

Sudlersville Commissioners Meeting 3/1/23.

Commissioner Griffith called meeting at 1830.

Commissioner Johnson led the pledge.

Commissioner Haag is absent for this meeting.

Commissioner Habel made motion Commissioner Johnson seconded all in favor for accepting minutes from last meeting.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Griffith	x		
Haag	ABSENT		
Leonard	x		
Habel	x		
Johnson	x		

Reports

Finance: attached

Fire Company: no report, with the weather breaking could be seen in community doing training.

Sheriff's Department: no report

Library: attached

Planning Commission: Reese took to the floor looking into subdivision fees, cannabis ordinance is signed by everyone, annual report in June, comp plan needs to be reviewed. Article 7 to put planning commission back in zoning ordinance. (Tom says he will review this again and formally introduce it at the next meeting, then get formal approval, formally adopt it.) One of the commissioners needs to be in attendance to the PC meetings. Question about homelessness, going to go over that. Faye is looking into what other towns are doing as far as subdivision fees. Need clarity on storm water management as far as permit. (Commissioner Johnson will possibly do that)

-E.T. Something that will affect people in the town. In a couple of weeks, we will be on limited water. This will affect the fire department, for about a 5-day period. This is due to the water tower being painted as it needs to be drained and a pump needs to be attached etc. Fire department requests an ETA when it is available. Water pressure could be affected. Need to find compressor (Commissioner Griffith said he would get w/ Billy) will be on the system for 6 weeks while the tower is being painted. Hopefully in 5-10 days will have our town system ready for the water tower people.

Bar Extension: Peter Bourne, on Friday this past Friday at 2pm there was the bid opening, six bidders, the high bid was Pack 1, the low bid was Bramble, was a good bid took ten minutes to do opened and read aloud in public. Reviewed bids looked at backgrounds and such and is here to recommend that the commission accept Bramble contingent on approvals from USDA, MDD, QA County etc. (Tom asked if he believed that the lowest bid was responsible etc. and Peter said he believed so) (Tom would also have Peter authorize Commissioner Griffith to be able to sign documents to get the work done)

Commissioner Griffith makes a motion to accept the above Commissioner Leonard seconds all follow.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Griffith	x		
Haag	ABSENT		
Leonard	x		
Habel	x		
Johnson	x		

Commissioner Johnson makes a motion to have president and Vice President (VP Commissioner John Haag) be able to sign documents Commissioner Leonard seconded that the rest followed.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Griffith	x		
Haag	ABSENT		
Leonard	x		
Habel	x		
Johnson	x		

Tom: regarding Barclay Project USDA needs to have engagement letter from bond council. Tom has this letter on his person this evening. Had one from 2013 but USDA obviously needs one that is up to date. Says he recommends they make a motion to authorize the engagement letter signed by Commissioner Griffith.

Commissioner Habel makes the motion, Commissioner Johnson seconds, all in favor however Commissioner Griffith abstained.

	YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Griffith			x
Haag	ABSENT		
Leonard	x		
Habel	x		
Johnson	x		

OLD BUSINESS

Sidewalks: Commissioner Haag isn't here so shelving that for the moment.

NEW BUSINESS

Peach Festival: Parade this year, volunteers are needed can contact town office or Commissioner Griffith, 10th anniversary of the Peach Festival.

Barclay bid already covered.

Code enforcement process and procedures: Commissioner Griffith took the floor to say there have been citations issued, some people have had questions, contacted attorney about this, not our job to be hard-nosed but need the town to look better. There are complaint forms if anyone has issues. Needs people to come into the meeting if they have something to say. The zoning ordinance that covers code enforcement and all it's not just a guideline it is an ordinance. If you have a camper you don't need to move it around if it isn't in the way or in the road etc. it's nobody's business who gets a letter etc. need to find common ground so the commission is being fair, and the residents are being understanding. Communicate. Trying to protect everyone's property values. Don't want residents feeling like they are picked on etc. it will be done without biased. Nobody gets a free pass. It's business. Need to hear input from residents.

Isabelle Fields took the floor to say she has an issue because they upkeep their house and her property value is going down because of her neighbors not doing their upkeep.

Mike: if there is something in the zoning that people don't like them, you can't pick and choose which things you don't like. Questioning the camper ordinance.

Commissioner Griffith: got to clean things up around here.

Sharon Dilks: happy about her citation so her husband must get rid of their untangled cars.

