

TOWN OF TOWNSEND
October 7, 2009 @ Townsend Fire Hall
Public Hearing @ 7:00 pm
Council Meeting Minutes @ 7:30 pm

7:00 pm – Public Hearing

- I. **Call to Order:** 7:05 pm
 - II. **Roll Call:** Mayor Dave Raughley, Councilmen John Hanlin and John Ness, Councilwomen Sandy Sturgis and Karen Jennings, Attorney Fred Townsend, Code Officer Mike Jester, Finance Officer Azure Wright, Secretary Cathy Beaver and 2 residents.
 - III. **Third and Final Reading: Revision #1 – Ordinance 09-03, Overgrown grass and weeds:** Councilman John Ness
 - a. Ness motioned, Hanlin seconded with unanimous vote to read by title only and approve Ordinance 09-03.
 - b. In the following discussion Raughley thanked Fred, thought the ordinance was well written.
 - c. Hanlin said he is now concerned the height of the grass before any action is taken is not low enough as the contractors in TVI and TVII are not mowing the open spaces as they should be.
 - d. Raughley stated he understands his concern but doesn't feel we want to get specific with contractors in the ordinance. Advised Hanlin to bring it up in the next workshop. Once the ordinance is approved, we can do more with the contractors.
 - e. Jester stated he has talked to the contractors and all have said they will abide by the ordinance once it is approved.
 - f. Hanlin motioned, Sturgis seconded with unanimous vote to adopt Ordinance No. 09-03.
 - IV. **Adjournment:** 7:12 pm, Hanlin motioned, Sturgis seconded with unanimous vote.
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7:30 pm – Council Meeting

- I. **Call to Order:** 7:31 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 Officer Mike Jester, Finance Officer Azure Wright, Secretary Cathy Beaver
 - b. Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge was said.
 - c. Recognition of Visitors: 9 visitors, Jennifer Hayes from the Transcript, Lt. Logan from the State Police, Stephen and Mrs. Mobley. Keith and Dwain from the fire hall, Mr. Mal Martin, Mrs. Mack and Quinn Johnson.
- III. **Additions/Deletions to Published Agenda:** Accepted as written
- IV. **Council Minutes** – September council minutes on back table (approved at workshop)
- V. **Unfinished Business**
 - a. Discussion and vote on zero turn lawnmower
 - b. Sturgis motioned, Ness seconded with unanimous vote to bring the motion back to the table to purchase a zero turn lawnmower.
 - c. Vote: Sturgis and Ness – aye, Hanlin and Jennings – nay, tiebreaker – Raughley – aye.
 - d. With the unanimous vote, the motion was brought back to the table. There was extensive discussion over this purchase.
 - e. Sturgis amended her original motion of the cost to be just under \$20,000.00 to the cost of the lawnmower to be \$15,124.00 (with the 20% discount), and the only attachment to be purchased right now is a 60' snow blade for \$720.00. She stated she will give up purchasing the enclosure right now; it will be brought back up at a later date.
 - f. Raughley informed the residents that Jester downsized the size of the mower and produced bids from 4 companies at the workshop.
 - g. Hanlin and Jennings still oppose the purchase of the mower, feel it doesn't need to be purchased right now and we are going to have some added expenses at the park.
 - h. After extensive discussion, Raughley called for a vote on purchasing the grasshopper mower and blade for a price of \$15,844.00.
 - i. Vote: Sturgis and Ness – aye, Hanlin and Jennings – nay, tiebreaker – Raughley – aye.
 - j. Motion carried, the Town will purchase the zero turn mower and blade.
- VI. **New Business:** No new business.
- VII. **Reports of the Officers**
 - a. State Police – Troop 9: Lt. Logan said there were 23 calls for service and 9 traffic citations for the month of September. The calls are as follow: 1 – 911 hang up, 2 – crashes, 6 – alarms, 1 – assist, 1 – criminal mischief, 2 – disorderly conduct, 3 – domestic, 1 – drugs, 1 – medical call, 1 – OPR, 2 – public relations, 1 – suspicious person/vehicle, and 1 – theft. Lt. Logan said the police are aware of the problems we're having at the park and are beefing up patrols. He asked residents who live around the park to please call when they see something. Also said they are seeing more cars being broken into, reminded residents to lock their cars. He announced that Captain Purcell and Lt. Bob Wallace are with

Troop 9 now. Once they are settled in they will be down to meet us. Lt. Logan said they are also aware of the speeding problems on Rt. 71 in front of TVII. They are also addressing this problem.

