Mayor & Council of Sharpsburg

Meeting Agenda-Approved

Monday, December 5, 2022

6 PM

1. Call meeting to order and pledge-Ed started the pledge
2. Minutes and November expenses approval, Ed motioned and Robbie seconded the meeting minutes for approval, all were in favor. Russ shared November expenses and highlighted some accounts that had large expenses, (building maintenance, outside electrical work, concrete removal for park…).
3. In attendance: Russ Weaver, Robbie Waters, Ed Beeler, Jacob Martz, Joseph Kudla, Tim Lung (via speaker phone), Perry Jamieson, Chris Vincent, Jen Bruni, Mark Zucca, Brent Toms and Carrie Estell

Russ opened the meeting congratulating all election winner; swearing in will be at the January meeting.

**Public Comments**

Mark Zucca-hosting a Level 2 electric vehicle charger in town presentation

 Mr. Zucca provided the council and residents some background on the program, the program would require 2-3 parking spaces for a two-car charger station. This would be free to the town and all repair, maintenance and metering would be at the cost to the company. The program is currently in place in Boonsboro, Keedysville, Smithsburg, Clear Spring and Hagerstown. This pilot program ends in 2023 and would take 3-6 months to complete. Mr. Zucca will send Carrie his presentation and send out to all council members for their opinion.

Brent Toms-Atlantic Security, review the proposal for more security for playground park

Mr. Toms reviewed his meeting with Carrie and Jake, there’s a need for extra camera surveillance due to not being able to view any wrong doing along the side of the park where the shed and port a pot is located. Jake was able to see a county truck dump blacktop and water pipe waste and that was cleaned up quickly. However, the camera’s capacity was not able to focus in on a person’s face who damaged the spot a pot. After consulting with Jake and Carrie, Mr. Toms provided an update on extra cameras. Mr. Toms went through the proposal and explained the added camera area and the need to change a camera from the pavilion to the light poles. Carrie asked CR Electric to take a look at the light poles and provided them with the list Atlantic Security would need for the waterproof boxes on the poles. Robbie motioned for the upgrade and additional security, Jake seconded and all were in favor.

**Zoning-Tim Lung (critical items)**

* Assisting the mayor in compiling information regarding the proposed changes to the Town’s water supply as discussed with the County Water Quality Dept and the County Commissioners.
* Obtained updated information regarding the ability of municipalities to regulate and collect fees for the placement of “small cell” IE. 5 G equipment on public property. Per FCC regulations, absent a local ordinance, carriers may locate such facilities without any local oversight. Should have a report for the Planning Commission and M&C review complete in December.
* Collecting information regarding the use of sea contains as both temporary and permanent storage facilities. Should have a report completed in December.
* Researching options related to establishing guidelines for yard sales. Due to inquiries regarding a permanent/perpetual “yard sale” at a property along E. High St. near the Town pond. The number of days the sale is open could require a state business license. Tim will continue to research.
* Meeting scheduled for Dec 1 with the Board of Education, the County and the complainant regarding an on-going drainage issue from the Sharpsburg Elementary school property. Update on meeting: one of the county’s employees is new, (Matt Barton), to the situation and will conduct a TR55 that will run a storm drain model. Russ suggested that Matt Ryan share the video he has of rainstorms and their effects on the area in question. From a quick observation, it appears that the drainage is not going/diverted to the storm pond.
* Due to a Washington County Government cyber security incident on November 24, on-line access to many of the County’s services have been disrupted and unavailable. This includes access to mapping/GIS data, ordinances, policies, permits processing, etc. Building permit processing is being handled manually

**Mayor’s Report-organizational announcement/discussion**

Russ understands that many on council work full-time and that projects can be done with the help of Carrie as a manager. She has taken on the playground park, while Jake has taken on the Historic Park. Any council member who needs help with any project, feel free to reach out for assistance. Council members will retain high level oversight of projects if they can; Russ, Jake and Carrie will maintain operational management. Projects that fall under responsibility of council members who cannot complete them will be assumed by operations. If necessary, projects may be outsourced or not be completed.

* **Wells-**

County staff rejected our proposal for the County to drill a well on our property and pay us for the water in favor of drilling the well(s) on County property and keeping the savings for County use. They added that the wells being on site provides the County a chance to lever existing treatment capabilities at plant.

Commissioners Cline, Wagner and Burkhart, all of whom I had briefed before the meeting, questioned Mark Bradshaw if he was presenting the Town’s version and if we agree. Of course, the answer was no and Mark reluctantly offered our proposal.

The B of CC has requested I present our proposal to them on 12/13 at a time to be determine. We need to fine tune our proposal and accept the fact that if we are to capture the savings locally, we will have to modernize our well. It would be great to have citizens testify during the open comment period on the 13th in support of our proposal. Carrie suggested as soon as Russ gets the time this Friday, he texts her and she will contact councilmembers and have them reach out to residents.

