

## **Minutes for Town Meeting**

**February 20, 2018**

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

**Attendance:** Councilman Walker, Councilwoman Newman-Edwards, Councilman Downton, and Administrator Robin Jones.

**Guests:** Sharon Colisino – Water Bill(WAIJ), Kim Lishia and Lisa Rounds – Ruth Enlow Library, Brenda Ruggiero – The Republican, Christy Thomas – Garrett County Health Department, Amy Baker, Matthew Glotfelty, Christopher Glotfelty, Gavin Newman, Dustin Baker, Gavin Baker, Dane Cuppett, Devon Cuppett, Logan Wilburn, Christina Loney, Ed Loney, Trey Loney, and Ethan Loney – Troop 460 Boy Scouts.

**Minutes:** The minutes for the January 16, 2018 meeting were approved as written.

**Financial Report:** Councilman Walker moved to accept the January 2018 financial report. Councilwoman Newman-Edwards seconded. Motion carried.

**Brenda Ruggiero:** The Republican will be running an economic development segment and is in need of stories by Wednesday.

**Garrett County Health Department:** Christy Thomas appeared before council on behalf of the health department to provide information that they are interested in partnering with the town to do this year's fishing rodeo, they may also assist with the Easter Egg Hunt. They will continue to establish another community group similar to the Grantsville Involvement Group that was once in force in town. The fishing rodeo will take place on Saturday, May 5, 2018 and they will be able to help with grant funds and games for the children.

**Troop 460 Scouts:** Amy Baker provided information that the troops meet at the Grantsville Fire Hall on a regular basis. They are attending this evening's council meeting to fulfill a requirement for a Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge.

**Sharon Colisino:** Mrs. Colisino owns the building that was the home of the former WAIJ Radio Station. Recently there was a water leak at the building. During the time she had surgery and her husband was not checking on the building because he was taking care of her. They lost thousands of dollars in equipment due to the leak and their insurance will not cover the loss. She is

requesting forgiveness on some or all of the water bill. The mayor explained that the town usually credits the sewer usage part of bills where the water exits through the storm drain because this discharge is not treated at the WWTP plant by the town. Unfortunately, they do not use town sewer so this does not apply in this case. Councilwoman Newman-Edwards suggested setting up a payment plan for the bill. Mayor Diehl stated that the town incurred costs such as searching for the leak for 2 weeks, treating the water, loss of water, and stress from the incident. There was no motion made to allow a credit so the entire bill will remain as is.

**Administrator Report: CDBG Grant:** The grant that the town will be applying for to perform a feasibility study to extend water services to new customers requires a door to door LMI study. Council chose to contact those customers that are currently served by the Garrett County Department of Public Utilities Sewer Service.

**Garrett County Arts Council:** The Arts Council was gifted a building located at 103 Main Street, Grantsville. They mailed a letter requesting forgiveness on their Municipal Property Taxes. The total amount requested for waiver is \$343.40. Councilwoman Newman-Edwards made a motion to forgive the municipal taxes for this year. Councilman Walker seconded. Motion carried.

**GGBA Dues:** Councilman Downton made a motion to become a Deluxe Member of GGBA at an annual cost of \$125.00. Councilman Walker seconded. Councilman Newman-Edwards abstained from voting as she is an officer of GGBA. This designation will allow the town to take advantage of all the services GGBA offers.

**Vacant Properties Water Services:** The town will act on a case by case basis on vacant properties and their water services. Properties will be shut off once they become vacant for extended periods of time to assist with diagnosing water leaks in the future. There will be no reconnection fee to the property owner. We will also be requesting updated contact information and establishing a data base for all customers with contacts in the near future.

**Mayor Diehl: Senator Cardin:** The Senator will be at Allegany College on the 24<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 to 11:30 AM for anyone that would like to attend. **Highway User Revenue:** There will be a House Committee Hearing on February 22 in Annapolis and also a Senate Hearing on March 7<sup>th</sup> in Annapolis for anyone that is free to attend in support of the House and Senate Bills that request the HUR Funding to

be restored to municipalities. **Memorial Day:** The Mayor will contact Commissioner Jim Hinebaugh to see if he can be this year's guest speaker. Councilwoman Newman-Edwards will contact Mr. Salisbury from the NHS Band to see if the band will be available for this year's event. Councilman Downton volunteered to help cook again this year. Troop #460 was invited to march in the parade. Grantsville Medical Center-Steve Bortz is interested in being involved with more town functions. He will be contacted to see if they would like to assist with this event. **Budget 2018-2019:** The administrator will begin work on the budget and a decision will be made a later date as to the necessity of work sessions. **Tennis Courts:** The mayor noticed that people were hitting softballs on the tennis courts last week, the town guys will make sure no damage has occurred to the tennis fences. **LED Streetlight Conversion:** First Energy has approval to proceed with the upgrades to the town streetlights.

**PACE Reception:** Councilman Walker presented at the PACE Reception in Annapolis in January, no funding sources came forward to assist with our projects of water line replacement and grit pump purchase and installation. There was interest in funding to Garrett County Arts Council to demolish the building located at 103 Main Street. The topic of the possible town annexation was also brought up.

**Councilwoman Newman-Edwards: Karen Miller Apartment:** Ms. Miller contacted her to discuss the possible grant funds that were discussed at a meeting at Garrett College. The speaker stated that the town was offering grant funding to local businesses. The administrator also spoke to Ms. Miller and provided information that the town does not offer grand funds and that she may want to check with GGBA and the Community Legacy Funding. **Robert Wood Johnson Culture of Health Award:** Garrett County was awarded this designation a few months ago. Councilwoman Newman-Edwards attended a presentation about what the award means to the municipalities of Garrett County. There are multiple grant opportunities provided by non-profits. There are also loans available from larger non-profits. The monies will need extensive research to narrow down and apply for the type of funding needed pertaining to the project in question. There are currently 27 communities that have received the designation in the past and contacting them to provide further information may be necessary to obtain a better understanding. The guest speaker at the next GGBA meeting will talk about the award in further detail. The website can also be researched. It contains a grant portal. They loan billions of dollars each year to

qualified recipients. Any projects that involve children and senior citizens are considered on the top of the list.

Next Meeting will be held on Monday, March 19, 2018.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:10PM

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Administrator, Robin L. Jones

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Mayor/Pres., Mark C. Diehl