

TOWN OF TOWNSEND
October 5, 2011
Board of Adjustment Hearing @ 7:00 pm (Cancelled)
Council Meeting Minutes

BOA Hearing Cancelled

7:00 pm – Public Hearing

- I. Call to Order:
 - II. Roll Call:
 - III. BOA Hearing – Request for relief from zoning restrictions @ 1021 W. Founds Street
 - IV. Adjournment:
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7:30 pm – Council Meeting

- I. Call to Order: 7:32 pm
- II. Opening Ceremonies
 - a. Roll Call: Mayor Steve High, Councilwomen Sandy Sturgis and Karen Jennings, Councilmen John Ness and Dwain Haines, Attorney Fred Townsend, Engineer Tom Wilkes, Manager Dawson Green and Secretary Cathy Beaver
 - b. Pledge of Allegiance: Pledge was said
 - c. Recognition of Visitors: 16
- III. Additions/Deletions to Published Agenda: None
- IV. Council Minutes – September council minutes approved at workshop (copies on back table)
- V. Unfinished Business
 - a. Solar panel installation at Town Hall – vote on contractor - Mayor Steve High
 - High stated the Town received a grant to install solar panels and we solicited bids to do the work. Council now needs to vote on whom to award the bid.
 - Jennings asked if these are removable solar panels.
 - Green said yes. He added that RVB recommends the bid be awarded to Advance Solar. I put 4 bids in everyone's folder at the workshop for review.
 - *Ness motioned, Sturgis seconded to follow RVB's recommendation on the installation of the solar panels and award the job to Advance Solar for the amount of \$18,717.00 which is covered by an energy grant, no expense to the Town.*
 - Jennings asked Hanlin if we had permission to do this, he had meeting with Carter's.
 - Hanlin said we had permission to do necessary prepares.
 - Green interrupted and said he has a letter of permission from the Carter's to install the solar panels.
 - Mr. Rocke asked what about the status of building a new Town hall.
 - High said we will get to that, right now we have a motion to vote on to install solar panels.
 - Rocke said he just wondered why we would spend money on this if we plan on building a new town hall.
 - High said we received grant money to do this and the solar panels are movable, they will go with us to a new sight.
 - Rocke asked why we couldn't use this grant on the new hall.
 - Tom stated the grant has an expiration date to spend the money. It would expire before a new town hall could be constructed.
 - Hanlin asked if there is any resident money involved in this, or all grant money.
 - Ness said it is all grant money.
 - *Vote – ayes unanimous, motion approved.*
 - b. Annexation of property at 5988 Summit Bridge Road – vote on request – Councilwoman Sandy Sturgis
 - Sturgis said the Town received a request from Smith's Liquors on Rt. 71 to annex the property into Town.
 - *Sturgis motioned, Ness seconded to start the annexation process for 5988 Summit Bridge Road.*
 - High asked how much more money this will bring into the Town.
 - Sturgis said between \$500.00 - \$600.00 dollars per year with taxes and business license.

