

Town of Hillsboro

Meeting Minutes

Members present: Sandy Gladwell, Jim Johnson, Janice Goode, Lois Wilfong, John Hill, Anne Walker, Richard Workman

Mayor Workman called the meeting to order at 7:34pm.

The minutes from the July 14, 2009 meeting had been emailed to council members prior to the meeting and were passed out to members who had not received them via email. Lois Wilfong moved to accept the minutes as written. Janice Goode seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The first item of business was the repair of the water meter at the town's water tank. Mayor Workman spoke with Tim Sparks about looking at the water meter. Tim determined that the membrane may be coated with calcium deposits causing the meter not to shut off. In order to repair, the membrane must be sent off.

Next on the agenda was an update on the phosphorus plant. Mayor Workman met with lawyers on July 29th in Charleston. The next meeting he will attend will be with DEP to try to come to a compromise. If none can be reached, the next step will be to go to the board. If the board finds in favor of the town, then studies will be completed and the phosphorus plant may still need to be constructed. An alternative to the plant would be to control the algae with a pesticide. Mayor Workman will be taking pictures of the Greenbrier River to send off to Mr. McCoy (expert). Jim Johnson stated he spoke with Mike Ross who encouraged us to apply for stimulus money. Mr. Johnson stated Mike agreed to help us secure stimulus money. Mayor Workman agreed that it can't hurt to attempt to secure funding as long as it can be returned without penalty. He went on to ask if stimulus money can be used to paint the inside of the water tank. Jim Johnson stated that he did not know if it is covered but it should be in the information packet given to the recorder. John Hill agreed to seek stimulus money. Mayor Workman stated that by the end of September we will know if the phosphorus plant is needed. Jim Johnson inquired about what money would be coming from the state. Mayor Workman replied that no notification has been received from Region 4. John Hill stated that it will be after September 1st before notification is received. Jim Johnson stated that Nick Rahall will be holding another meeting in September. Janice Goode moved to begin the process for obtaining stimulus money. Jim Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Workman then moved onto the discussion of the town boundaries. He stated that we would be proceeding with the legal issue over the town boundaries and that he would be meeting with Eugene Simmons regarding the town boundaries. Sandy Gladwell asked about the findings of the county commission. Mayor Workman stated that the county assessor found no records of the boundary change. Lois Wilfong asked what would need to be done to resolve the issues. Mayor Workman responded by saying that if no records can be found then the recommendations of Attorney Eugene Simmons would be sought. The council will then need to act upon those recommendations. John Hill moved to table the discussion until further information is received. Sandy Gladwell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Workman then turned the floor over to Ruth Taylor regarding the signs. She stated the permits for the signs have been processed. The post requirements are 7 feet from the ground to the bottom of the sign plus what is to be placed in the ground. The Little Levels Heritage Fair has \$200 to contribute toward the project. She is hoping to have the Odd Fellows erect the signs. It was determined that 16 foot posts are needed. Ruth Taylor stated she is hoping to have the signs erected by the 3rd or 4th of October. She is also hoping to have stone put around the bottom of the signs with the town to help decided on the type of stone. John Hill stated that the Hall's on the North side of the town have expressed concern about the sign being erected near their property.

Next on the agenda was the approval of the water/sewer operators training expenses in September. Mayor Workman stated that Larry Simmons would need to attend the Class 1 on September 21st-25th and Tate would need to attend the 1S class offered September 29th-October 2nd. Both classes are to be held in Ripley at Cedar Lakes. Jim Johnson moved to pay for the travel expenses and to send operators to class. Janice Goode seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The increase in sewer rates was next on the agenda. Lois Wilfong stated she was not present at the last meeting but would like to see what the Public Service Commission recommends. She stated the town should consider having another rate study completed and that more information is needed to further justify any increases. Mayor Workman stated that the last study conducted by the PSC recommended an 80% increase. The Council increased the rates by 61%, below the PSC recommendation. He will be with the PSC concerning the study. Jim Johnson asked the total dollars outstanding on accounts owed by customers. Sandy Simmons stated approximately \$7800. There were 4 accounts that are big problems. The figure represented the water and sewer accounts together. If all the outstanding money were collected, with sewer owing 3 months to water, the account would break even. Mayor Workman stated there has been no raise since 2006, which was an increase of 61% in sewer rates and 51% increase in water. Citizen Libby Hollandsworth stated that the town could receive stimulus money to improve the functionality of the sewer system, reducing costs and rates would not have to be raised. Recorder Anne Walker explained that the sewer system was in working order and went on to elaborate about the reasoning behind the raise. Jim Johnson stated that he didn't understand how the accounts are behind with such large amounts. Sandy Simmons replied that some people run up the bills and leave town. Jim Johnson asked the number of people with their own wells. Mayor Workman stated he was unsure of the exact number. John Hill asked if the increases would apply to sewer and water together. Mayor Workman stated only the sewer rates would be raised. John Hill moved to ask for a rate study from the Public Service Commission. Janice Goode seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer Sandy Simmons passed out the July financial report. John Hill moved to accept the report as written. Jim Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

John Hill moved to adjourn the meeting. Sandy Gladwell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Date:

Time:

Richard Workman, Mayor

Anne Walker, Recorder

Council Members:

John Hill

Jim Johnson

Lois Wilfong

Janice Goode

Sandy Gladwell