

TOWN OF SUDLERSVILLE
Commissioners Minutes
September 4, 2019

Present: President Ronald Ford
Commissioner David Ruffner
Commissioner Carrie Comegys
Commissioner Larry Leonard

Attendance: QAC Commissioner Jim Moran, Larry Purnell, Connie Engrem, E T Kimble, Brenda Stant, Bill Comegys, David Lettau, Bill Faust, Dave Taylor, Greg Harris, Janice Davis, Pam Wise, Francis Kinnamon, Joey Apple, Robbie Blackiston, Nicole Brown, Ira Russell, Henry Engrem, Robert Nicholson, Will Davis

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by President Ford. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes from August 7, 2019 meeting: Commissioner Ruffner entered a motion to approve the minutes, Commissioner Leonard seconded the motion. a vote of 4-0 was entered.

Minutes from August 26, 2019 workshop meeting: Commissioner Ruffner entered a motion to approve the workshop minutes, Commissioner Comegys seconded the motion, a vote of 4-0 was entered.

Fire Company Report: Joey Apple asked about the recently approved water ordinance; does it affect the usage of the wells at the Fire House; President Ford explained it does not affect the use of the well at the Fire House.

Sheriff Report: No one was present.

Library Report: Included in the packet.

MES Report: Included in the packet.

Engineering Report: No report at this time.

Planning Commission: A letter of recommendation from the PC was read to appoint E T Kimble to the Planning Commission. A motion to accept the recommendation and appoint E T Kimble to the Planning Commission was entered by Ruffner, a second by Comegys, a vote of 4-0 was entered. Manning swore Mr. Kimble in as Planning Commissioner.

Town Manager's Report: Included in the packet.

Action Items:

Manning introduced QAC Commissioner Jim Moran as a mediator to resolve issues between the Fire Company and the Town Commissioners. Mr. Moran asked for a review of the problems to be resolved. The problems were the continued animosity during meetings, the financial issues of the Town which result in no donations to the Fire Company and the reversal of previous waived utility fees. President Blackiston stated the Fire Company would like to have a better relationship with the Town. Ford and Manning explained the many financial issues – the delay in the construction of the Barclay project, the expenses paid to date for the Barclay project to keep it moving forward, the Town taking on a water project and sewer upgrade project without immediate discussion or consideration of the loan payments required, the Town's slow rate of raising rates to accommodate the new loan payments and the additional expense to operate and maintain these plants, the failed annexation developments due to the economic fall in the past, and errors made regarding billing for the appropriate number of usages. Francis Kinnamon explained there are challenges to both organizations due to funding, expenses, etc. He would like to see both parties be able to set down and discuss without pointing fingers, the need for respect and professionalism at all times regardless of whether in a meeting or on the

street. An estimate of the annual cost for utilities for the Fire House is \$2,400; if waiver is relinquished. Bill Faust asked if the Commission could delay the decision on the waiver of the utility fees until the first of the year, when the Fire Company is preparing their next year budget. Faust also shared his thoughts on the lack of communication from the Town of the decision previously made to relinquish the waiver of the fees. Ira Russell stated the officers and Board members of the Fire Company are working with members to differentiate between personal issues and fire company issues. Blackiston stated the Town and the Fire Company should consider meeting more frequently to address issues and concerns. The Town Commission agreed to revisit the relinquishing of the utility fees the first of the calendar year, that time which the Fire Company is preparing their new budget.

Public Comment:

Brenda Stant commented on the recent water repair, she stated the water clamps that were used were out-of-date and should have never been used; this is why the Town is having problems with their water system. E T Kimble explained the procedure of a big project, the development, design, engineer review, change orders, acceptance by funding agencies, and determination of materials to be used.

Brenda Stant asked why the amount of water incoming is different than the water outgoing on a property invoice. Manning will look into this invoice.

Francis Kinnamon asked why the last month utility bill was an average. Manning explained that due to the computer that housed this program crashing, we could not read the meters electronically and did not authorize the manual reading of the meters due to the cost; therefore, an average was calculated and charged. When next month's bills are created the average invoice will be used for any adjustments.

Kinnamon shared the laundromat is doing well, they have hired 1 part-time employee and plan to hire a second part-time employee in the near future.

With no further discussion, a motion to adjourn was made by Ruffner at 7:25 PM, Comegys seconded the motion, a vote of 4-0 was entered.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Jo Manning
Town Administrator