* **Town Hall**

Outside wiring is complete

Lights inside the town hall frequently go out, CR Electric suggested bulbs that can withstand surges, Carrie ordered these from CN Robinson LTG Supply,

Clock needs to be set and sides synchronized

Furniture in meeting room installed – wiring pending

* **Community Park/Playground Park**

Playground equipment age 2-5 ordered. Delivery in June/July

Trees and landscape plan pending

Pickle ball and basketball court painting to be completed in spring

Fence to be included with LL field fencing along High Street

* **Historic Park**

Last design meeting with Rykiel complete

Construction estimates pending

Bid documentation due

Initiated grant proposal for Project Open Space POS

* **Historic Walls-**Working with MDOT to make sure walls are part of their 2023 plan
* **Big Spring**

Seeking contractor to perform prime contracting tasks with Gruber Lattimer as sub

Difficult finding someone experienced and willing to work with Maryland Department of Environment (MDE)

* **Boyer House**

Need $15k to SHAF as our part of acquisition

* Further action pending engineering review-Jacob set Scheduled meeting for 12/9/22 to meet with engineer, architect and estimator at the Boyer House at no cost to the town. Russ asked the council for 15k to match the Save Historic Antietam Foundation (SHAF) contribution to facilitate the purchase of the house. State Delegate Bill Wivell spoke to Russ and said he put aside 140K in a bond issue for the preservation of the house. Jacob motioned and Joe seconded all were in favor. Chris Vincent asked what the long-range plans for the house were-Russ stated that the house could be used for historical representation of what happened to the town during the battle. The house still holds battle wounds and will help preserve the town’s civilian experience during the battle.
* **Streets & General Maintenance**

List of projects for rest of FY2022 provided by Joe to be worked off before 7/1/2023

Paving estimates on alleys and streets to be sought

Seeking estimates to replace fencing along High Street at LL Field

Alley way paving was discussed and their use; all decided to not pave alley ways as this would encourage more traffic

* **Planning Committee requests**

Tim to please have committee meet in regards to sea container and yard sales; hoping for resolution/outcome by February’s meeting for council to review/vote.

**Council reports (written reports, need for: financial approval, council input or for council to know)**

**Jacob Martz-**

* Coordinated and participated in second park workshop with Mahan Rykiel
* Oversaw electric installation and repair at town hall. Clock in town square still needs to be set.
* Met with security company to discuss installation of additional cameras at park, as well new equipment at town hall to permit recording. Will have to schedule with an electrician to install additional outlets at camera mounting locations.
* Purchased new microphone for improved audio quality during recording of town meetings
* Addressed security issue in park area concerning unlawful dumping of asphalt.
* Inspected area of sidewalk on W Main Street where an individual tripped, and which creates liability for town, for potential remediation.
* Scheduled meeting for 12/9/22 to meet with engineer, architect and estimator at the Boyer House.
* Next meeting of Memorial Day committee is Tuesday, 12/6/22 at 6:00 pm. The committee is getting participants and bands together

**Ed Beeler-**

* Attendance for November 2022: 147, Attendance for November 2021: 201, Total for 2022 so far is: 2245
* Donations: Mort Kunstler Lithograph of Jackson at Antietam
* As of last meeting the SMH board decided to give Sharpsburg Days and Miss Sharpsburg to the town under Special Events committee so the museum will concentrate on museum related events.
* The museum will have a book sale to raise funds; the sale will be in Town Hall until the end of the calendar year.

**Robbie Waters-**

* Finished Story Walk trail and will install benches along the walkway, benches will require a concrete block for installation/deterrent to theft.
* Robbie asked Tim about some complaints he’s received about a neighbor who appears/smells as though they are burning household trash and construction materials. Carrie will share the address with Tim and he will write a letter. All residents are encouraged to call the fire department when someone is burning; this will also produce a paper trail of violations.

**Joe Kudla-**

* Street cleaning will be December 14th Flyers will be posted on Town Hall’s front door, the Post Office, Facebook and the Library.
* Parking meeting with Linda from MDOT will be held over ZOOM on December 15th at 1:00, Carrie has meeting info. This will be an opportunity for MDOT to present some ideas for parking near the Church Street/Main Street area that can be dangerous and some pedestrian options for the square.
* Capstones that were back ordered are almost ready and Lattimer will finish the wall repair job.
* Still waiting on the drawings of Antietam and Church Street to see the surveyor’s ideas for water

**Community Partners**

* **Officer Tracey Peyton** (submitted electronically) All normal checks were done, the official report was unavailable due to the computer issues the county had last week. Officer Peyton also worked with the Fire Marshall on the port a pot bomber and visited the two boys who broke the shed’s window. Both guardians said they would pay for the repair, Carrie will call to remind about the damage costs.
* **Chris Vincent**-Antietam Advisory board, next meeting is Wednesday, December 14th and the visitor center looks great inside; renovation is coming along nicely.

**Old Business/ACTIONS:**

Community Park Funding-the money that was awarded to the town through Project Open Space covers the cost of the playground equipment. Russ is asking for additional funding to help with installation, trees and a possible walkway inside the fenced area. Hotel Motel funds have been under reported for a few years and there’s a balance of almost 65k for use. Robbie motioned, Joe seconded and all were in favor of the additional funding.

Mr. Jamieson asked for an update on the Stone Creek property, they withdrew their request for zoning and will have to start the process over. Green Hill Farm was also mentioned and Tim will reach out to his contact with the county.

**New Business**

Holiday Get together for Council at Mayor’s Home, Tuesday, December 13th 6:30—8:30-Regrets only

Fencing-Russ working on bids and will have something to report at the next council meeting.

Tolson’s Donation-in the past the town has donated 500 and Ed motioned for the donation, Robbie seconded and all were in favor

Sidewalk 321 Main-there is an area that caused a resident to fall, Jake and Robbie will visit the site tomorrow to see the best quick fix for the area. Council voted to repair, Jake motioned, Joe seconded and all were in favor.

Jake brought up issue of tractor trailer parking on back/side streets. Robbie agreed that there is a problem off Antietam that is on a weekly basis. Jake asked Tim if it was in the town’s authority to prohibit tracker trailer parking and if installation of signage would be sufficient. Tim state signage could be installed, council voted unanimously to prohibit tracker trailer parking on back streets. Carrie will reach out to the sheriff for further clarification and possible wording of sign. Robbie motioned, Joe seconded and all were in favor to install signage.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50, next meeting will be held on Monday, January 9, 2023