- b. State Representative: Quinn Johnson:
 - i. Last session I got a bill passed – October is now disability awareness month. We are working with the schools to make children aware of disabilities, I have a disabled child myself, and both parents and disabled children have a lot of battles to fight.
 - ii. In reference to your park, I worked with “Borne Learning Trail” at Silver Lake Park last week; it is a variety of tests for kids to get into kindergarten. There are 10 different stations, would be nice to have one in your park. You can contact me if you’re interested and I’ll see what I can do.
 - iii. On Tuesday, October 13, 2009, Senator Ennis and myself are having a town hall meeting with Governor Markell. It will be held at Middletown Town Hall and starts at 7:30 pm. Hope to see you all there.
 - iv. Jester asked where we stand with the crosswalk from Main Street to Happy Harry’s. Quinn stated a new plan was presented last week that won’t take any Sinex parking spots. ADA requirements state all crosswalks must have wheelchair access sidewalks. The new plan angles more toward the electric box and won’t disturb any parking. I think it will be better. Jester asked to see the plans and be at the meeting with the Sinex’s.
 - v. Jester added there have been emails back and forth about the entrance signs for TVII. The state said they would put them up when TVII is turned over to the Town. We need the signs now, there is a bad problem for residents trying to turn into there. Jester asked Quinn if he had any extra money for signs. Quinn said no. Hanlin stated the state is pushing their responsibility off on the town. Quinn told Raughley to call Carolann Wicks. Jester will get prices for the signs and poles and have it for council to review at the next workshop. Raughley will also check with the civic association about funding these signs.
 - vi. Mrs. Mack, TVII resident, asked how the subdivision was approved without any signs. Raughley said with the shopping center in front, they thought the signs would work for the residential area also.
- c. County Representative: Bill Powers: Not here.
- d. Townsend Fire Department: Craft fair will be on 11/14/09
 - i. Raughley told Keith and Dwain that the Town has an ordinance against open burning. He asked them to check and see what the procedure would be for the Town to call the fire department and ask them to go and put out a fire. Keith said they have done that in the summer months when the burning ban has been in effect. They will check with the fire chief and get back to us.

VIII. Reports

- a. Fred Townsend III, Attorney: Hope the Lupo property on Commerce Street will be assigned to the Town within 2 weeks. At the workshop Fred will give a cost estimate on the foreclosure procedure.
- b. Tom Wilkes, Engineer: Nothing to report.
- c. Mike Jester, Code Officer: Nothing to report (has been gabby enough!)

IX. Committee Reports

- a. Finance Committee: Chair - Dave Raughley: Raughley read the balance sheet. Total assets: \$2,492,812.93. Total liabilities & equity: \$2,461,739.71.
 - i. The 2007 and 2008 audits are complete. Will review the reports and sign off on them. The 2009 audit will start in November and we will be caught up.
 - ii. We will have copies of the budget vs. actual each month now, if you’d like a copy, please contact the office.
- b. Streets Committee: Chair - John Hanlin, II: Some potholes need repaired in TVII, Jester is taking care of them.
- c. Water Committee: Chair – John Ness: nothing to report.
- d. Zoning Committee: Chair - John Hanlin, II, Co-Chair – Sandy Sturgis: nothing to report.
 - i. Raughley will be meeting with Connie Holland from the State on the comprehensive plan. As soon as she approves it there will be a public hearing.
- e. Health & Public Welfare Committee: Chair – Sandy Sturgis:
 - i. Flu shots are here, advise all to get one.
 - ii. Working with George Wright on the United Way.
 - iii. Potassium tablet distribution next week at the fire hall.
- f. Energy & Environment Committee – Chair: Karen Jennings: nothing to report.
 - i. Townsend Wildlife Habitat Project: call me if you’re interested.
- g. Veteran Affairs Committee – Co-Chairs: Karen Jennings and John Hanlin:
 - i. Hanlin said they are working on the BBQ for the spring.

