

MINUTES  
WALKERSVILLE BURGESS & COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING  
August 14, 2019

The Town meeting of the Walkersville Burgess & Commissioners was called to order on Wednesday, August 14, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. Those in attendance included Burgess Chad Weddle, Commissioners Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, Tom Gilbert, and John Zimmerman, Town Manager Gloria Long Rollins, Planning and Zoning Administrator Susan Hauver, Public Works Director Bob DePaola, 13 citizens, and Ken Kellar from the Walkersville Woodsboro Times. Commissioners Michael McNiesh and Michael Bailey were out of town.

Prior to the meeting, at 7:00 p.m., the Burgess & Commissioners gathered with citizens, including Joy and Joel Herman and employees Kelly Woods and Robbie Norwood, to install the Town's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary time capsule in the front flower bed of the Town Hall building.

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

1. MINUTES

*Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tom Gilbert, to approve both the Town meeting minutes and the Closed Legal meeting minutes of July 10, 2019. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0.*

2. FREDERICK COUNTY GOES PURPLE – ED SCHILDT

Mr. Ed Schildt, representing Frederick County Goes Purple, is a group that promotes awareness of the opioid epidemic, education, support, and support for recovery, and prevention of death due to opioid overdose. "A grassroots call to action to unify our community to reduce substance abuse deaths due to overdoses." [www.frederickcountygoespurple.com](http://www.frederickcountygoespurple.com) is the site for purchasing purple merchandise to show support for the opioid prevention/awareness efforts.

At this point, Burgess Weddle addressed item out of order of the agenda, for people that were attending for specific other concerns.

3. PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR VETERANS' DAY ACTIVITIES - REPORT

Mr. Bill Butler, member of the Veterans' Day Planning Committee, along with members Dawn Misner, Donald Schildt, and Pastor Ken Mitchell, reported that the speaker has been lined up for the ceremony. Donald Schildt proposed an idea for a t-shirt design to be implemented by Grimes Graphics at a cost of \$14 each. He's hoping to pass the shirts out to veterans in attendance at the ceremony. The committee is also considering a church service with Pastor Ken Mitchell officiating, a picnic for veterans, and they will keep the Burgess & Commissioners posted on plans. Mr. Schildt commented that the \$5,000 allocated in the budget should cover the shirts, the ceremony expenses, and the bus trips planned throughout the year. Discussion ensued regarding the proposed design on the t-shirt and the Town's ability to support a religious design as proposed. Legalities and revisions to the design will be explored.

At this point, Mr. Schildt registered a list of complaints, in addition to his distress that the Town could not sponsor the religious t-shirt:

-He reported that there have been 2 overdose deaths in Town recently, along with a drug raid 2 blocks from the Town Hall and there has been no reporting or notifications to citizens. He is an anti-drug supporter and is angry that this information is not disseminated to residents.

-Mr. Schildt would like the Town to make an offer to purchase the Whitmore farm, annex it into Town, and prevent the solar array from being installed there.

- Mr. Schildt reported once again that the lights are being left on in the Heritage Farm Park manor house and that the Town should pay the Park Ranger extra and make turning of the lights part of his job duties.

Ron Manges, of the Mt. Pleasant Ruritan Club, thanked Burgess Weddle for the letter supporting the naming of the bridge over Israel Creek in honor of Larry Brashears, a Vietnam veteran killed in Vietnam in 1968. Burgess Weddle will also contact the Walkersville Volunteer Ambulance and Fire Companies to enlist their support of this renaming of the bridge.

#### 4. REQUEST FOR REDUCTION IN WATER BILL POLICY

This agenda item has been moved to the next meeting to have the discussion when Commissioner Michael Bailey is present.

#### 5. SCHEDULE OF PLANNING AND ZONING FEES INCREASES

Ms. Hauver reviewed the schedule of fees charged by a sampling of other towns. This item will be placed on the next agenda for further action.

#### 6. REPORT ON NATIONAL NIGHT OUT, AUGUST 6, 2019 EVENT

Burgess Weddle reported on the activities and attendance at this year's National Night Out. The Town funded the face painting station, the balloon twisting station, and the ice cream treats. Resident troopers, volunteer fire and rescue personnel cooked hotdogs and distributed drinks and chips, all donated by the Walkersville Safeway. It was very well attended.

#### 7. REQUEST FOR REDUCTION IN PARKSIDE LETTER OF CREDIT

Discussion ensued regarding patches on Biggs Ford Road and the status of the streetlights at Parkside subdivision. It was decided to postpone this item until the next meeting, when the developer can be present to update the Burgess & Commissioners.

