

TOWN OF TOWNSEND
June 3, 2009 @ Townsend Fire Hall
Council Meeting Minutes @ 7:30 pm

7:30 pm – Council Meeting

I. Call to Order: 7:35 pm

II. Opening Ceremonies

- a. Roll Call: Mayor Dave Raughley, Councilmen John Hanlin and John Ness, Councilwomen Sandy Sturgis and Karen Jennings, Attorney Fred Townsend, Engineer Tom Wilkes, Code Office Mike Jester, Finance Officer Azure Wright, Secretary Cathy Beaver
- b. Pledge of Allegiance: Pledge was said
- c. Recognition of Visitors: 22

III. Additions/Deletions to Published Agenda:

- a. Hanlin asked to add a Jr. Council Report under Townsend Wildlife Habitat
- b. Hanlin motioned, Jennings seconded with unanimous vote to approve the agenda with the addition.

IV. Council Minutes – April Council minutes and May re-organization minutes are done. May council meeting is not done yet. These will all be approved at the workshop to enable everyone a chance to read them.

V. Unfinished Business

- a. Resolution No. 09-02, declaring April 18th each year as Townsend Veterans Day: Raughley read resolution no. 09-02, Sturgis motioned, Hanlin seconded to approve the resolution. In the following discussion Jennings asked to have Hanlin added as a co-sponsor of the resolution. Vote was unanimous.

VI. New Business: no new business

VII. Reports of the Officers

- a. State Police – Troop 9: Lt. Logan and Lt. Dan Hall were in attendance. Lt. Logan stated there were 21 calls for May 2009 as follow: 1 – 911 hang up, 1 – crash, 1 – alarm, 3 – assault/threatening, 2 – disorderly conduct, 3 – domestic, 1 – harassment, 4 – public relations, 1 – suspicious person/vehicle, 1 – theft, 3 – traffic violation, 1 – trespass, 1 – unauthorized use of a MV. We heard about some mischief in Town last night, several properties and vehicles got spray painted. I will have more details later. Jester stated he has contacted the school about the graffiti paint on the backside (facing Gray Street) of the old firehouse. He asked them to paint it; they had just painted and fixed up the entire building when this happened. When it gets closer to fair time, if they haven't done it, the town will buy some paint and cover it. Keith Shoemaker asked Lt. Logan if he thought the spray painting could be gang related. Lt. Logan said no. Raughley told the residents about an event this Saturday, June 6, 2009 at 179 Ebenezer Church Road. It is a tournament of death wrestling tournament. We found out about it because a 9 year old child brought a flyer advertising it home to his father. The town has been working with the police, Quinn Johnson, Bruce Ennis and Bill Powers. We are all working to shut this event down before it happens. The police say as long as they have the required permits they will be able to proceed. There is nothing illegal about this function. Raughley said they still need a permit from the AG and we're trying to convince them not to issue the permit. If the event takes place, I have asked Lt. Logan to have extra police patrol that area. The Town will also pay 3 extra duty police to be on duty in town limits. If there is a call from that area, they can respond but their purpose will be to keep our town residents and streets safe. Residents are encouraged to call the police if they see or hear anything. The fire company is also on alert. New Castle County Police are also aware of the event.
- b. State Representative: Quinn Johnson: Quinn apologized for not attending the last meeting. He congratulated all of new council. He said he hasn't personally seen the flyer for the wrestling event on Saturday but there has been a huge wave of emails statewide trying to prevent it from happening. We are temporarily on recess while the joint finance works on the state budget to give recommendation. Will be seeing revenue bills in the newspaper, the deficit is decreasing but not enough, we keep getting blows. The GM Boxwood plant closing will really hurt the state economy. Am working on making October the disabled children's

month. I have a son that is 100% deaf. It will be incorporated into the schools to make all aware of differences, it will be good. The FOIA bill for open government bill passed yesterday, a few things will be excluded. If you have any questions about anything, please call me, if I can tell you, I will. Jennings asked about cuts to Medicaid coverage, specifically funding to mainstream disabled into society. Quinn answered that he doesn't believe it has been cut. He assured everyone that some of the state cuts will be picked up and covered by the federal government.

- c. County Representative: Bill Powers: Not here
- d. Townsend Fire Department: nothing to report other than the spring fling drawing is 6/20/09 and Dwain still has tickets for sale.

VIII. Reports

- a. Fred Townsend III, Attorney: Spoke with Bob Augur, attorney for the Lupo property. He has all the information and we are working on getting the property signed over to the town.
- b. Tom Wilkes, Engineer: At the 6/17/09 workshop we will present the final plans for the streetscape, will have it ready for a public meeting before the July 1, 2009 council meeting.
- c. Mike Jester, Code Officer: nothing right now

IX. Committee Reports

- a. Finance Committee: Chair - Dave Raughley: we have no report, the computers were down. I will be asking council via email to re-schedule the budget meeting, I will not be able to attend on 6/18/09.
- b. Streets Committee: Chair - John Hanlin, II:
 - i. Old Orchard Lane is 90% done.
 - ii. The state will be fixing the sink hole on Main Street as soon as the weather permits.
 - iii. Jester has a meeting with the developer of TVII tomorrow about final paving in finished areas of TVII.
 - iv. Dan, Townsend postmaster has said he will start delivering mail to the houses that have mailboxes in TVII within the next 2 weeks. They will no longer use the cluster boxes. If your developer hasn't put a mailbox in front of your home, it is your responsibility as the homeowner to put one in.
- c. Water Committee: Chair - John Ness: Have been getting information on the water tower to see what we can do with it. Ness asked Jennings for her contacts at Artesian and Raughley said he will give him his also.
- d. Zoning Committee: Chair - John Hanlin, II; Co-chair - Sandy Sturgis
 - i. Hanlin had nothing to report.
 - ii. Raughley still waiting to meet with Chris Coons on the Comp Plan
 - iii. We are still waiting for county approval for the six annexations done in December.
- e. Health & Public Welfare Committee: Chair - Sandy Sturgis: nothing to report
- f. Energy & Environment Committee - Chair: Karen Jennings: will be setting up a wind assessment test for green energy.
 - i. Townsend Wildlife Habitat Project: Jennings called all Jr. Council members present to come forward.
 - ii. Victoria Hanlin and Jada Mann came to the front of the room.
 - iii. Victoria said the 5th grade had researched native plants to Delaware, set up a section in the library and found books to show kids about plants and animals.
 - iv. Jada said the 3rd and 4th grade made and hung posters in the cafeteria.
 - v. During the plant research Jr. Council chose 2 to plant. Once all the supplies came in they planted and set up the wildlife habitat at Townsend Elementary School.
 - vi. Raughley and Sara stated they will contact the Jr. Council members to work on the project in TVII and old town.
 - vii. Jennings added we are very close to certifying the town.
 - viii. Sara said we need more residents to have backyard habitats and certify their property. All you really need is a food and water source.
- g. Veteran Affairs Committee - Co-Chairs: Karen Jennings and John Hanlin
 - i. Project 19734 Soldier Support: Jennings said her neighbor is being deployed very soon. He will be added to our list for project 19734. We will be mailing care packages soon, if anyone wants to make a donation, please drop it off at town hall. Also if you know anyone in the military that is deployed, please let us know.