Faye: doesn't know where to start. On PC she looked through those books a hundred times can't easily find what she wants to find. One is zoning and one is something else one is more than double the pages of the zoning ordinance. They are on the website. Got a citation for one of her properties. Thought it was fair it needed to be done, asked for many letters. \$100 citation was given. Then another one. Everything is just very unclear and hard to understand. Wants to see things not in the lawyer verbiage just easier to understand clearer and fairer.

Commissioner Griffith: if x person gets to properties to write citation, then that needs to be the person who checks on the progress.

Carrie Comegys: doesn't think pictures should be taken on Sunday's, thinks the camper ordinance should be revised.

E.T.: had a man that did everything with the codes, commissioner fired him.

Commissioner Griffith requested E.T. Get this man's information.

Chris Stant: says that man is bad and doesn't know what he is talking about, and Virginia also said his son is bad too. Said this man lost in court every time.

Ron Ford: says that when he was in the zoning board, they tried cleaning up the zoning books, but it took a lot of time. He believes things need to be cleaned up as things have changed over time. The verbiage is difficult to understand. Says Reese needs to get his act together.

Reese: there are different books. Six years ago, had a bunch of different versions of the same book. The problem he sees is that the town adopted the Maryland code once you do that if you only enforce some things, you must enforce everything, and that book is thick.

Commissioner Griffith has one option to have Paige Crew do the code enforcement, getting trained, there also needs to be a lot of clarity. Put an immediate halt to citations until we get this resolved.

Commissioner Leonard took the floor to say that he doesn't understand why this is even a conversation because people should be cleaning up their yards because we are all adults.

Commissioner Habel asking about the process. (Tom says that they are usually given a warning within 30 days to clean if it's done then the issue is resolved. If they need more time, they need to ask the town. Then after that time if it doesn't get done then a citation needs to be issued. Citations are used once you exhausted everything else.)

Mike: back to the whole trailer thing doesn't have an issue but there needs to be line if your neighbor pulls a beat-up trailer with a tag on it that's still an eyesore. Thinks of un-adopting the international code. Thinks the towns ordinances are more simplistic and easier to follow. Should cease citations/fines for those with just trash or whatever but not for things with safety issues.

Bill Faust: Goes to town code first the other one is just there in case they missed something.

Commissioner Griffith: need workshops, need to be working on this, Reese can come along to help, doesn't want anyone to feel they are being bullied etc. cease the fines, regroup, find somewhere for Paige Crew to be trained, adopt something that is simple to understand and what not.

Tom foreclosure registry for places that have been foreclosed upon to get name and number to follow up on codes and such.

ROUND TABLE

Commissioner Griffith will update as the county has applied for a grant for 3mil. for the wastewater treatment plant.

Commissioner Griffith talking about people who leave then want to come back. He doesn't have an issue with it but wants to hear other people's opinions.

Ron Ford: believes there should be ten years.

Reese Coleman: says it all must be done through charter amendment. He thinks the person should have to be in good standing within the town (no codes against them, bills paid, etc.)

Tom suggests that if you resign after your term started then you should have to wait the time until your term would have been over.

Commissioner Johnson: thinks it should be the three years that you had originally signed up for.

Billy: agrees you can't run until your term has been up

Robert Stant: agrees with that as well.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Fields: moved here 64 years ago, asked the population, loves this town.

Angelina: n/a

Faust: n/a

Chris: got two campers he says if anyone has an issue w that to come talk to him.

Mike: n/a

Betterment Club: happy the trains got moved.

Sharon: n/a

Faye: says she has said enough.

Ford: the developer was forced out by Jay Falstad.

Stant: curious about the cameras are they still on a timer or 24 hours (Commissioner Griffith says they are mandated by the state must be on timer) been any mention of the rehab going on.

Tom goes into that, says the opinion has been filed, says they have threatened the town w a lawsuit. Has referred that to our insurance carrier.

Carrie: cameras is there any more information putting it in other places. (Commissioner Griffith said the person running the show for Sudlersville is no longer employed. So now him and Lt. will meet w the new person to get the ball rolling)

Reese: couple months ago, said that you got money from the state for economic development. Discussion about a committee formed, is there any movement on that. (Commissioner Griffith emailed Heather last week, it's 99% done just waiting on the governor to sign). Have we gotten a new maintenance man yet? (No) has anything been posted (no).

E.T.: believes no one should speak during the meeting except during public comment. He believes that's how it should be.

Chris Stant: agrees but it needs to be kept under control though.

Commissioner Griffith: thinks this has been a great meeting, everyone seems to want to work together to move forward.

Angelini: can someone check with the county to see if they can tag the hydrants for when they are out of commission.

Need a workshop before next meeting.

Commissioner Leonard made a motion to end meeting, Commissioner Habel seconded it, the rest followed.