

Council Meeting
March 12, 2018
7:00 p.m.

The council meeting of Mayor and Council was held on the above date and time with Council members Carrow, Smith, Dias and DeBenedictis present with Mayor Letterman presiding. Town Foreman Jeff Hurlock, Recording Secretary Sue Muncey, Captain Carl Hutson, Town Solicitor Gary Junge, Marvin Pedigo, Chris Comer, Rochelle Jones, and Sandra DeLane were also in attendance.

1. **Call to Order** - Mr. Letterman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Pledge to the Flag** – Mr. Letterman led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Approval of Minutes** –

Mr. Carrow made a motion to accept the Council Meeting minutes from 02/12/18 and the Personnel Committee minutes from 03/08/18 in written form. Ms. DeBenedictis seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Approval of Income and Expense Report** –

Mr. Dias made a motion to approve the Income and Expense Report. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Communications** – Ms. DeBenedictis read correspondence that came from Kee’s Kupcakes. There is a ribbon cutting ceremony being held on 03/31/18 at noon.
6. **Report of the Chief of Police** – Mr. Hutson stated the police department took delivery of the two 2018 Tahoe’s. The first one is being fitted on 03/19/18. Mr. Hutson stated he has found a part-time police officer. He is in the process of getting his equipment. Mr. Hutson stated he will bring him in to meet the Council. He currently works for DNREC and will be available to work nights and weekends. Mr. Letterman asked how many officers the department is down. Mr. Hutson stated three (3) full time and one (1) part time. One will be back next week.
7. **Report of the Town Foreman** – Mr. Hurlock stated during last week’s storm a tree fell and took down two (2) poles. There was a 60 minute electric outage to customers. This was the line that feeds the main sewer. The generator ran for 24 hours. This was turned into the insurance. We plowed the streets last week. We cleared the middle of the streets only due to small cars getting stuck.
8. **Report of the Town Solicitor** – Mr. Junge had no report.
9. **Report from Inspections/Enforcement** – Mr. Hurlock stated an email was sent to Council with the complaint log.

10. Reports from Members of Council

- a. Report from Electric Committee** – Ms. DeBenedictis had no report. She said we did well during last week's storm.
- b. Report from Street Committee** – Mr. Smith had no report. Mr. Letterman asked about Gander Drive. Mr. Hurlock stated they are waiting on good weather. Everything is in place.
- c. Report from Water & Sewer Committee** – Mr. Dias had no report.
- d. Report from Equipment Committee** – Mr. Smith had no report.
- e. Report from Personnel Committee** – Mr. Carrow had no report.
- f. Report from Police Committee** – Mr. Dias had no report.
- g. Report from Budget Committee** – Mr. Smith stated a meeting is scheduled for 03/15/18 at 7:00 p.m.
- h. Report from Economic Development Committee** – Mr. Carrow stated we had a business close, The Young Bean. We did have a business open up at the biodiesel plant location. Mr. Letterman asked about the benches and planters. Mr. Carrow stated they took possession of three (3) benches and planters to put next to them. They need to decide where they are going to be placed. The goal is to have them in place before the May yard sale.
- i. Report from DEMEC** – Ms. DeBenedictis stated there will be a Joint Council Meeting on 05/22/18. The social hour will be at 4:00 p.m. The dinner will be at 5:00 p.m. Ms. DeBenedictis stated she and Sue met with Heather from DEMEC on 03/09/18. She is in charge of communications. The meeting was in reference to communications for 2018. For Earth Day instead of giving out a tree, a \$90 gift certificate will be given. This will give the winner a choice in what they can get. The coloring contest was discussed. Changes were discussed for this. For Public Power Week we will continue with the billboards. New pictures will be taken. Heather will send Sue information about the Safety Awards. DEMEC will be hosting Lineman's Training Day. There will be no cost. The Town has the issue that our lineman cannot journey under anyone.
- j. Report from Board of Adjustments** – Mr. Hurlock had no report.
- k. Report from Planning & Zoning Committee** – Mr. Hurlock stated the Ovations project is moving. The engineer is laying out the electrical system. The Grain Mill Station project is starting to move along. This was approved in 2008-2009. It was approved for 34 townhouses. The electric is being laid out for this project also. Mr. Hurlock stated he just had a phone call about the Railroad Station project. This is located at the end of Rodney Street. It has been approved for apartments. They are looking to start this project. The next Planning & Zoning Meeting is scheduled for 03/28/18 at 7:00 p.m.

- l. **Appeals Board** – Mr. Hurlock had no report.

11. Unfinished Business

- a. **Discuss and Vote – Second Reading – Dissolve Town Ordinance Section 4.1-6. Ordinance Concerning the Registration and Licensing of Dogs.** – Ms. DeBenedictis read the second reading of this ordinance. Mr. Letterman stated this is necessary because it is repetitive of what the State does and we have no way of enforcing this.

Ms. DeBenedictis made a motion to approve dissolving the ordinance of registering and licensing of dogs as read. Mr. Dias seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

12. New Business –

- a. **Comcast – Cable Franchise Agreement** – Mr. Chris Comer, the Director of Government Affairs, came to discuss this. He stated Comcast has transformed and evolved since he started there. He came to discuss the contract – the franchise tax agreement. He stated if customers have issues to reach out to him. The purpose of the Franchise Tax Agreement is it allows Comcast to have their cable plant in the right of way in the Town. This is a non-exclusive agreement. Any cable company can come in and sign a franchise tax agreement. Mr. Comer asked if Verizon has come in. Mr. Letterman stated not at this time. Mr. Comer stated the last agreement was signed 09/14/98. This is a 20-year agreement. The new agreement is for 10 years. The Town and Police will have free video service. Currently the Town has a 3% agreement. The government allows the Town go up to 5%. If the Town agrees to 5%, the increase will be passed on to the customers. Mr. Letterman stated if this is being passed on to our customers, we don't want to do that. Mr. Comer gave a rundown of what other municipalities have done. Mr. Letterman asked if a larger municipality takes the increase, say Wilmington, will the pass on go to everyone or just Wilmington? Mr. Comer stated the overall price to increase in fees for the customer. Mr. Smith asked if all municipalities take, our customers will not see the increase? Mr. Comer stated yes. Mr. Letterman asked when the renewal was. Mr. Comer stated April 2020. He stated the effective date is flexible. Mr. Letterman stated we will bring this back up as an agenda item in the future.
- b. **Melissa Sholly – BNI Networking** – Ms. Sholly did not show up.

13. Public Forum –

Sandra DeLane – Brought up cars parked over on the sidewalk. Ms. DeLane stated doe-doe's get away with stuff and now you have a concern about people walking on the sidewalk and having to go around cars. If you park your cars in the streets on street cleaning days, you get a ticket. Ms. DeLane stated driveways are different. If it is blacktopped, isn't it yours? People park up to our driveway and I can't get out. She stated she told them she will hit their car if they kept parking there and tell the insurance company they blocked her driveway.

Rochelle Jones – I have a one-car garage. The vehicle hangs over the driveway.

Mr. Letterman stated this was discussed in a previous Street Committee meeting. Another meeting will be set up. The date and time will be posted.

14. Adjournment

Mr. Dias made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Carrow seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Recording Secretary,

Sue Muncey