Cody Goldsmith, 2nd by Councilor Chip Myers, motion carried

Consideration and act upon USDA Forms relating to the loan to be used to fund a portion of the project was motioned by Councilor Cody Goldsmith, 2nd by Councilor Chip Myers, motion carried

Consideration of 1st Reading of Ordinance to Align Town election with State/County Election, Recorder Barnhart informed Council that attorney Trey Simmerman was drafting the Ordinance for the April meeting, Recorder Barnhart made a motion to Table until April meeting, 2nd by Councilor Patty Flowers, motion carried

Consideration of Erecting lights at Island Park was discussed, 2 bids that were not equal were obtained, it was discussed to provide limited perimeter lighting at this time in the amount of $18,479.27, which does not include installation; Motion made by Councilor Cody Goldsmith, 2nd by Councilor Jackie Somers, motion carried

Consideration of Adopting 2025-2026 Budget was discussed, Councilor Jackie Somers made motion to accept the budget as presented, 2nd by Councilor Patty Flowers, motion carried.

Consideration for Spring Clean up date was selected as May 7, 2025, motion made by Councilor Patty Flowers, 2nd by Councilor Jackie Somers, motion carried

Consideration and discussion of Spring Clean-up; Motion was made by Councilor Patty Flowers to have Spring Clean-up on May 7th, 2nd by Councilor Jackie Somers, motion carried

With being no further business for discussion, Councilor Chip Myers, 2nd by Councilor Jackie Somers at 7:43pm