- Ness clarified that this motion is only to start the annexation process, not voting on the annexation itself.
 - Hanlin asked if the owner approached the Town with this request.
 - Sturgis said yes.
 - Rocke asked if this will require the Town to run water and sewer to the business and if so at whose expense.
 - Tom said part of the annexation process is to send letters to all the utilities to ensure they will provide services, however when the owner chooses to hook into the sewer, it will be at his expense.
 - High clarified that this vote is only to approve the request to annex into Town and start the process.
 - ***Vote – ayes unanimous, motion passed.***
- c. Progress in TVII – Councilman John Ness
- Ness said he attended a meeting at a resident’s home in TVII several weeks ago with other TVII residents and Quinn Johnson also attended. There were a number of questions and concerns from the residents. Take away for me was to find out some information and pass it along to the residents that attended and report to Council, which I did. There were some questions regarding the breaking out of Phase II and III, some of the repairs, concerns over both commercial and residential violators of the grass ordinance. We passed information onto Mr. Green, the Town Manager regarding due diligence to that. Any questions.
 - Richard Gorman said he lives in TVII and has no idea what meeting we are talking about.
 - Ness said it was a meeting a TVII resident put together with some other TVII residents and they invited Town Council, which I attended, and Quinn Johnson.
 - High stated it wasn’t an all-inclusive meeting, think it was some selective residents who decided to get together and have a meeting to discuss some things and Ness was a target and invited to attend and he reported back to us. He went to listen and find out what was going on and reported back to us. We stressed to the resident that they need to get a larger lobbying force and come and present the issues to council.
 - Green said he believes the reason Mr. Gorman is confused is the section referred to Townsend Village II East is where the meeting was held and Mr. Gorman lives off of Wiggins Mill Road.
 - Gorman said it is still one development.
 - Ness said the meeting was sponsored by TVII residents who at the time of the meeting expressed they should have tried to reach out to more people, several people in attendance said if it hadn’t been for word of mouth they wouldn’t have known about it. It was an informal group that Council was invited to and I am the one who attended.
 - Gorman said he doesn’t think there is anything wrong with that or with having the meeting, just think more people should have been invited.
 - High said Council didn’t call for this meeting; Ness was tagged and went to the meeting, not as a councilmember but as a resident. Yes, agree that TVII should rally their forces and understand that a bigger voice is a better voice. It is on the residents, we won’t conduct meetings or schedule meetings for them but we will listen to them.
 - Mrs. Gorman said they appreciate that but wants Council to understand the people at the meeting didn’t represent or speak for all the TVII residents. It is sad that we weren’t even aware of the meeting so we could be involved.
 - High said we understand.
 - Tori Baker told the Gorman’s that a group of the first residents to move into TVII started emailing each other with issues and started a face book page, was a grass roots group started 5 years ago. Tori said she will get the Gorman’s the information so they are in on the emails, etc. We need to get more people from both sides involved.
 - Carolann Wiggins asked what is going to be done with the massive pot holes in TVII East in the middle of the road, tired of hitting them.
 - High said Green and Tom have been working on the issue and hope to get them done soon.
 - Wiggins asked what the white lines in the neighborhood are for.
 - Tom said the developer is doing this, starting to prepare for repairs.
 - Wiggins asked if there was any word on paving the roads, at least the circles.

- Tom said he isn't sure when, hopes it is within the month that they start repairs. Don't want to get anyone's hopes up. These markings show the areas that need repaired before paving can be done. Apparently the owner has got some money from selling some lots and they are using this money to do some repairs. On Wiggins Mill Road they have started to do some curb repair and sidewalks, all in advance of paving Wiggins Mill Road and the entrance to TVII. The plan, according to them, and of course there have been years of promises, when they finish Wiggins Mill Road they are supposed to move to the east side and finish Phase II. Paving will include the entrance at Karins Blvd all the way through. That's called Phase II and III on the East side.
- Wiggins asked if we had any dates.
- Tom said he doesn't have any dates. Said again that the plan is to finish Wiggins Mill and move to the east side. It should happen within a month or so, no promises, can't guarantee it will happen. This all started about 1 ½ years ago with the developer wanting to finish this phase.
- Wiggins said she doesn't think they will ever be finished on their side because of the additional road to go into Townsend.
- Tom replied that may be but they are going to try and finish off Phase II and III. The property you are talking about is owned by another developer and we won't wait for him to finish the homes before having the roads paved. Was hopeful last year and nothing happened so don't want to say much more.

VI. New Business

- a. Halloween – October 31, 2011 – Trick or Treat hours – Councilwoman Sandy Sturgis
 - Sturgis stated trick or treat hours are usually 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm.
 - Council agreed and High said it will be posted on the internet, at the post office and at the Town Hall.
- b. Mischief Night – October 30, 2011 – curfew hours – Councilwoman Sandy Sturgis
 - Sturgis said they have always enforced our curfew of 10:00 pm on mischief night.
 - All of Council agreed to keep it the same.

VII. Reports of the Officers

- a. State Police: Lt. LaMarche
 - Ness said Lt. L. sends his apologies for not being able to attend.
 - Ness will email Lt. to try and schedule police patrols in Town on October 30 and 31st.
- b. State Representative: Quinn Johnson
 - Still out of session, working on lots of constituent issues, have been involved with the TVII issues.
 - Rt. 71 will be resurfaced in the fall of 2012.
 - Working with Deldot on repaving Main Street.
 - We have not given up, we are still working, and it will get done, getting the railroad tracks repaired. Unfortunately the railroad company got behind in their repairs because of the storms.
 - Sturgis stated they have dropped stuff off next to the post office.
 - Quinn said the railroad keeps telling him they are 6 months behind and he tells them anything they can do to move us up would be appreciated, we have been waiting 1 ½ years to have the tracks repaired. Have also asked them to keep it separate; don't wait for the streetscape project.
 - Johnson Controls is up and running producing batteries. Have approximately 280 jobs there.
 - The new hospital will have a groundbreaking in November 2011 and Health South will have a groundbreaking in December 2011.
 - Startup ceremonies for the old Valero were last Friday. They are ramping up there on line production.
 - Capital One announced they are bringing in 500 additional jobs.
 - Summit Aviation re-builds CH47 and Chinook helicopters. They have a huge government contract. They want to extend their runway which will enable them to increase the corporate contracts. They also work on corporate jets and minor aircraft repairs, predominately government, but other stuff too.
 - Because of the work Middletown and all the local contractors did to get Johnson Controls up and running quickly, we are keeping our fingers crossed on another manufacturer, 1 million

