

Town Meeting – November 16, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm at the town hall and there were six people present: Mayor Menke, Commissioners Fedders and Brown, Clerk Menke, Ann Thompson, and Barbara Davidson.

The minutes and financial reports were read and approved.

Committee Reports:

- A. Safety** – No change regarding sidewalks. Mayor Menke spoke with Captain Didone and he is checking into the cost of the town buying two units to hold speed cameras, which we could move to different locations when needed. The town should receive information on how many tickets have been issued when the data is available. The two-speed camera's now in use did not give out tickets the first month; they gave warnings.
- B. Planning & Zoning** – Meg wasn't available. Mayor Menke wanted to discuss the Mega Church. Ann Thompson stated there will be an appeals meeting on December 17 at 7 pm. Mayor Menke stated that Meg Menke was planning on setting up an information meeting regarding solar and wind power but had decided to put that aside since the community was fighting to keep Monocacy Elementary School opened and since there would be lots of meetings for the Planning & Zoning Committee to work on the sub-division of the Prichard property. Barbara Davidson asked why did Mr. Prichard had to pay the town \$12,000. Mayor Menke explained the cost of sub-dividing and how the town did not want to be held responsible for footing the bills with all the studies which had to be done. Money not used would be returned to the applicant.
- C. Board of Appeals** – no report.
- D. Beautification** – Commissioner Fedders will be buying more winter flags. Commissioner Brown will put up the winter swags on the town signs. Mayor Menke stated he would get the Christmas tree up soon.

Old Business:

Mayor Menke stated that Senator Garagiola will attend the MML Montgomery County Chapter Legislative Dinner December 10. Commissioner Fedders will check his calendar and Commissioner Brown stated she could not go. Clerk Menke is to send a check.

Commissioner Brown stated that our regular Santa Claus would not be available this year because of his health and asked Clerk Menke to check into the Santa from the firehouse and to see if she could find some one. Clerk Menke will find a Santa for our December 20 Christmas Caroling.

Commissioner Fedders stated that he and Titus Trash has been playing phone tag. He will contact the Commissioners when he receives the information so that they can decide if they will move forward with a fall leaf/brush town pickup.

Mayor Menke discussed the closing of Monocacy Elementary School. He stated that he sent a letter, on behalf of the town and himself, to the Board of Education, to the State Delegates, and to the County Council. He received a letter from the State Delegates stating that they support keeping Monocacy opened and that they were meeting with the Board of Education on behalf of Monocacy Elementary. Mayor Menke stated that at a meeting with the MML Montgomery County Chapter meeting that the other Mayors and Council members stated that they would send a letter to the appropriate people stating that they felt Monocacy Elementary School should remain opened. He stated at his Citizen Advisory meeting the members there too stated the same. He felt we had lots of support outside our area. Mayor Menke will be contacting Delegate Feldman after the Tuesday meeting to see what corresponded.

Mayor Menke stated that he wanted a committee to move forward on the information on fixing our sidewalks, making new sidewalks, obtaining property for parking, and so forth. Barbara Davidson nominated Ed Thompson to chair this committee and the town will ask others to sign up. Ann Thompson stated that Ed was aware of this request and stated that he would be glad to do it.

Mayor Menke spoke with the electrician regarding the electric to the projection screen and for the refrigerator. The electrician stated he would be putting the electric in soon.

Mayor Menke stated that he had to turn down the request for the chicken coop on the Garrett's property because it did not follow the 40-foot code. He stated that she could appeal this. He feels that the town should revisit the zoning rules regarding animals because the town is a rural community.

New Business:

Mayor Menke proclaimed that this was Municipal Government Works month. Commissioner Fedders moved that the town recognize this with Commissioner Brown seconding and all agreed. Commissioner Brown stated that she worked on the committee to move Municipal Government Works month from April to November.

Mayor Menke stated he did approve the storage building for Jamie Fields. Barbara Davidson asked if she needed a building permit if she put her shed up without footers or a permanent foundation. She was told that she did not need a permit.

Commissioner Fedders moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm, Commissioner Brown seconded and all agreed.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia H. G. Menke