

TOWN OF TOWNSEND
December 2, 2009 @ Townsend Fire Hall
Public Hearing @ 6:30 pm
Council Meeting Minutes @ 7:30 pm

6:30 pm – Public Hearing

- I. **Call to Order:** 6:40 pm
 - II. **Roll Call:** Mayor Dave Raughley, Councilman John Hanlin and John Ness, Councilwoman Sandy Sturgis, Attorney Fred Townsend, Engineer Tom Wilkes, Secretary Cathy Beaver and 5 guests. Councilwoman Karen Jennings arrived at 6:55 pm.
 - III. **Third and Final Reading: Ordinance No. 09-04, Sign Regulations:** Councilman John Hanlin
 - a. Hanlin motioned, Sturgis seconded with unanimous vote to read by title only.
 - b. There was no discussion.
 - c. Hanlin motioned, Sturgis seconded with unanimous vote to adopt Ordinance No. 09-04 with this final reading.
 - IV. **Streetscape Presentation**
 - a. Tom Wilkes from RVB and Jim McCloskey from Deldot presented drawings of Phase I of the streetscape. Tom gave a little bit of the history; the Town applied for and received a grant to do the streetscape.
 - b. Sturgis asked about the lights. Tom said they are halide and will light everything so the existing street lights can come down.
 - c. Raughley asked if we could eventually get the electric wires down and use solar panels in the park for lighting and use the excess to run the street lights. He stated there will be grant money available soon for solar. Tom stated that could be a future consideration.
 - d. Hanlin asked Jim if there were plans in the near future to re-pave Main Street as he doesn't want the Town logo messed up. Jim said there are no plans but when it is done they will be responsible for putting everything back the way it is.
 - V. **Adjournment:** 6:57 pm, Sturgis motioned, Jennings seconded with unanimous vote.
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7:30 pm – Council Meeting

- I. **Call to Order:** 7:30 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, Finance Officer Azure Wright, Secretary Cathy Beaver
 - b. Pledge of Allegiance: Pledge was said
 - c. Recognition of Visitors: 14 present
- III. **Additions/Deletions to Published Agenda:**
 - a. Hanlin asked to add Jr. Council under announcements, item e.
 - b. Hanlin motioned, Sturgis seconded with unanimous motion to accept the agenda with the addition.
- IV. **Council Minutes** – November council minutes on back table (approved at workshop)
- V. **Unfinished Business**
 - a. No unfinished business
- VI. **New Business**
 - a. TVII mailboxes – Councilman John Ness
 - i. Townsend Village I now has mailboxes in front of their homes. Handler will be removing the community boxes.
 - ii. In Townsend Village II, one builder agreed to put up mailboxes in front of the houses, the other builder said it is the homeowner's responsibility. Ness is trying to coordinate this process now. There will be an update at a later date.
- VII. **Reports of the Officers**
 - a. State Police – Troop 9: Lt. Robert Wallace was at the meeting. Lt. Logan has transferred to internal affairs. Lt. John Camponello will be taking over his position. Lt. Wallace said it was a quiet month. The report for November 2009 follows: 1 – crash, 1 – alarm, 2 – assist, 2 – check on the welfare, 1 – criminal mischief, 2 – disorderly conduct, 1 – domestic, 2 – suspicious persons/vehicle for a total of 12 calls for service. Dwain Haines asked if anyone called about the graffiti around town. He said it happened on Wednesday night. Lt. Wallace said no one called to report it but one of the patrol officers noticed it. Ness stated we want the

- b. Patrols to continue to drive through the park at least 3 times during their shift. Hanlin added that we want the police to get out of the car and talk to the kids. He said the police are on board with it.
- c. State Representative: Quinn Johnson:
 - i. DSWA are increasing their fees. The governor is looking into the increase to ensure it is justifiable.
 - ii. Sturgis asked where we are with mandatory recycling. Quinn stated it is still being looked into, people can't afford it with today's economy, they hope it will be privatized.
 - iii. There was a big article in the paper about school consolidation, it is still in the air but will be a big issue.
 - iv. State agencies are all working on improving their portion of the budget. Some of the budgets have decreased even more since the previous cuts.
 - v. Jennings asked Quinn how he feels about school consolidation. He said he thinks it needs looked into, think top administration needs looked into. For example, MHS has on principal and 5 vice principals. I do feel we need some fixes, want to improve efficiency and put the money back in the classroom. Delaware is competing with other states for federal grant money for the schools. Right now we are 10th in the world for education; we used to be number 1.
- d. County Representative: Bill Powers: Not here.
- e. Townsend Fire Department:
 - i. Ricky Clark here for Keith. Gave his condolences for Mike Jester, he will be missed.
 - ii. The fire hall will abide and follow by our ordinance on burning bans. If someone has a fire burning in a pit or chimnea, if we're called, we will put it out.
 - iii. We have a major public safety issue going on that we need the Town's help with. We have had to calls for response to Townsend Village II on the Wiggins Mill side in the last month. In both instances, no other fire company could find the location. The dispatchers do not know there are two separated entrances to TVII and that you can't get through from one side to the other. Maps do not show a railroad running through the two sides either with no connecting road. We'd like to suggest the name be changed on one side to alleviate this problem.
 - iv. Raughley said this is a major change; the plans are on file with the state. He will call Ed O'Donnell at the U of D who is our planner and has many state contacts to see what he suggests. Also, possibly Quinn can help.
 - v. Fred said to apply to the planning officer. He warned this could be very expensive to do and could take a long time; however, it is a public safety issue so possibly the state could go against their rules and have a record planner change the name on one side ASAP.
 - vi. Ricky asked that we keep the fire department updated.
 - vii. Breakfast with Santa is 12/20/09 at the fire hall.

