

# *Town of Hillsboro*

## Meeting Minutes

July 14, 2009

Members Present: Janice Goode, Sandy Gladwell, Jim Johnson, Sandy Simmons, Richard Workman, and Anne Walker

Mayor Workman called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.

Minutes from the June 9, 2009 meeting had been previously emailed to council members and were passed out to those who did not receive them previously via email. Janice Goode moved to accept the minutes as written. Sandy Gladwell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer Sandy Simmons had previously emailed council members out the monthly financial report and provided copies to those who did not receive them via email. Jim Johnson moved to accept the financial report as written. Janice Goode seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer Sandy Simmons discussed the 2010 budget adjustments to be returned to the State. She recommended adjusting the unencumbered balances for the general account and coal severance, as the balances projected were less than the ending balances. Mayor Workman recommended continuing the discussion at the end of the agenda.

Mayor Workman asked Sandy Simmons about the outstanding balance owed to the water from the sewer account. The balance was approximately \$5000. Sewer is falling short by \$1000 plus the 10% that is to be added to sewer renewal.

Next on the agenda was the increase in water and sewer rates for the town. Mayor Workman proposed a 30% increase over a 3 year period. Initially, 15% for the first year followed by lower rates. The 15% increase would result in approximately \$5.00 per month per household. Council member Jim Johnson stated he was against any raise in the rates. He recommended a better management of the current monies. Anne Walker inquired about outstanding bills to be paid by customers. Sandy Simmons responded that about \$6,000. Some of the customers are paying via payment agreements and there will be additional cutoff notices sent out. Out of the numerous accounts processed through Magistrates court, one account has been collected and one person has a payment agreement. Citizen Eugene Burford expressed his opinion that the increase should not proceed. Council member Sandy Gladwell was concerned about raising the sewer rates but agreed that it may be necessary. Mayor Workman asked the desire of the council. Jim Johnson again stated he's opposed to any increases. Janice Goode stated she wished to table the discussion until July's meeting. It was agreed to table the discussion.

Mayor Workman moved onto the next item, the Phosphorus Plant. He stated that he will be required to attend a hearing before the WV Environmental Quality Board in September. Prior to this, he will need to meet with the lawyers in Charleston on July 29<sup>th</sup> to review the legal strategy and provide additional information. He will also be attending the county commission meeting on Tuesday, July 21st of next week.

The next item on the agenda was the discussion of town boundaries brought before the county commission by Wallace Cochran. Due to the names of the streets in the Beard addition, the boundaries of the town have been challenged. Mayor Workman recommended to retain a lawyer to protect the interest of the town in the challenge. Jim Johnson agreed the issue needed to be resolved and wanted to include the community. Mayor Workman stated that the county commission has ordered Dolan Irvine to research on the boundaries and report back. If the county commission agrees with Dolan Irvine's findings, then the issue will go to the courts. Mayor Workman felt the town needed to be represented. He stated Eugene Simons has previously volunteered. The reason for the challenge is that part of the town is not shown on a 1910 survey. The boundaries do not match the court awarded boundaries in the charter of 1886. The state and county adopted the 1910 survey as the official boundaries. Sandy Simmons asked where the official boundaries are located. Mayor Workman stated there were located above Pearl Buck Birthplace, below Gene Simmons barn, near the old quarry and near the old church lot of the Methodist Church. The northern boundary is the one in question. Sandy Simmons stated the budget has allowed \$500 per year for legal retainer even though it's not been used. The total available in savings for legal issues is \$2900. Sandy Gladwell moved to retain a lawyer to represent the town in the boundary dispute. Janice Goode seconded the motion. Motion carried. Jim Johnson opposed.

The budget revision was then discussed by the council. Sandy Simmons stated the unencumbered balances of the general account and the coal severance has been shown in the category of city hall, so that the money can be used for a variety of reasons. The general account has an unencumbered balance of \$5282.60, while the coal severance has a balance of \$4105.86. Jim Johnson moved to put the unencumbered balances of general and coal severance accounts into the category of city hall. Janice Goode seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Workman stated that the auto fill on the town's water tank has not been keeping the tank at correct levels. The water operators have been having to maintain the levels manually. Mayor Workman informed the council that he will need to call Tim Sparks to have the equipment looked at and possibly repair.

Sandy Gladwell inquired about renting a sprayer to apply pesticide to the sewer pond. Sandy Simmons stated that Larry may be able to rent the tank and spray the pond this weekend. Mayor Workman stated that Larry would need to attend the 1S class in September in order to ask the State for the waiver to obtain his license.

Next on the agenda, Recorder Anne Walker informed the council that one application has been received for sewer/water operator employment. She passed around the application for the council to review and asked if the council wished to interview the applicant or hire him based on his application. Mayor Workman previously spoke with the applicant when he called in to receive an application. He went on to state the applicant had been certified in Class 2 and may be able to obtain Class 1 without much additional training. Jim Johnson moved to hire the applicant from the application received. Janice Goode seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mayor Workman stated that the applicant will need to go to the September class to obtain his class 1 license. The dates are September 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> in Ripley and September 29<sup>th</sup> – October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The council agreed that the applicant will be able to begin work immediately and send out for the OIT.

Sandy Gladwell moved to adjourn the meeting. Janice Goode seconded the motion.  
Motion carried.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Workman, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_ Anne Walker, Recorder \_\_\_\_\_ Sandy Simmons, Treasurer

Council Members:

\_\_\_\_\_ John Hill

\_\_\_\_\_ Jim Johnson

\_\_\_\_\_ Lois Wilfong

\_\_\_\_\_ Janice Goode

\_\_\_\_\_ Sandy Gladwell