

Meeting Minutes
Town of Morristown
February 16, 2017

Present: Gary Turner, David VanArnam, Shawn Macaulay, Frank Putman

Also Present: Chris Sherwin, Christopher Coffin,

Also: William Hollister, Janet Newtown, Ryan Demick, Carl Bender

The Meeting was opened by Supervisor Putman at 7 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes: a motion was made by Councilman Macaulay and seconded by Councilman VanArnam to approve the minutes of January 10, 2017 as presented.

Vote: Gary Turner-aye, David VanArnam-Aye, Shawn Macaulay-Aye, Frank Putman-Aye

Correspondence: Laberge Group

Public Comment: William Hollister spoke to the Board concerning plowing at the entrances to McEwen Road and Blackstone Bay Road. Stated that Blackstone bay is being plowed correctly but McEwen Road entrance needs better plowing. He asked why the Town is now plowing these entrances. Councilman Macaulay stated that he went to Potsdam DOT and got records showing that the entrances were part of the Towns plowing responsibility. Mr. Hollister stated that the Town could be liable if they don't plow adequately and someone is hurt.

Old Business

1. Board Vacancy: A motion was made by Councilman Macaulay and seconded by Councilman Turner to appoint Christopher Coffin to the vacant council seat for the remainder of 2017, effective immediately.

Vote: Gary Turner-aye, David VanArnam-Aye, Shawn Macaulay-Aye, Frank Putman-Aye

2. Other Vacancies: The Board briefly reviewed the requirements and duties of members of the Planning and Zoning Boards. Ryan Demick and Janet Newtown were both present and had had expressed an interest in serving. The Boar addressed the vacancy on the Planning Board First.

A motion was made by Councilman VanArnam, and seconded by Councilman Shawn Macaulay, to appoint Ryan Demick to the Planning Board for the remainder of the unexpired term of the available vacant position.

Vote: Gary Turner-aye, David VanArnam-Aye, Shawn Macaulay-Aye, Chris Coffin-Aye, Frank Putman-Aye

A motion was made by Councilman Chris Coffin to appoint Janet Newtown to the remainder of the unexpired term of the available vacant position on the Zoning Board of Appeals. The motion was seconded by Councilman VanArnam.

Vote: Gary Turner-aye, David VanArnam-Aye, Shawn Macaulay-Aye, Chris Coffin-Aye, Frank Putman-Abstain

In further business a motion was made to appoint Thomas Bell to the position of Chairman for the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Vote: Gary Turner-aye, David VanArnam-Aye, Shawn Macaulay-Aye, Chris Coffin-Aye, Frank Putman-Aye

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3. Sewer Districts (Supervisors 2017 Priority):

4. Town Hall Project (Supervisors 2017 Priority): Carl Bender made a presentation to the Board concerning his proposal for the design of the building. The proposal covered design, codes compliance, engineering, site plan, safety and other components.

5. Dollar General (Supervisors 2017 Priority): Supervisor Putman stated that he had received correspondence from Dollar General and they have been in Morristown looking at property.

6. Budget Transfer: A motion was made by Councilman Coffin, and seconded by Councilman VanArnam, to authorize the bookkeeper to transfer \$25,000 from the general fund to the capital building fund.

Vote: Gary Turner-aye, David VanArnam-Aye, Shawn Macaulay-Aye, Chris Coffin-Aye, Frank Putman-Aye

7. Other Old Business: Edwardsville Grocery property-the Board discussed the North Country Now article about the property. Councilman Turner asked Chris Sherwin what the process would be to have the building torn down. The Code Officer stated that the Town would need to hire an engineer to examine the building to determine if it was in danger of falling down. If so the Town would need to have the Town attorney take it to Supreme Court. If the court agreed with the engineer, the Town would need to have an asbestos study done, and pay for any remediation. Then the building could be torn down and hauled away at Town expense.

New Business

1. Liquor License Notice: The Board was informed that the Town received 30 day notice of filing of a liquor license application from the Paddle Inn. There was no comment from the Board.

2. Snow Removal Contract: Nothing to report at this time.

3. Other new Business

a.) County Road Conditions: Councilman Turner brought to the Boards attention the deteriorated condition of County Route 6 and the fact that it is damaging to the Town's snow plows. Councilman Macaulay also stated that County Route 5 is also in very poor shape. Supervisor Putman directed the Clerk and the Highway Superintendent to write a letter to the County expressing the Town's concerns.

b.) Property Condition Issue: Councilman Macaulay brought up the issue of properties along County Route 6 towards Hammond with a lot of debris and asked the Code Officer to send a letter of violation to try to clean them up.

Department Reports

1. Highway Department: No report available

2. Code Enforcement: A written report was given to the Board. CEO Sherwin reported that he would be attending Code Conference for required annual training March 5th thru the 9th. He also reported that he would have a draft report on fees for ZBA and Planning services for the March meeting.

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Executive Session: At 7:50 PM a motion was made by Councilman Coffin and seconded by Councilman VanArnam to enter into executive session to discuss matters relating to pending litigation.

Vote: Gary Turner-aye, David VanArnam-Aye, Shawn Macaulay-Aye, Chris Coffin-Aye, Frank Putman-Aye

The Board left executive session at 8:47 PM and Supervisor Putman stated that no action was taken while in session.

Councilman Coffin stated that a letter had been sent to the engineer and North Country Contractors requesting an extension of time for the Town to bring action, or alternatively, an agreement from them to the remediation agreement the Town sent them.

The meeting was adjourned upon motion at 8:47 PM.

Meeting minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by David Murray, Town Clerk