

Minutes for Town Meeting January 17, 2017

Call to Order: Mayor Diehl called the meeting to order with 3 council members present.

Attendance: Councilman Jones, Councilwoman McGee, Councilman Downton, and Administrator Robin Jones.

Guests: Emily Edwards, Fred Holliday, Regina Holliday, and Jean Siegrist – Town Residents.

Minutes: The minutes for the January 3, 2017 meeting were approved as written.

Financial Report: Councilman Downton moved to accept the December 2016 financial report. Councilman Jones seconded. Motion carried.

Guests Comments: Regina Holliday: Reports from town residents regarding the assistance with decorating town properties with Christmas lights were positive. No one reported any increases in their electric bills. The town park decorations were highly praised. Grantsville Rotary added a lighted “R” to signify their win this summer in the Little League Championships. The only issue reported was that some of the power packs were torn loose from the fixtures and therefore the lights did not work properly. Next year the plan is to have more LED light fixtures. **Fred Holliday:** The concern was expressed that there is too much anti skid on the flattest street in town; Hershberger Avenue. It is not necessary. He also believes that light fixtures on Hershberger Avenue and Parkview Circle have been upgraded. Council was under the impression that only Hill Street had been upgraded to this point. Don Beatty from Potomac Edison will be contacted to check on the upgrade status.

Administrator Report: MML Convention: Hotel reservations and convention registration will need to be completed before the municipal election in May 2017. Council feels that the administrator and current serving mayor should attend the convention in June 2017. The administrator will make hotel reservations for 2 rooms and also speak with MML to see how to register the mayor without providing a name at this time. **Sue Bittinger:** Mrs. Bittinger has two apartments on Grant Street that have been

vacant for some time. She would like a break on the water billing until they are filled. Consensus of council was that the billing will have to remain the same as this has been protocol of years before. **Highland Engineering:** In January of 2015 Highland Engineering was hired to perform a site visit and inspection at the Yoder's demolition job. They were looking for buried debris. The invoice was sent to Thomas and Thomas Construction for payment (the contractor for the demolition job). Highland did not receive payment from Thomas. Councilman Jones moved for the town to pay the invoice and then collect payment from Thomas and Thomas. Councilman Downtown seconded. Motion carried. **Well #5 Issues:** Wayne's Water and Wells was contacted to replace a faulty pump motor. The work invoice totaled \$16,979.34. The mayor will be in touch with Wayne's to see if any of the labor costs can be reduced. Some issues that are of concern are that the inflatable packer has over exceeded its' life expectancy; and there is a possibility that major work will need to be done at this site in the near future. Either replacing the packer or maybe even drilling a new well. Fred Holliday suggested that the town bid out the labor part of all work to be done at the site to lock in a dollar figure per hour for all work performed. **Jean Siegrist:** When the work was being performed on Well #5 the village residents were asked to conserve water but were not made aware when they could go back to normal usage. This is something that Goodwill should have addressed with their residents not the town.

Mayor Report: GCM Meeting: The County Commissioners were at this meeting. Some items of interest were the tax differential. The town will accept in lieu of the tax differential the \$25,000.00 payment as they have done for years prior. The town will compile a list of costs incurred at the water and wastewater treatment plants and discuss the cost share agreement with the county and see about getting reimbursed for some of the costs. The commissioners will attend a council meeting here in the near future.

103 Main Street: Anne Stringer and Kecia Campbell from DHCD – CDBG Program were at town hall on January 12th. They do not feel they have any money available to assist with the Arts Council and their demolition and reconstruction of this building. Anne and Kecia did look over the Grantsville Head Start paperwork and gave approval of all existing paperwork. They also visited the High Country Creamery and were impressed with the final result of this project.

Don Opel: Dave Cotton from Maryland Department of Planning has reviewed all the paperwork associated with the sewer line connection to Goodwill Mennonite Community and the Priority Funding Area issues. He feels that since this certain area is not a priority funding area there is no reason Mr. Opel cannot connect to the existing sewer line. Council will write a letter to Mr. Opel and attach the proper correspondence from all involved agencies to allow the connection.

Goodwill Sewer Bill: Brian King from the County contacted town hall to inform them that the sewer pump for Goodwill Retirement Community was pumping full time for approximately 18 days of the month's billing cycle. Due to the fact that Goodwill's billing is based on hours used and not actual gallons used they would like a credit towards their account. Normal usage is calculated at approximately 1 million gallons per month. This billing was for 2 million gallons. Councilwoman McGee moved to credit Goodwill for 1 million gallons. Councilman Downton seconded. Motion carried.

Zoning Appeals Board: Alternate Patty Graham would like to be removed from the zoning appeals board. Council will provide suggestions for a replacement.

Next Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 21, 2017 beginning at 6PM.

Vacant Council Seat: An Executive Session was called to discuss the submissions to fill the vacant council seat left by Dr. Ronald Gillum's recent passing. Two letters of interest were received. Fred Holliday expressed concern that an executive session was not necessary and that it goes against transparency of government. Regina Holliday feels that the request for letters of interest was not advertised widely enough to allow for interested persons to submit their letters. The administrator provided information that because one of the considered persons was in attendance at the meeting it was proper to have an executive session so the letters could be discussed freely and also the town charter does not require an advertisement to be necessary. The request was posted at town hall and on the town's FaceBook page with a 2 week period to accept the letters. After an involved discussion Councilman Jones moved to enter into executive session at 7:30PM. Councilman Downton seconded. Motion carried.

Executive Session: Council Jones moved to leave executive session. Councilwoman McGee seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45PM.

Administrator, Robin L. Jones

Mayor/Pres., Mark C. Diehl