

MINUTES
WALKERSVILLE BURGESS & COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING
April 12, 2017

The Town meeting of the Walkersville Burgess & Commissioners was called to order on Wednesday, April 12, 2017, at 7:30 p.m. Those in attendance included Burgess Chad Weddle, Commissioners Gary Baker, Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, Donald Schildt, Russell Winch, and Debbie Zimmerman, Public Works Director Bob DePaola, Town Manager Gloria Long Rollins, and 8 citizens.

The meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer.

1. MINUTES

Commissioner Debbie Zimmerman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Russell Winch, to approve both the Town meeting minutes and the Closed legal meeting minutes of March 22, 2017. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

2. FREDERICK COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING AND AGING IN PLACE PRESENTATION

Ms. Thea Ruff, along with several members of the Commission on Aging, presented two PowerPoint presentations on issues for aging in Frederick County. Housing, transportation, medical, and social issues were presented for discussion. Ms. Ruff encouraged everyone to think of ways to help senior citizens integrate into the community activities and be able to continue living in their homes successfully. A follow up survey is available for seniors to use to evaluate their needs and happiness with current services in the community. Walkersville was the first municipality to receive the presentation from the Commission on Aging, and was grateful to be the guinea pig for Ms. Ruff's presentation.

3. REPORT ON WATER DISCONNECT DAY

Ms. Rollins reported that only 21 properties were disconnected from water service on March 29th. Original bills went out on November 1, 2016, due on December 1, reminders sent 1st week in January, sent certified disconnect notices March 2nd, Tenant-Landlord notices March 7th, door notices for those who refuse to pick up their certified letters March 23rd, disconnect March 29th, after a total of 149 days, or almost 5 months to pay the original bill ☹.

4. DISCUSSION OF CHANGES TO WATER RATE SCHEDULE TO INCLUDE REPLACEMENT COSTS FOR METER CAPS AND LIDS

Commissioners discussed the Town's progress in installing electronic meter caps/lids that can be read with a handheld reader. A concern is the cost and design of the meter caps. Our traditional water caps cost \$30 to replace, while the new pit lids cost \$77 and the radio read and lid replacement cost \$230 (town's cost). We will begin ordering a new design cap replacement that is recessed, but in the meantime a decision needs to be made as to who pays for replacing the caps after a homeowner has mowed over and destroyed it. Commissioner Russ Winch suggested that the full cost of replacement be charged to the homeowner. Commissioner Gary Baker suggested a one shot deal where the Town replaces the destroyed cap the first time, but if it gets mowed over again, then the homeowner is responsible.

Commissioner Gary Baker made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Russell Winch, to charge \$50 the first time to replace any meter cap/lid regardless of the type, and charge full cost plus labor for any replacements after the first. The motion passed by a vote of 3-2, with Commissioners Debbie Zimmerman and Donald Schildt in opposition.

5. TAX EQUITY CALCULATION FROM FREDERICK COUNTY

Ms. Rollins reviewed the tax equity calculation from Frederick County which allocates a total of \$847,015 back in county taxes from the Walkersville residents for services provided for highways, police, planning & zoning, and parks & recreation.

6. UPDATE ON 125th ANNIVERSARY

Burgess Weddle reported that the first event of the 125th anniversary year took place on April 4th with the reenactment of the signing of the Charter. He also reviewed the upcoming events for the Town's 125th Anniversary celebration as follows:

May 13 (Sat.) – Walkersville Cleanup day

May 20 (Sat.) – Walkersville Day 8:00 – 4:00/ Self-Guided Walking Tours 9:00 – 3:00, pick up maps at Town Hall

May 27 (Sat.) Noon – 4:00 – Youth Day at Community Park w/Cub Mudder

July 3 (Mon.) 9:30pm – Fireworks at carnival grounds (20-25 minute show)- Rain Date July 5

July 4 (Tues.) 4:00pm – Parade with Walkersville Volunteer Fire Company

July TBA – Decorated house contest

August – Geocache activities throughout the month of August

Sept. 9 (Sat.) 3:00-7:00pm – Family Picnic at HFP – kids tractor pull, DJ, ice cream, food trucks/vendors, decorated bikes, water balloons

Oct. 28 (Sat.) –Noon- 3:00 -Scary Walkersville history at Walkersville United Methodist Church