#### 8. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Commissioner Tom Gilbert asked the status of the June 2019 financial statements. As the fiscal year 2019, which ended June 30, is at present under audit, the unaudited June 2019 statements were not provided.

*Commissioner Tom Gilbert made a motion, seconded by Commissioner John Zimmerman, to pay the August 15, 2019 bills. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0.*

#### 9. COMMISSIONERS' CONCERNS

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis reported that she has been in contact with Mr. Sorenson regarding an estimate for the rehab of the bank barn at Heritage Farm Park.

Commissioner Brodie-Ennis also reported that we will need to go out to bid on the parks playground equipment ideas, as they exceed \$100,000.

Commissioner Brodie-Ennis is still working on permitting issues with the State Highway Administration for the new Welcome to Walkersville signs. She has addresses for adjoining property owners so that notification of the signs can be sent.

Burgess Weddle asked if any complaints had been heard about trucks on Sandstone Drive since the new signs prohibiting them were placed on Rt. 194. None were received by those present at the meeting.

Commissioner John Zimmerman asked the status of the patching of Biggs Ford Road in regards to the Parkside development. Mr. DePaola reported that the patching was underway.

Commissioner Tom Gilbert reported he heard a rumor that residents were being cited for having grass and weeds growing out of their sidewalks. Ms. Erin Misner came to the podium and reported that several of her tenants on Frederick Street had received notices. Commissioner Gilbert would like the community to be notified if the Town plans to enforce this section of the code. Ms. Rollins pointed out that the notices from the Code Enforcement officer were notices, not fines or citations.

Commissioner Gilbert also noted that the plantings along Rt. 194 in the State Highway right of way are an eyesore to our community. He would like them to mow and maintain the plantings. Ms. Hauver reported

that their process is to plant the trees/bushes and let them grow wild and naturally, without any mowing allowed.

Commissioner Gilbert obtained a business card from a company working at Homewood at Crumland Farms on the sidewalks that need repair. Rather than shaving uneven sidewalks down, they fill and build up the unevenness. He gave the card to Burgess Weddle.

Commissioner Gilbert reported that Middletown was addressing their speed problems by installing wide boards, or piano boards, that provide a heads up to drivers to slow down.

Ms. Rollins notified commissioners of the report in their packets, requested by Burgess Weddle, to track the history of the bulk trash pickup tonnage. Burgess Weddle reviewed the past few years noting the increases in tonnage and the number of mattresses put out for disposal.

Ms. Rollins asked for support in offering Red Cross CPR training. Costs will be presented for approval in an upcoming meeting.

Ms. Rollins reported that the auditors from our independent accounting firm, Smith Elliott & Kearns, have been in the office for the week.

Ms. Hauver reported that she is checking on the status of the bid documents to be provided by the Town's engineering firm, for the right turn in/right turn out construction at Fountainrock Road and Rt. 194.

Ms. Hauver reported on the question of Good Hair Days placing "Customer Only Parking" signs at the shop at the intersection of Main Street, Liberty Street, and Pennsylvania Avenue. She will email the owner to determine if signs will be on the owner's property or in the Town's street right of way.

Mr. DePaola reported there is a pre-bid meeting on the Glade Village paving project tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. and the bid opening is scheduled for 8/30/2019.

Mr. DePaola reported that the contractor, Gary Chaney, for the Walkersville Southern Railroad replacement of railroad ties, wants to close Glade Road for 3 days to complete the work. The Burgess and Commissioners did NOT approve the closing of Glade Road for 3 days.

Mr. DePaola reported that he has received an estimate of \$72,000 to replace sidewalks on both sides of Fulton Avenue.

Mr. DePaola reported that the new water treatment plant is under roof, insulation has been delivered, reverse osmosis units are in place, and new filters are to be delivered next week.

## 10. CITIZENS' QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

NONE.

Burgess Weddle read the announcements as follows:

- Tues., Aug. 27, 7:30 – Planning Meeting
- Weds., Aug. 28, 7:30 – Town Meeting
- Mon., Sept. 2 – Labor Day – OFFICE CLOSED
- Tues., Sept. 3, 7:30 – Board of Appeals (if needed)
- Weds., Sept. 4, 7:30 – Parks Meeting
- Tues., Sept. 10, 7:30 – Planning Workshop
- Weds., Sept. 11, 7:30 – Town Meeting
- Tues., Sept. 24 – Disconnect Day
- Tues., Sept. 24, 7:30 – Planning Meeting
- Weds., Sept. 25, 7:30 – Town Meeting

Burgess Weddle asked for a motion for a closed legal meeting.

*Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tom Gilbert, to hold a closed legal meeting to discuss a legal issue. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0.*

The next Town meeting will be held Wednesday, August 29, 2019.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Long Rollins  
Town Manager