

MINUTES
WALKERSVILLE BURGESS & COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING
April 26, 2017

The Town meeting of the Walkersville Burgess & Commissioners was called to order on Wednesday, April 26, 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, Planning and Zoning Administrator Susan Hauver, Public Works Director Bob DePaola, Town Manager Gloria Long Rollins, TFC Matthew Baum, Nancy Lavin on Frederick News-Post, and 12 citizens.

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

1. MINUTES

Commissioner Russell Winch made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, to approve the Town meeting minutes of April 12, 2017. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

2. BUDGET PREVIEW OF GENERAL AND WATER FUND BUDGETS

Ms. Rollins summarized the preview of the General Fund budget, as Burgess Weddle did not want a line by line presentation. She noted that the revenue amounts are estimates provided by the sources of the revenue. The expenses are presented with a 5% increase in staff salaries and the related increases in categories associated with salary such as payroll taxes, retirement, and workers' compensation. Health insurance costs were estimated with a 6% increase per renewal figures received from CareFirst BlueCross. Other expense categories were estimated based on current year to date actuals, along with any knowledge on upcoming changes to expenditures. Commissioners decided they would like to see Veterans' Day ceremony expenses shown on a separate line in the amount of \$2,000. They would also like Farmers' Market expenses to be a separate budget item and not included in Parks budget. Commissioner Schildt asked for clarification on the amounts in both budgets for Uniforms and Boots. There were no further questions on either budget.

Budgets are scheduled for introduction at the May 10th meeting and for adoption at the May 24th meeting.

3. UPDATE ON WATER PLANT STATUS

Ms. Rollins reviewed a rough calculation regarding operations and costs of operating the water fund after the construction of the new water plant. The numbers presented are considered the best case scenario and costs could vary and be higher when the plant is constructed. The current scenario shows an almost \$300,000 deficit in the water fund and shows that the revenues predicted are not enough to sustain operations. This indicates the need for another water rate increase to operate the fund in the positive. This will be necessary to provide the membrane filtration reverse osmosis plant that the town needs to protect it from possible future contaminations of the aquifer.

4. HERITAGE FARM PARK BUILDING INFO/UPDATE

Commissioner Donald Schildt presented his estimate on the cost of the new building, based on the provided estimate of costs by the Morton representative and reworked by Mr. Jim Graham. Mr. Thom Beckley explained that the estimate provided did, in fact, include allowances for the concrete \$15,000, electrical \$40,000, plumbing \$12,000, and HVAC \$7,500. We will still need to estimate grading and septic system costs. Mr. Beckley estimated that grading of \$10,000 and septic of \$20,000 should be included in our estimates of the total cost of the building.

5. UPDATE ON 125TH ANNIVERSARY PLANS

Burgess Weddle reviewed the upcoming May activities to celebrate the town's 125th anniversary, particularly May 13th, Town Cleanup Day, May 20th, Walkersville Day and self-guided walking tours, and May 27th, Youth Day and Cub Mudder at Community Park.

6. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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

7. COMMISSIONERS' CONCERNS

Commissioner Donald Schildt noted that the bus trip to the Vietnam War memorial has one bus full and available seats for 57 more people. He is still not sure who will be packing the bag lunches for the trip.

Commissioner Schildt reported that after meeting with Principal Tracey Franklin, it was decided to hold the "Introduction to the Enemy", a presentation by Ed and Karen Schildt, until August 22-24, Back to School time.

Commissioner Schildt also reported that he wants the camera at Five-Points to be installed. He reports that the property owners have not heard from the security company, and the security company reports to Ms. Rollins that calls are not being returned to him. Who knows?

8. CITIZENS' QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Nanette Markey, representing Nancy Carigan of 32 East George Street, requested relief from the \$502.28 water bill her mother will receive on May 1st. A high consumption letter was received from the Town after the meters were read for the May billing. Commissioners agreed to recalculate the bill, based on Town policy for a one-time reduction, at the Industrial rate. The recalculated bill will be \$399.99.

Garold Hays, of 201 Cobble Way, reported that he also received a high consumption letter from the town and would like relief from the bill. He also reported he has lived in town for 32 years and has never done any maintenance on his property, and therefore blames the town for the gasket that needed to be replaced to stop the leak. He also reported a lengthy list of complaints against the town, including the trash people leave the trash cans in the road along with trash that spills out, they block the mailboxes and don't replace the cans on the concrete pad that he installed for this purpose. He also registered his complaint about the town's snow removal practices near his property, and the plopping of snow blocking the sidewalk. Commissioners Russell Winch and Gary Baker also noted their disappointment in the trash service. Mr. DePaola will check out the connections and intersection complaints at 201 Cobble Way and commissioners will make a decision on the recalculation of the water bill.

Commissioners, by consensus, agreed to recalculate water bills for Scott Drega, 206 Diamond Drive and Jeffrey and Ann Bartholomew, 8387 Inspiration Avenue, to the Industrial rate.

Burgess Weddle reviewed announcements and meeting dates in the upcoming months, including the upcoming Green Team meeting Monday, May 1st at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Long Rollins
Town Manager