square foot building, 11 other states are in competition for this company, should know shortly. The property they are looking at is on 301 at Levels Road.

- This job sparked a lot of interest from other companies to move into our area. Had a land owner change his property from residential to industrial zoning.
- Mike Ruhman asked why we want to invest in beautifying the Town with a streetscape when our road is filled with garbage trucks and cement trucks, what good will it do. The roads aren't designed to handle that kind of traffic. Quinn asked if he was talking about re-paving the roads or the streetscape.
- Ruhman said the streetscape, who cares if they look nice. The Town allows garbage trucks to parade in and out of Town every day all day long. It starts at 5:00 am, looks like a parade.
- Quinn said the Town has no control over the traffic on Main Street, it is a state road.
- Ruhman said it's curious that we want to spend that kind of money and use state grant money to make our Town so nice and have all these garbage trucks and Buffalo Concrete trucks running through it at 40 mph running over pedestrians. He stated he almost got run over by a Buffalo Concrete truck at 7:15 this morning doing over 40 mph. It was one foot away from him, had to swerve into oncoming traffic. I stepped out in front of him on purpose.
- Jennings said the Town isn't allowing that to happen.
- Ruhman asked her if the Town allowed the companies to go in there.
- Jennings asked what company, Buffalo.
- Ruhman said Buffalo, the trash company. As they have grown from 5 trucks 5 years ago to 40 plus trucks now because they were bought out by Waste Management or whoever.
- Jennings asked Ruhman if he has noted that they have gone down the road over 40 mph.
- Ruhman said this morning at 7:15; I almost got hit by truck number 81 from Buffalo Concrete.
- Jennings asked if he called Buffalo Concrete or the police.
- Ruhman said he called Cathy at the Town Hall today. She said she would pass in on the manager.
- Jennings said Cathy is our executive secretary, you need to call the police, you need to note it, and you need to call Buffalo Concrete.
- Ruhman said the Town needs to do something about the trucks on Main Street, why make it so beautiful and have all this crap go through it.
- Quinn said again that Main Street is a state maintained road.
- Ruhman said it has never been engineered to handle 48,000 pound trucks on a daily basis and have 400 – 600 of them a day go through it. They aren't engineered for it, so what are you going to do, tear it down to the bedrock and start all over with the streets when you go to re-pave it to make sure it will accommodate the weight or are you going to get rid of the trucks.
- Quinn said with the way the road is engineered now you don't see any problem with it breaking apart, where you are concerned is the traffic following the appropriate speed limits.
- Ruhman said no, going through that residential section in the big diesel trucks, we don't allow the elevator trucks to go through. Why have garbage trucks on the back side of Town, why can't they move over by the weigh station, 58 acres for sale there, let them set up shop there, they have to get from the far side of Townsend to 13 with one way to do it, and now you want to spend money to beautify Main Street, yet you let that crap go through it every day from 5:00 am to 7:00 pm, garbage trucks, concrete trucks, but you want to spend money on beautification and are worried about that, get rid of those companies, get them out on 13 where they belong, get them off of our roads and going through the middle of Town. Our homes weren't designed to handle the vibrations that the trucks produce. My house is falling apart because of it. They vibrate my walls when they go by.
- High asked if Ruhman had a survey on his house, he says his walls vibrate.
- Ruhman said you can watch stuff dance on the shelves. He said he isn't paying for any survey at this time.
- High asked Ruhman to submit a formal complaint in writing and it will be addressed. As a citizen, if you see someone doing 40 mph in a 25 mph zone, it is your duty to call the police, not the Town hall.
- Ruhman said it has been a 15 year battle and nothing is ever done.
- High said this is the first time he has heard anything about this problem.