VIII. Reports

- a. Fred Townsend III, Attorney: Nothing to report.
- b. Tom Wilkes, Engineer:
 - i. Had the streetscape public hearing. I will be available after the meeting to answer any additional questions.
 - ii. Per the contractor at the park, everything is pretty well wrapped up for this phase. As soon as we receive the as-built from the contractor we will submit them to NCC.

IX. Committee Reports

- a. Finance Committee: Chair - Dave Raughley: The Town has \$2,948,017.76 in total assets and \$2,916,944.54 in total liabilities and equity.
- b. Streets Committee: Chair - John Hanlin, II: Nothing to report.
- c. Water Committee: Chair - John Ness: Nothing to report.
- d. Zoning Committee: Chair - John Hanlin, II, Co-Chair - Sandy Sturgis: The comprehensive plan has been postponed again. It should be ready for the January meeting.
- e. Health & Public Welfare Committee: Chair - Sandy Sturgis:
 - i. Sturgis motioned, Ness seconded to start advertising to hire a new code enforcement officer.

- ii. In the following discussion, Raughley suggested we re-visit this at the next workshop. He feels we may need to change the title of the position, may even need to hire several people to fill Mike's shoes.
 - iii. Sturgis motioned, Hanlin seconded with unanimous vote to table the motion until the workshop.
- f. Energy & Environment Committee – Chair: Karen Jennings:
 - i. Townsend Wildlife Habitat Project: Met with Sara from ARA today. The park is going to be certified as a wildlife habitat. We need only 5 more residents to certify and the Town can be nationally certified. There is grant money available for certification so there will be no cost to you, please call me or email me if you're interested.
- g. Veteran Affairs Committee – Co-Chairs: Karen Jennings and John Hanlin: We will start working on planning the veteran's picnic after the 1st of the year.
 - i. Project 19734 Soldier Support: Townsend has a facebook page and we have two soldiers deployed right now, both are listed on our facebook page. Please read about them and pray for them. There is a donation box at the Town hall if anyone would like to donate to a care box.
- h. Police Committee: Chair – John Ness: Ask residents to be alert, if you see any illegal activity please call the police.
 - i. Townsend Community Watch: Have 2 new members from the TVI area. After the 1st of the year we'll try to get more members to walk the different areas of Town.
- i. Executive Park Task Force: Chair – Dave Raughley: Things at the park are pretty well wrapped up. There are a few things Mike was working on that will be on hold until the spring. Sturgis said someone approached her about the volleyball and horse shoe pits. They may donate their time to get them in.
- j. Parks & Recreation Committee: Chair – Sandy Sturgis: We need volunteers. It will be even better this year than last. Hope to see everyone there.
 - 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

X. Announcements:

- a. Saturday, December 5, 2009, there will be a tree lighting and dedication ceremony in honor of Michael J. Jester, Townsend Code Enforcement Officer at the Town Park at 3:00 pm. We have received several quotes for plaques. Bronze Craft sent a quote for \$1,500.00 for a 24 x 24 plaque and \$1,000.00 for a 12 x 12 plaque. These quotes are with simple, minimum verbiage on them. Tim Wyatt from On-Target Fabrication showed Council and our guests pictures of what they could do and the different sizes and materials that could be used to make the plaque and the approximate prices of the different materials. He also volunteered his time to install the plaque and stand if he gets the bid. Sturgis motioned, Hanlin seconded with a unanimous vote to have the Town cover the cost of the plaque until the contractors donations come in. Sturgis motioned, Ness seconded with a unanimous vote to hire On-Target to make the plaque. It will be 18 x 24 bronze with a lifetime guarantee. The stand it will be mounted on will be 36" high with a lifetime guarantee also.
- b. The December workshop will be held Wednesday, December 16, 2009 at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall.
- c. Town Hall will be closed from noon on Wednesday, December 23, 2009 through Friday, December 25, 2009 for the Christmas Holiday. Business will resume at 8:00 am Monday, December 28, 2009.
- d. Have a safe and Happy Holiday!
- e. Jr. Council:
 - i. The 2009 Jr. Council was elected last week. They are: Third Grade-Sid Garvey and Sadie Lobdell, Fourth Grade – Dajah Wilson and Hannah Harmon, Fifth Grade – Elizabeth and Stephan Habash. Congratulations to all.

XI. Citizens Comments & Participation:

- a.* Tori Baker asked if the Town is any closer to connecting TVII on Rt. 71 side with Old Town via Ginn Street. She was told it is currently at a deadend because of wetlands, the street has to be moved over. Jester was working on this. The builder will not do anything now until they start building again.
- b.* Steven Mobley thanked Council on behalf of his brother and himself for coming to their graduation from the Young Marines. He also stated they would like to volunteer for anything that is needed in the Town.

XII. Adjournment: 8:50 pm, Hanlin motioned, Sturgis seconded with unanimous vote.