- ii. Project 19734 Soldier Support: Two boxes were mailed this week to soldiers in Afghanistan from the 19734 zip code. If you'd like to donate anything for the care packages, please drop it off to the town hall.
 - h. Police Committee: Chair – John Ness:
 - i. Ness has talked to Sgt. Nefowsky and Lt. Logan about the issues in the park and the speeding in TVII.
 - ii. Townsend Community Watch:
 - I. The next community watch meeting is Tuesday, October 20, 2009 at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.
 - II. Residents, if you see or hear something, please call 911 so they can respond. The non-emergency number is 302-573-2800.
 - III. Jester added that you can call and request to stay anonymous.
 - IV. TVI residents, within the next 5-10 days contractors will start installing mailboxes at the houses. Once they are done, the cluster boxes will be removed.
 - i. Executive Park Task Force: Chair – Dave Raughley
 - i. I am so proud of the park. It was a goal of mine to see this built. I pray the residents that live around the park will help us get the vandalism under control.
 - ii. Meeting with Hanlin and Jester on Friday at the park to see what kind of signage we need to install. We will also discuss the possibility of a gate.
 - iii. In the spring we will bring the 1st Jr. Council back to help plant more trees at the park.
 - iv. Raughley read a letter from Bob Ehemann from the state. He complimented Townsend on the park and how far it has come, also thanked council for permitting him to participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony. Stated the fair and ceremony were great, he and his family had a great time.
 - v. With the letter was a check for \$1,000,000.00 for the park grant Townsend received from the State, in large part, due to Mr. Ehemann.
 - vi. Mr. Ehemann said they are reviewing our application for another grant now.
 - vii. Hanlin said he contacted Principle Sheppard about electing a new Jr. Council and they hope to have a new Jr. Council by the end of October.
 - viii. Hanlin motioned, Jennings seconded with a unanimous vote to offer \$500.00 reward for the arrest and conviction of anyone vandalizing the park.
 - j. Parks & Recreation Committee: Chair – Sandy Sturgis
 - i. New Years Eve Party – December 31, 2009
 - I. Theme: Mardi Gras
 - II. DJ Jammin' Jeff
 - III. Tickets – Couples \$75.00, Singles \$40.00, if tickets are bought before December 1, 2009, Couples \$65.00, Singles \$35.00
 - IV. Sturgis said the parade for the fair was the best ever! The fair was a huge success. All the vendors asked to come back next year. Hope to keep growing. If you weren't there, you missed a great day.
 - V. Sturgis motioned, Hanlin seconded with unanimous vote to change the fair from the 3rd Saturday in June to the 3rd Saturday in September.

X. Announcements:

- a. The Town Hall will be closed Monday, October 12, 2009 for Columbus Day.
- b. Jennings said the Town now has a Facebook page. Hope all sign up to be a fan. It's really cool.

XI. Citizens Comments & Participation

- a. Dwain asked when work would start on the "Shoppes of Townsend". Sandy replied that as soon as someone expresses interest and commits to a shop they will start.
- b. Stephen Mobley thanked Council for permitting him to serve on Jr. Council and asked if any projects were coming up.
- c. Jennings said a habitat is in the works for the K-center and projects at the park.
- d. Mrs. Mobley thanked the town for offering fax, notary and copy services to the residents. It is a huge convenience.

XII. Adjournment: 9:05 pm, Sturgis motioned, Hanlin seconded with unanimous vote.