- Ruhman told High he told him about this problem when he came to his house campaigning with Sturgis when he was running for Council.
 - High said there were other issues on his agenda then too. Need to fill out a formal complaint. We are pretty certain the roads can bear the weight of the vehicles. We can possibly fix the timing and the vibration being caused, noise decibel, but need a formal complaint that says what type of problem you are having. We have to be able to identify a problem, if we don't know about it, we can't fix it. Be specific with you problems.
 - Ruhman said he has been specific for 15 years. Ruhman asked his original question again, if the Town is going to allow these trucks non-stop through Town, why are we going to spend money on beautification.
 - Quinn stated the Town may not have a choice but to allow some of these things, their hands are tied, just as their hands are tied on some of the things you may wish to do on your property. The companies are within their rights to be where they are, the Town may be able to establish some rules they have to abide by, but this is a state road which restricts the Town from doing things also.
 - Rocke asked if this includes Commerce Street also.
 - Quinn said yes.
 - Haines said it also includes South Street.
 - Quinn said these three roads are considered secondary roads.
 - Ness verified that Ruhman's concerns are multi part, state roads and whether the Town has control over that, trucks speeding. He said he can take his concerns to Troop 9.
 - Ruhman said they tried to give him a ticket a while back saying he was obstructing traffic on Main Street for where he is parking his truck.
 - High called an end to the discussion, come in and register a formal complaint, be specific, we will address it and get back to you. You said nothing has been done in 15 years but you will get a response from us.
- c. Townsend Fire Department: Keith Shoemaker/Jeff Dawson
- The Hall is back in service, already had one wedding.
 - October 26 the ladies are having a chicken and dumpling dinner, think it starts at 5:30 pm, will be on the marquee.
 - October 17 is the Halloween party for children up to 12 years old at 6:30 pm.
 - November 5 is the open house from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm.

VIII. Reports

- a. Fred Townsend III, Attorney:
- Lupo property – 626 Commerce Street
 - I. Received the sheriff deed two days ago, gave it to Cathy to notarize and send to the recorder of deeds tomorrow. Once it is recorded it will belong to the Town.
 - II. Need to ramp up how Council wants to dispose of the property.
 - III. High asked if there is a milestone/significant date that Council needs to meet on this issue.
 - IV. Fred said by the end of the week the title will be in the Town's name. The Town will control everything with the property and only needs to decide how to dispose of it.
- b. Tom Wilkes, Engineer:
- Tom said everything has already been discussed.
 - High asked Tom to give him a feasibility study by the end of the week of the weight all Townsend roads can bear.
- c. Dawson Green, Town Manager:
- Missed the last Council meeting and several workshops due to personal reasons so trying to get back up to speed. This is the first time all of council has been together since I came back.
 - Several things happened in my absence that I wasn't aware of, certain things being awarded and now I have to figure out by going through the minutes, such as the wells and also the flag poles up at the park. If anyone can fill me in on what happened, what transpired, so I know, we can get some things in the files on them.
 - High asked if Green will accept the contracts by email.
 - Green said yes.

