

MINUTES
WALKERSVILLE BURGESS & COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING
September 23, 2015

The Town meeting of the Walkersville Burgess & Commissioners was called to order on Wednesday, September 23, 2015, at 7:30 p.m. Those in attendance included Burgess Ralph Whitmore, Commissioners Gary Baker, Russ Winch, Donald Schildt, Chad Weddle, and Debbie Zimmerman, Planning and Zoning Administrator Susan Hauver, Public Works Director Bob DePaola, 13 citizens, and Walkersville Resident Trooper Gary Conklin. Town Manager Gloria Long Rollins was absent.

The meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer by Commissioner Chad Weddle.

1. MINUTES

Commissioner Debbie Zimmerman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Chad Weddle, to approve both the Town meeting minutes and the Closed Personnel and Legal meeting of September 9, 2015. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0-1 (Winch).

2. ELECTION RESULTS

Burgess Whitmore reviewed the results from the election on September 14: For Burgess, Chad Weddle, 270 votes; for Commissioner: Gary A. Baker, 263 votes; Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, 237 votes; Michael Kuster, 141 votes; Don Schildt, Sr, 276 votes; Russell Winch, 238 votes; and Debbie Zimmerman, 266 votes. He noted there were write-in results as well if anyone wanted to review them. He said that about 8% of the registered voters cast ballots.

3. OATH OF OFFICE FOR NEW ETHICS BOARD MEMBERS

Burgess Whitmore administered the oath of office to Mr. Ronald Layman and Ms. Jayme Zimmerman, who were appointed to serve on the Ethics Board. He told them that they need to meet with Town Manager Gloria Long Rollins to go over their responsibilities.

4. OCTOBER 1 DEADLINE TO ADOPT PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT PROCESS

Burgess Whitmore said that Gloria amended the Public Information Act Process to be in conformance with State law. The amendments were modeled after those adopted by the City of Brunswick.

Commissioner Donald Schildt asked if \$25 per hour was enough to cover the cost of assembling information.

Commissioner Chad Weddle made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Russ Winch, to approve the Public Information Act Process as submitted by staff. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

5. DISCUSS STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS ON ETHICS COMPLAINT

Burgess Whitmore said that the most recent complaint to the Ethics Board involved an action that occurred 17 months prior to the complaint being filed. He felt that there should be a statute of limitations on filing complaints.

Commissioner Russ Winch asked if there was an applicable State law. Commissioner Chad Weddle said that Ms. Rollins had asked the State Ethics Board and LGIT who recommended 1 year as reasonable.

Commissioner Russ Winch made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Donald Schildt to institute a one year statute of limitations on ethics complaints. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

6. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Commissioner Gary Baker made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Russ Winch to pay the attached bills. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

7. COMMISSIONERS' CONCERNS

Commissioner Donald Schildt noted that they had not received the GVAA financial report that was due in June or July. He would like the staff to write a letter to them.

Commissioner Schildt also said that the Walkersville High School PTA is hosting another drug seminar and suggested the Town pay the speaker's fee.

Commissioner Debbie Zimmerman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Chad Weddle to authorize payment for the drug seminar speaker's fee. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

Commissioner Schildt said that Mr. Marvin Elwin (sp?) and Mr. Elwood Hummer would speak at the Veterans Day ceremony. He asked what they should give out as a gift this year, noting that the hats went over well last year. He also said the Town still has a number of pins left over from previous years.

Commissioner Russ Winch made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gary Baker to order an appropriate number of hats as gifts to the veterans at the Veterans Day ceremony. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

Commissioner Chad Weddle noted the upcoming Community Show to be held October 1 and 2. He also noted an upcoming drug disposal event at Harry Gove Stadium.

Commissioner Weddle announced that the Food Bank presented a plaque to the Town at their open house thanking the Town for housing the food bank for 25 years.

Commissioner Weddle also noted that the ethics complaint to which the Burgess referred earlier in the meeting was filed 27 months after the act.

Commissioner Debbie Zimmerman said that the stone sign in front of Heritage Farm Park was run into and knocked over earlier today.

Burgess Whitmore praised the staff for their work in re-building the wooden bleachers at Heritage Farm Park.

8. CITIZEN QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Mr. George Rudy, in exile, said he received an email about a meeting on the Open Meetings Act and Public Information Act in Baltimore. He will send the information to Gloria.

Commissioner Chad Weddle made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Russ Winch, to a closed meeting to discuss Personnel/Legal issues. The motion passed on a vote of 4-1 (Commissioner Donald Schildt opposed).

Burgess Whitmore commented on the August meeting on crime. He does not think crime is a problem in Town. He also said that the Ethics Board abused their power when they considered their most recent case.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Hauver
Planning & Zoning Administrator