

TOWN OF SUDLERSVILLE

Commissioners Minutes

March 4, 2020

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

Town Clerk: Crissy Talty

Attendance:

Lauren McMullen, Brenda Stant, Keith and Wendy Griffith, Chris Stant, Karen and Andrew Mutchler, Faye Williams, Dale Larrimore, Reese Coleman, Sue Elter, Pam Price, Sharon Wing, Celest Hurd, Rebecca Lepter, Katie and Colby Lofland, Steven Yeager, Greg Harris, E.T. Kimble, David and Coral Nichols, Scott Supple, Suzanne and Jeff Harris, Fire Company, and reporter for Star Democrat

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

President Ford announces there will be no action taken on either of the ordinances tonight until there has been proper notification in the paper for people to know when and where the public hearings will be held. Tom Yeager explains the legalities of it.

Meeting minutes: Commissioner Ruffner entered a motion to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2020 meeting, Commissioner Carrie Comegys seconded the motion, vote of 5-0 was entered.

Fire Company Report: Chief Stant stated its been slow, there were 2 calls for service. Let everyone know that we will be seeing the units more often doing training excersises.

Sheriff Department: Traffic complaints have been addressed, and they have more directed patrols. If anyone has concerns raise them and they will be addressed. No concerns voiced.

Library Report: Included in packet

MES Report: Included in packet.

Engineering Report: Peter Bourne had a meeting with MDS some things on the report must be addressed.

Planning Commission: Sue Elter reported the planning commission met no changes to report, however the meeting was well attended by residents and young people alike. The Pastrana project received favorable publicity.

Town Clerk Report: Included in packet.

Old Business:

- 1) **Amend contract with FSIA-** has been signed and moved into place.
- 2) **Ordinance 2020-01** A motion for ordinance 2020-01 was made to defer until April 1, 2020 by Carrie Comegys second by Dave Ruffner a vote of 5-0 entered. Unanimous motion carried.
- 3) **Ordinance 2019-05-** A motion for ordinance 2019-05 was made to defer until May 1, 2020 by Dave Ruffner second by Carrie Comegys a vote of 5-0 entered. Unanimous motion carried.
- 4) **Heather Tinnelli-** Commissioner Comegys spoke to Heather, thanked her for everything. She told her we hope to get these things going. Heather will keep searching for things for our town.
- 5) **Request for solar power presentation-** Crissy left a message no return message, she will send one again.

New Business:

- 1) **Betterment club- Loretta Walls** requested support by letter for a grant for the Betterment Club, Crissy put a copy of email and letter in packet for review.
- 2) **Audit Report-** Commissioner Comegys presented a power point presentation of the audit and explained about total operating expense and how we are in the negative, a copy will be posted on the town website for anyone to review. Top 11 people behind on their water bill is in excess of \$36,000.00 they have been sent a letter for water shut off on March 9, 2020. We are attempting to collect, with the town in the financial shape it is in the auditor suggested this is a way, but we are attempting to find other ways to produce. A financial committee has been approved to try to help with this and take a hard look at finances, if anyone is interested in being appointed please come fill out an application to be considered.
- 3) **Emergency Repair-** President Ford explained that the lines are breaking at fifth or sixth repair made, and we have 190 more of them to do at \$7301.50 each.

Public Comment: Faye Williams asked what kind of repairs are being made to the water lines? Ron Ford explains water mains are plastic and the band that goes around it that is cast iron and stainless steel. They are deteriorating, nothing we can do but wait them out and then fix them as they do. Billy Faust asked to see the main we have in the office; he has never seen cast iron deteriorate. ET Kimble affirmed this is what the engineers wanted, and he argued with them about this. Billy Faust states attorney at the time advised to settle with them. Andrew Mutchler states he knows there is no action being taken on the ordinance 2019-05 and that it can't be discussed. Can it still be disposed of in old business? Can a commissioner if they wanted to do away with it? Would it be in proper order? Could it be seconded and gotten rid of? Tom Yeager tries to research the question, but as it stands the motion at the beginning deferred the ordinance till a later date and cannot be moved on. Yeager advises that public comment is a statement not a question and answer session. Public wants to participate in meetings and have dialog about the serious things going on in town, advises the commissioners the need to make meetings

available. Mutchler questions as a citizen of Sudlersville if motion was in order at last meeting is it still in order? Sue Elter announces the town does not follow Roberts Rules of Order. Ron Ford states if there is no second the motion dies on the floor. Mutchler states if commissioner felt passionately enough could he bring the motion to reject up again? Tom Yeager advises we have advertised it if you take a vote before the public hearing you are not giving adequate notification you have advertised a public hearing, scheduled it for a later date you have to take vote after the public hearing not before. People are not here, and they are depending on the date and scheduled time to voice their opinion it is not fair to vote. Larry Leonard announces as a board member he makes a motion to reject 2019-05 after making an earlier motion to defer this ordinance, there is not a second voiced, motion dies on the floor. Faye Williams states that she was here for the workshop, never heard a person go through and describe the audit like the lady did. I don't want her sewer and water to go up, she is doing all she can as one person. Doesn't like having to pay for past mistakes. Sue Elter lets everyone know about the homestead tax exemption. Mutchler asks is there anything stated in the town charter about public officials' character? Ron Ford says drop it; we are discussing this in a closed meeting. Then is explains what happened at the meeting to his constituents, that he had to leave and was held there against his will. Mutchler state regardless whether he was in the right or wrong he is and embarrassment. Keith Griffith states what does the town gain by shutting people's water off? Why not try to work with them, he is advised that we have and that is why some people are in the situation they are in, from not keeping up with the arrangements put in place. Bill Faust agrees and explains that this is what happens. People make promises and never keep them.

Motion made by Charles Leager to go into closed session for personnel.

Peter Bourne has been engineer for the town of Sudlersville for seven years, wants to keep doing what he is doing. He wants permission to talk with entities such as USDA, MDE, MES and keep up to date with Barclay project. He will not be present at the meetings, but if there are any question we can call anytime. A motion was made by Dave Rufner to authorize engineer to proceed seconded by Charles Leager, a vote 5-0 entered motion carried.

Adjournment