- Jennings asked who approved these wells.
- Sturgis said Council voted on it in a workshop.
- Jennings asked when, she remembers discussing it but doesn't remember voting on the installation of flag poles and wells.
- Sturgis said the flag poles didn't require a vote as under the amount that requires that. Council voted on proceeding with the wells and sprinkler system if it was kept below a specific dollar amount and we only got one bid back for the wells.
- Jennings said her understanding was Sturgis came to that meeting and asked for \$70,000.00 for wells and you were told to get a lower cost and come back with it.
- Sturgis said no, it was agreed if the wells and sprinkler system were kept under a certain dollar amount...
- Jennings asked what the amount was.
- Sturgis said she doesn't remember, thinks it was \$75,000.00.
- High said the irrigation system that was specifically discussed and asked to be budgeted, it was determined to use other than Artesian water as it was too expensive, so it was decided to speak to people who install wells for water....
- Jennings asked High why he stopped work at the park that day (wells were being dug).
- High said he thought they were pouring concrete in the park, once he understood what was happening he gave the green light to proceed.
- Jennings asked what the final cost was on that.
- High said it was \$15,000.00 and some change.
- Sturgis added it was for 2 wells and the pumps.
- High said what we are looking for are the bids, documentation of whatever phone conversations you had....
- Jennings said our Town Manager is not aware of all this and that's a problem.
- Sturgis said he should have just come and talked to her, that is a problem, lack of communication. He doesn't return my phone calls.
- Jennings said Sturgis could have contacted him to let him know.
- High pounded the gavel and told Sturgis to provide the bids to all concerned.
- Sturgis said the bids are in the Town Hall. There is only one bid for the well and two bids for the irrigation system, which is all that came back in. All the persons that were contacted are at the Town hall too.
- Diane Hanlin asked why everyone isn't aware that there were two bids.
- Sturgis said she doesn't know.
- John Hanlin asked who the well drilling company that got the contract.
- Sturgis said Lifetime Wells.
- Hanlin asked if Middletown Well Drilling was contacted.
- Sturgis said yes as well as John's Well Drilling, Stewart's, and several other local contractors. We didn't get anything back from any of them.
- High told Sturgis to provide in writing all the people she contacted, whatever bids they verbally gave you and document it.
- Sturgis again said it is all in the office.
- Diane Hanlin said we have a Town Manager, Sturgis got the bids because he had a personal situation, why didn't anybody clue him in before you just started awarding these things, instead of telling your Town Manager who is in charge of this now because from what I understand that is his job and why you guys hired him, to be in charge of all this and award the information, so he had a situation and was out, so why didn't you tell him, why did he have to ask you people.
- Sturgis said Mr. Dawson did go through a lot, but he was present when we marked out where the wells were going to go, so he was aware that this was transpiring. As far as them starting the work, I didn't even know they were going to start work until that day.
- John Hanlin asked Sturgis if she didn't know they were going to start work, who gave the approval for them to start work. Somebody had too. Hanlin asked High if he gave permission.
- High said he got a call Thursday morning...

- Hanlin asked everyone sitting at the table if they gave permission to the well people to start the job, all said no.
- Sturgis said to Hanlin that she doesn't really comprehend his question.
- Hanlin said he wants to know who told the well people to "go".
- Sturgis said the permission must have come from her, with the original agreement that they submit the permits to DNREC and once those permits came back they could start work.
- Diane Hanlin said to Sturgis "So you don't tell anyone else".
- Sturgis said she didn't even know the permits from DNREC came back, Mr. Green knew before she did.
- Ruhman said the contractor should have come to her before they started digging and said we got the permits back and are going to start digging on this date so you have that information. That's very odd for a contractor to do.
- Hanlin told Sturgis she should have at least contacted Mayor High and told him they were going to start the work. If you approved it and told them to do the work.
- Sturgis said all of Council approved them to dig two (2) wells for the Town of Townsend.
- Hanlin said again that Sturgis should have contacted Mayor High to let him know when they were going to start work if Mr. Green wasn't available.
- Sturgis said Mr. Green was present when they started working. She said he knew the day before they started working and he speaks to the Mayor on a daily basis so as I stated I found out the day they started to work.
- Jennings asked Mr. Green if he knew.
- Green said no, he wasn't aware of it, he was asked if the location for the wells were marked, he didn't know, so he went to the park to look, but no way did he know someone was coming up there to work. Green said he asked the Mayor, the same thing happened with the flag poles. He said he is asking these questions because as the Town Manager he isn't in the loop. The only thing he asked is when this was awarded, how did the process go, I wasn't asked and wasn't aware of it.
- Ness said for future reference, go back to the workshop minutes when we voted on the wells and irrigation system, and in the future we should make sure with any contracts going on in Town that the Town manager is aware of it. At the time maybe someone zipped and someone zagged. If we all agree to do this it would be great.
- High said this is a great idea. He said everything is in the minutes, no specific dates are available, the concern here, when all this is going on, agree we need to keep everyone informed and in the loop. This is all part of the growing pains we are suffering now. High said he has already checked the minutes, there is nothing in it, there is mention of doing it, but no mention of when and that is a concern. When, the day, the time. I'm letting all of Council know now that when something is going on, let somebody know about it, let other Council members know about it, send out an email, phone everybody. Need to keep everybody informed. You are only as strong as the weakest link, when the weakest link isn't informed you may lose everything. Bottom line, keep everyone informed. We aren't going to sit up here and belittle each other, I am guilty of this also, and we all need to keep each other informed. If at the end of the day you don't know something, call Mr. Green.