Nov. 12 (Sun.) – Veterans Day at Memorial Park 1:00

Nov. 18 (Sat.) 3:00 – Women's Period Costume Contest and Men's Beard Contest at Town Hall

Dec. 2 (Sat.) 2:00-6:00pm – Christkindlemarket. Churches participating: Walkersville United Methodist Church, Glade United Church of Christ, St. Paul's Lutheran Church concluding with:

7:30pm -Tree lighting at Creamery Park

7. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND MARCH FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Commissioner Russell Winch made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gary Baker, to approve the March 2017 financial statements and pay the attached bills. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

8. COMMISSIONERS' CONCERNS

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis asked about the letter from Walkersville High School requesting Safe and Sane funding. The Town budgets \$750 each year for this important event that helps to keep our graduating Seniors safe.

Commissioner Brodie-Ennis presented a copy of the Farmers Market application for the file.

Commissioner Brodie-Ennis reported on her attendance at the Parks Committee meeting and a gentleman who is teaching about restoration and writing grants for rehabbing the Heritage Farm Park Manor House. She will get the information to the Boy Scouts who will be working on the house after the new park building is completed and in use.

The next Green Team meeting will be held Monday, May 1st.

Burgess Chad Weddle suggested it will be a good idea to order more signs to advertise the Farmers Market. We will inventory what we have and order what is needed. Commissioner Brodie-Ennis will check with Kelly Woods on the location of the smaller yard signs. Commissioner Russell Winch would like to explore a solar powered trailer mounted electronic sign for advertising events and notices within the Town. Discussion ensued regarding the tackiness and the versatility of the mobile electronic sign. Burgess Weddle noted that the fire company was considering a sign that could be seen from Rt. 194. We will continue pondering this idea. Commissioner Debbie Zimmerman expressed concern that people would be gawking at the sign while attempting to drive on Rt. 194 and the sign could be a safety issue.

Commissioner Donald Schildt reported on his planning of the bus trip for veterans to visit the Vietnam War Memorial. He noted there will be 2 buses leaving Thursday, May 11th, and the trip will include a packed lunch for all attendees. He asked John Zimmerman if parking could be at the fire hall and Mr. Zimmerman agreed.

Commissioner Schildt noted that he has contacted Principal Tracy Franklin from Walkersville High School and hopes to hold another drug seminar mid-May. He hopes to get the film "Introduction to the Enemy" for the presentation.

9. CITIZENS' QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Tom Gilbert, 56 Hampton Place, expressed his concern at the cost of replacement of the new meter readers. He suggested the town notify residents as to their sensitivity and fragility and cost so that people would be aware to be careful. Mowing season is in full swing now so we will place a notice in the May water bills.

Glen Rosevear, 101 Challedon Drive, expressed appreciation on action taken to put the speed sign on Challedon. He asked if there were any long term plans to fix the problem. Last month, he focused on noticing the heaviest traffic times and reported that it is all day from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m. He noted there is a full sized bus that speeds constantly on the street. Burgess Weddle commiserated that the speeding is an issue everywhere in town and that short of placing speed bumps every few feet, there are few things that can be done to discourage those who continue to speed. He vowed we will continue with our enforcement efforts and noted that speeding is also ridiculous on Frederick Street where he lives. He noted that speed cameras are allowed in school zones, but that would not cover the entire Town's speed problem. He also explained that the State will require the Town to do a study of the intersection to decide if a 3-way stop is warranted on Challedon.

Burgess Weddle reviewed announcements and meeting dates in the upcoming months. Ms. Rollins reminded everyone that Bulk Trash day has been changed several times and is now set for June 10th. We are hoping for major participation from town recyclers (scavengers).

Commissioner Schildt asked the status of the Heritage Farm building plans. Ms. Rollins has had no response to questions regarding the cost estimate for the entire building. The current cost estimate does not include excavating, permits, electric, plumbing, HVAC, nor concrete. Hopefully, we will have an update by the next meeting.

Burgess Weddle updated commissioners on a meeting held at Town Attorney David Severn's office with the engineers and construction managers from Sheetz. They continue to proceed with their construction expansion project and are willing to work with us to get the construction of Richard Winn Lane completed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Long Rollins
Town Manager