

Town Meeting, March 16, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm at the town hall. There were six people present: Mayor Menke, Commissioners Fedders & Brown, Clerk Menke, Meg Menke, Barbara Davidson, and Garland Johnson. All stood for the salute of the Flag.

The minutes and financial report were read and were approved.

Committee Reports:

- A. Safety** – The speed camera bill, which State Senator Garagiola sponsored, was defeated in Committee at the State level. We were told that we would be getting a portable speed camera, by van.
- Mayor Menke stated that he is looking into the sidewalk situation, from Town Hall to the post office and maybe down to the train station. We may have to do a boardwalk type sidewalk on Beallsville Road, side of Tolbert/Lillard.
- B. Beautification** – Ann Thompson and Dalis Davidson requested that the town buy lettuce seeds for them to pass out to each household, with cost around \$200. With discussion, it was decided that Commissioner Brown would speak with the ladies regarding this. The Commissioners felt that the citizens would need to have a garden area and that the lettuce would not be seen from the road. They would table this for next month, after Commissioner Brown speaks with the ladies. Commissioner Brown stated she would check into flowers that would go into the barrels for spring, summer, and fall.
- C. Planning and Zoning** – Meg Menke stated that the information regarding the Prichard/Heitmiller property went to the Consultants and she is planning a meeting with her committee in about 2 to 3 weeks. She spoke of the wind-turbine. Garland Johnson said that the guy from Poolesville Hardware has one. Commissioner Brown said that you could see some on them on the way to Frederick on Rt. 28. There is a company in Dickerson that sells them. The town needs to keep in mind the noise and the appearance, but also the green part.
- D. Town Hall** – Mayor Menke said he would be meeting with Long Fence for the parking lot, sidewalk, and driveway area for the town hall, doing the grid in the driveway (green). He has this out for bid. Meg Menke stated that in the Master Plan from 2005 it states that the hall would only have two parking areas in the front. She said it might be because we wanted to keep the green area but with the Commissioners looking at a green driveway that too would work. She said at that time we did not know where the septic or water holding tank would be located. Mayor Menke said he has checked on doing a rain garden down in the corner. Mayor Menke bought a sample of a plaque, which could be hung on the outside of the hall. The other Commissioners didn't have anything yet. He was trying to think of everything that should or could be put on the sign and that he had checked how other towns had done this. He gave his example for discussion: Built 1925, Renovated 2008, Town Commissioners (names with whom worked hard on this project), Generously donated by Amelia Shoup – 2003. After discussion it was decided not to put the Commissioners name on the plaque. Commissioner Brown thought we should have the town logo on the plaque, but thought we should get prices. Mayor Menke asked Commissioner Fedders if he had found an electronic town seal. He said no but he was still working on it. Cliff Neal had done a town seal but he is now deceased. Commissioner Brown said she would find out if someone in his family has the original for us to use.

Old Business:

Mayor Menke asked Commissioner Fedders if he had any information on our Trash collection. Commissioner Fedders said that he has an appointment to meet with Titus Trash to discuss a contract and the recycling part. Commissioner Brown stated that she too felt they were putting our recyclables in the trash. Commissioners Fedders said he would check into this.

Mayor Menke said after the last town meeting he had checked into the cost of fixing the used copiers, that he was given, and that he had some prices on new copiers. After some discussion it was decided that

the town look into buying a laser copier, which might cost more but is better. Commissioner Fedders stated he was willing for the town to spend up to \$500. Garland Johnson stated that was good but was on the low-end-pole. Commissioner Fedders moved that the town buy a copier that did two sides, black and white, and up to \$500.00, Mayor Menke seconded and all agreed.

Mayor Menke asked the Commissioner their opinion regarding Clerk Menke's request, back in January, for not doing the town meetings anymore. Clerk Menke had sent the Commissioners a request not to do the meetings for she felt she was too mouthy, which was the reason she had stated. Clerk Menke did not hear back from anyone. Clerk Menke had stated that she would hire someone and pay him or her from her salary, just so it wasn't more. Commissioner Fedders said \$50 per meeting. Meg Menke stated that Clerk Menke doesn't make that much and that maybe the Commissioners should decide on how much to pay someone. Commissioner Fedders stated that we would look at the situation when we came upon it. It was decided for Clerk Menke place an add in the "Tidbit", which was coming out in the next day or two.

Mayor Menke asked Commissioner Brown if she was doing "If I were Mayor". Clerk Menke stated she hadn't received anything as of yet. Commissioner Brown said she would do it if there were information.

New Business:

Mayor Menke stated that Ann Sturm had asked Mayor Menke if Jack Shea could be the acting FIG committee member. He stated if Jack were interested, that would be great. Barbara Davidson, Jacks wife, asked what that meant, FIG.

Mayor Menke said that there might be a problem with Sherri and Allan Browns building permit. He said that they have the total look of a home; skylights, porch, picture window, and he was worried, as others were, that they were going to use it as a home. It was setup as a storage building. It was decided to involve the town attorney William Roberts to see which direction the town should go, and have him check into this situation. One of the questions was if they were connecting into the regular well and or septic.

Mayor Menke received an email regarding a Bike Relay. The bike relay is going to be a huge ordeal. It is to be for a week and it may be too much for the Town. Mayor Menke will check into this. Need to know if the County Police Department is aware of the bike run.

Mayor Menke stated that we received a note from the Post Prom Committee. Commissioner Brown stated she would handle this. The budget is set up to do \$300.00.

Mayor Menke said he would like to send a letter to Montgomery County or the State of MD, regarding the potholes in the roads in our area. It was decided that the Mayor would send a letter to get the deteriorating roads fixed.

Clerk Menke stated that we were over the \$100,000 at M&T Bank. She had emailed the Auditor to question the new \$250,000 amount. He stated that we had time but he thought we should move the money. Clerk Menke will get a check ready for Commissioner Brown to sign and put the money into PNC account. Mayor Menke moved this with Commissioner Fedders as the second, and all approved.

Commissioner Brown moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 pm, Commissioner Fedders seconded, and all agreed.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia H. G. Menke
Clerk for the Town of Barnesville