IX. Committee Reports

- a. Finance Committee: Chair – Steve High
 - Total Assets - \$3,864,789.41
 - Total liabilities & equity - \$3,833,716.19
- b. Streets Committee: Chair – Dwain Haines
 - Haines said the roads were touched on earlier.
 - Rocke said in the past the Town inspector and laborer always cleaned the storm drains before and after storms to get all the mud, leaves and debris off. Why isn't this being done anymore?
 - High said they will check into it, would be the smart thing to do. We will get back to you. High thanked Rocke for bringing it to our attention.
- c. Health & Public Welfare Committee: Co-chairs: John Ness & Dwain Haines

- Ness said winter is coming with possible inclement weather and he wants to review R911 and make sure there is a clear chain of command for snow removal, have residents move their cars or any kind of emergency.
 - High asked if the snow removal contract with Austin and Bednash was for only one year.
 - Sturgis said yes, it was a one year contract.
 - High said we need solicit bids for snow removal, is a good time to start the process.
- d. Storm Water Management: Councilwoman Sandy Sturgis
- Sturgis had nothing at this time.
 - High said three (3) residents have called him about water ponding in their yards on Taylor Street. He asked if this is something new or existing.
 - Sturgis said something was done on Taylor Street several years ago that was supposed to help relieve the problem. Tom can give more details on it.
 - Tom said what was done has nothing to do with any of this. We have had 19 inches of rain since September which is over 6 inches above record levels. The previous 5 years we have had a drought. I believe the reason there is ponding is because of the amount of rain and high groundwater levels. A resident on Taylor had water in his basement and I believe it was because of the high water table due to all the rain.
 - High said he just wanted to know if this was an ongoing problem with residents on Taylor Street.
 - Hanlin said about 6-7 years ago there was some work done on Taylor Street, some re-paving and curbs and storm water drains put in to help with drainage. At one time there was a low point at the end of Taylor Street. There was some additional work done, it was repaired and there hasn't been a problem since.
 - High said he wanted to know so he can answer when questioned.
 - Hanlin said unfortunately those lots are lower than street level.
- e. Energy & Environment Committee: Chair – Karen Jennings
- Townsend Wildlife Habitat Project
 - I. If you would like to certify your back yard call me. There is a book on the back table about habitats.
 - Astronomy Night in the Park
 - I. Saturday, October 8, 2011 is International Observe the Moon Night. There is information in the back. Come to the park and bring the kids from sunset to around 9:00 pm and look at the moon and stars. We will have a full moon.
- f. Veteran Affairs Committee: Co-Chairs – Karen Jennings & Dwain Haines
- Project 19734 Soldier Support – care packages
 - Jennings said she had nothing.
 - High asked Haines if he had addresses for our deployed residents.
 - Haines said he has been away for a couple weeks and has no information.
 - Torie Baker asked if she could put a basket at the Town Hall for coupons, including expired coupons. She has a list of 10 military bases overseas (non-combat areas) that honors expired coupons for up to 6 months after the expiration date. She will collect them and mail them overseas.
 - High said to bring them in and the Town will pay to mail them but Torie said she will take care of that.
 - Jennings said this is an awesome, fabulous idea. She said she will put this on facebook.
 - Ness said we will also put it on our website.
- g. Police Committee: Chair – John Ness
- Townsend Community Watch
 - With Halloween coming we will put the curfew hours on the website and he will contact the police about getting patrols here on October 30 and 31st.
- h. Parks & Recreation Committee: Co-chairs - Sandy Sturgis & Steve High
- The next event is the NYE Party on December 31, 2011.
 - Sturgis thanked all the volunteers at the fair. It wasn't what everyone hoped it would be between the weather and all the other events going on around the State.

- We had a lot of vendors show up so we didn't lose any money.

X. Announcements:

- a. Town Hall closed Monday, October 10, 2011 in observance of Columbus Day.

