

**Minutes for Town Meeting
March 20, 2017**

Call to Order: Mayor Diehl called the meeting to order with 4 council members present.

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

Guests: Adam Rounds – Garrett County Sheriff’s Department, Blake Walker – Councilman taking Councilman Gillum’s Seat, Jean Siegrist, Bev Spiker, Jody Theriot, Lucy Stein, and Regina Holliday – Town Residents.

Swearing in: Mayor Diehl began the meeting by swearing in Blake Walker to the Council Seat left vacant by the passing of Ronald Gillum. There are now 5 council members in attendance.

Minutes: The minutes for the February 21, 2017 meeting were approved as written.

Executive Session Minutes: The minutes for the Executive Session of February 21, 2017 were approved as written.

Financial Report: Councilman Towers moved to accept the February 2017 financial report. Councilman Jones seconded. Motion carried.

Deputy Rounds: For the month of February there were 12 hours committed to Grantsville utilizing 6 deputies. Out of the ordinary were one eviction notice served, 1 lost property, and 2 suspended licenses. The speed trailer requested to be used on Miller Street is currently out of service. Once back in service we will be first on the list to use it.

Administrator Report: Tennis Nets: The girls and boys tennis coaches for Northern High School both requested the installation of the nets. They were put up today and the coaches were notified. **Advertisement for Voter Registration and Nominations:** The advertisement was sent to the Oakland Republican to be run the week of March 24 and March 31. **Rt. 219 Transcripts:** The completed transcripts from the Rt. 219 meeting dated February 6, 2017 are available to the public’s viewing at town hall.

Mayor Report: Main Street Clean Up: The mayor was able to speak with the resident on Main Street that has a debris, trash, and rubbish code violation. He is to provide a drawing of his plans for the property to town hall by March 27, 2017. **Pothole List:** The town employees will check town streets to see what areas are in need of holes filled with cold patch. A few suggested are Miller Street, Hill Street, and 1st Street. **GCM Meeting:** The mayor was not available to attend the March GCM Meeting. Copies of all paperwork from the meeting were sent to town hall. **Internet Connections:** The County and New Beam are working on providing affordable fiber optic connections to anyone that is interested. More information will become available when decisions are made. **Snow Removal:** The mayor would like it to be passed along to the town employees that they did an excellent job as always with snow removal on town streets and sidewalks. **Meeting Guests:** The attendance at town council meetings has increased. With this increase it will be necessary for audience members to be put on the meeting agenda if they wish to address a topic at that meeting.

Park Vandalism: Deputy Rounds was provided with information from the town administrator to speak to 3 youths in the park about their possible involvement with the recent vandalism in the park. After speaking with the 3 boys it was discovered that they were the ones responsible. They were charged with burglary 4th degree and destruction of property. Department of Juvenile Services will take over now. There may be a court date, fines, and community service hours involved. **103 Main Street:** Deputy Round will pay close attention to the building located here. Windows are being broken and the gate behind the building is open. The town employees will install a lock on the chain to close the gate to deter further vandalism.

102 Main Street Water Bill: At the last meeting it was voted on to forgive the late charges of \$396.02 if the landlord made a loan to the tenants to pay the bill in full. The tenants must also remain current for 6 months following or the charges would be added back on. The tenants would like to know if they can have the same terms. Councilman Downton moved to allow this. Councilman Towers seconded. Motion carried.

Computer Purchase: The mayor has checked into the received quotes. He will contact Ryan Evans from CHIPS Network to get a few more questions answered and then we will be ready to place an order.

HCC Property Taxes: The county commissioners have granted a \$5,000.00 credit for 3 years to High Country Creamery for maintaining 2 full time employees for that duration of time. This will go towards the cost of the property taxes.

Goodwill Sewer Bill: Beginning with the December billing to the county for Goodwill Mennonite Home sewer usage an issue had developed. The pump had run constantly for 13 hours. A credit of \$3,600.00 was issued. The months of January and February brought the discovery of a hole in the bottom of the pump that also caused those billings to be almost double. The county paid both months at about 30% of the actual billing. The town and the county will need to have a meeting to discuss these issues and decide on a dollar figure that is still due to the town for appropriate charges. A meeting will be scheduled for a day in the near future.

Don Brenneman Meeting: Mr. Brenneman would like to meet with the town to discuss water and sewer connections to his parcels located behind Kingdom Hall. A date will be chosen for the near future.

Around the Room: Mr. Theriot would like to see crosswalks that have peeled off be replaced. The administrator will contact SHA to see about having these addressed. Mrs. Holliday shared that there are a few line issues around town including Industrial Park and Grantsville Elementary. Industrial Park Road is a County Road. We are on the list to have the Grantsville Elementary restriped this spring. Another issue is the parking at pick up and drop off times at the elementary school. The sheriff's department will address this issue once again. The BOE Transportation Department, Sheriff's Department, and Grantsville Elementary have tried in the past to remedy this issue to no avail. This has been ongoing for about 3 years now. Mrs. Stein has lived in town since 2013 and she may be interested in running for town council in the May 2017 election. Ms. Siegrist is concerned with the possibility of the airport that may be built on Dorsey Hotel Road. There is currently digging happening on the opposite side of the road as Goodwill Home. The mayor explained that this area is not in town limits. The administrator will provide her with a number to Bill DeVore at Planning and Zoning so she can inquire if permits have been acquired for the work. Mrs. Spiker has resided in town for 2 plus years and she has submitted to run for council in the May election.

2017 – 2018 Budget: A draft budget will be given to the mayor and council on April 17th. A work session will be held on April 24. The budget hearing will be advertised on May 5 and May 12. The budget hearing will be held and the budget adopted on May 15, 2017 at 5:45PM.

Maryland Sustainable Growth Award: The GRO committee has been awarded this designation. There will be an award ceremony in Annapolis on May 18, 2017. Mayor Diehl and Councilman Walker will attend. No more than 7 can attend from the town. An email will be sent to see who else is interested. Mrs. Holliday has her Cinderblocks 4 Event that day and cannot attend.

Rt. 40 Streetlights: Don Beatty from First Energy will be contacted to provide the town with pricing to install streetlights on Rt. 40 from the carwash to River Road.

Rt. 40 Sidewalk: The railings at the crosswalk on Rt. 40 are in need to being painted. If anyone is in need to community service hours this can be one of the projects completed this summer.

Next meeting will be held on Monday, April 3, 2017 beginning at 6PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:12PM.

Administrator, Robin L. Jones

Mayor/Pres., Mark C. Diehl