XI. Citizens Comments & Participation

- a. Hanlin asked the health committee if there was an attempt before Hurricane Irene to get calls made through R911 regarding shelters in the area.
- b. Ness said there was not a R911 done.
- c. Jennings said she attempted to when she found out it hadn't been done. She was talking to Kristin Krenzer when the hurricane hit and they lost their power. All the health and welfare committee needed to do was provide a short script of information to be given on R911. The information given during the workshop was not pertinent information. This is Councilman Ness first year with this committee so I gave him the information for the future.
- d. Hanlin asked where we are with the new Town Hall project. You did say the solar panels are removable, but is Council still moving forward with these plans.
- e. Tom said he provided plans to Council.
- f. Jennings said she has to review them before she can move forward with anything.
- g. Hanlin said several people got together for a volunteer day in May to plant around the gazebo and we spent between \$500.00-\$600.00 on plants....
- h. Sturgis said the plants cost \$555.00 and they all died due to lack of water.
- i. Hanlin said to Sturgis - you then decided to spend \$6,000.00 on weeding and mulch and stuff like that.
- j. Sturgis said the mulch was already there, and yes, because the trees were being choked out by the weeds and vines. We would have been spending more money to replace trees again.
- k. Jennings asked if the Town is under contract with ERV.
- l. Sturgis said we don't have a contract.
- m. Jennings said she has an invoice that is \$90.00 an hour to pull weeds. We have a Town maintenance man, so why are we doing this. She asked who authorized this.
- n. Sturgis said she authorized ERV to come in and pull the weeds and clean up the park before the fair. She added she has never seen a bill to even know what was being spent or she would have stopped it.
- o. Jennings said you authorized \$6,000.00 worth of work.
- p. Sturgis said she did not authorize \$6,000.00; I authorized them to pull weeds to make the park presentable for the Town fair.
- q. Jennings asked what budget this money was coming out of.
- r. Sturgis said parks and recreation or Town park budget, and it is under the procurement policy so it is within my rights to do so.
- s. Diane Hanlin asked how much the Town park budget is. Isn't it like \$4,000.00?
- t. Sturgis said that would be the Town events. The park budget is \$100,000.00.
- u. Diane said to Sturgis, "so you think it's OK to spend \$6,000.00 to pull weeds because you have a \$100,000.00 in your budget?"
- v. Sturgis replied, no, I agreed it was OK to pull weeds so we don't have to replace trees.
- w. Diane asked Mr. Green if he had an assistant, a guy that works for him.
- x. Mr. Green said yes.
- y. Diane asked if he could pull weeds, that's what he is paid for, yet we paid for someone to pull weeds for the Town fair, just don't understand it. And then nobody knows about it. Why doesn't anyone know about it?
- z. Jennings said she was shocked when she saw the invoice.
- aa. Diane said to Sturgis that she didn't even know about it, never asked them for a price, why?
- bb. Sturgis said she knew she authorized them to take care of it.
- cc. Diane asked how Sturgis could hire someone and tell them to just go in and do it. That's basically what you did.
- dd. Sturgis said OK.
- ee. Diane said that's your answer?
- ff. Sturgis said that is her answer, OK.
- gg. Jennings said we (Council) are in charge of making sure we have the best possible prices, the best possible use of the Town's money, this is not our personal money so this isn't our money to do with what we want, we need to be, we have only a little income, we need to be careful and \$6,000.00 to pull weeds is crazy for a fair that 20 people came out to see, that is \$6,000.00 of taxpayers money.

- hh.* Hanlin said just because there is \$100,000.00 in the budget doesn't mean you have to go out and spend all of that money. Times are tough. I knew that when I sat behind that table and I took some sacrifices when I sat behind that table as well. As Council, it is our responsibility to do due diligence and make sure we are spending money wisely. Just because the money is there doesn't mean we have to spend it. We are a small Town, don't have a lot of income, our income is based on property transfers, real estate taxes, impact fees and trash. That's it. All I ask as Council is we watch how we spend our money.
- ii.* High said fiscal responsibility is part of the oath we took when we came into office. I also believe that fiscal responsibility should be inherent in everything I do. As a Council we need to pay more attention.
- jj.* Hanlin said that he understands that things pop up, vandalism, etc., understand that, but as a Town we need to really start watching how we are spending our money.
- kk.* High said fiscal responsibility and communication needs to be practiced by all of Council.
- ll.* Hanlin asked where we are with the streetscape.
- mm.* Tom said we are in the process of doing some additional survey work which was requested by DelDot, we got authorization to do it and once we get the information back we will submit it to DelDot for final approval. Once we have approval we will start the bid process. We hope to have the survey back within 30 days.
- nn.* Rocke again asked where we stand with the new Town Hall.
- oo.* High said Jennings is going to review the 50 page recommendation and will get back to Council with it.
- pp.* Tom said he gave Council a design/proposal.

XII. Adjournment: 9:01 pm, Sturgis motioned, Haines seconded with a unanimous vote to adjourn.
