



Mayor & Council of Sharpsburg  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday, March 6, 2023-6 PM

In attendance: Russ Weaver, Jacob Martz, Robbie Waters, Joe Kudla, Mia Parsons, John Hammond, Ed Beeler, Tim Lung (via Zoom), Jen Bruni, Chris Vincent, Perry Jamieson, Al Mason and Carrie Estell

- I. Call meeting to order and pledge of allegiance-Mia, a moment of silence was observed for the residents of E. Palestine, OH
- II. Minutes from February meeting minutes to approval-expenses were discussed, large portion of funds were paid out to fix the bathroom plumbing issues at town hall; Ed motioned and Joe seconded, all were in favor and approved of February finances.
- III. Financial Report
  - a. Approval of February expenses
  - b. Property Tax current rate is .35-Joe discussed a possible tax increase due to the cost of goods and services and inflation. Russ discussed the town's rainy-day fund, the amount of interest that the town earns per month for the PNC account. Property assessments increase and the amount of property taxes increases. Russ shared budgeting for the next FY to include looking at discretionary and nondiscretionary spending, tax rates and cost operations. Joe motioned for the tax rate to stay at .35, Jacob seconded, and all were in favor.

### **Public guests/comments-**

Mr. Jamieson thanked the mayor and council for providing a bulk trash pick-up.

### **Mayor's Report- Wells**

County council met with Town attorney and discussed draft agreement.

Only issue to surface was who was going to pay for testing of water after well(s) are ready. Was agreed for new well we would share and Town would handle existing well.

### **Town Hall**

Continual sewer problem fixed by replacing 13 feet of cast iron piping.

Town clock still needs to be synchronized.

### **Community Park**

Received money from parents of children who damaged shed

In process of installing electrical power for added cameras.

### **Historic Park**

Presented construction phase to Project Open Space. Well received and county is searching for additional funding.

Detail design in process with Frederick Seibert and Associates.

Wayside Design--Develop a "Wayside Exhibit Proposal" which identifies for each wayside display the topic, theme, location, base style, direction of view, and preliminary list of proposed graphics, images, artwork, or maps.

### **Historic Walls**

MDOT letter summarized here:

To Delegate Wivell and Mr. Crawford-thanking them for their efforts in getting the walls on the MDOT schedule to be repointed this will be done by end of summer/early fall.

### **Big Spring**

Having difficulty find resource for mitigation work. Cleaned area to be fenced. Contract for fencing as required by sales contract

**Boyer House** State delegation asked for bonding issue.

### **Streets & General Maintenance**

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

Beginning to focus on Main Street Streetscape

Looking at asphalt options

**Planning**-Time to kick off comprehensive. Be active integrated into and critiquing the County comprehensive plan. The plan as it was written is a promise to the town's residents of how the town will grow. Tim suggested to take a look at the state and their requirements. Mia had previously asked for some funding to assist the planning commission in rewriting and/or updating. Funding

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

Was out of Town from Feb 8 to the 27th

- Building permit application for a new single-family dwelling to be located on the vacant lot on the east side of South Hall St. between Antietam and High St. was reviewed by the Planning Commission at a meeting. They took no opposition to the design of the house but commented that parking should be on-street with no driveway onto South Hall St. The Permit application has been submitted to the County. A note was placed on the application regarding access and the need for a Town Entrance Permit review if a driveway off the alley is proposed.

- Owners of the property that were issued a notice of violation with cease-and-desist order for operating a short-term rental on W. Main Street operating without receiving Zoning approval responded that they would take down the listing on VRBO. The listing is still up, but bookings are limited to 30 days and over.
- Received the following update from Matt Barton at Washington County Schools regarding the drainage issue created by the Elementary school. *"We asked Triad to review their final site survey and compare it to the runoff calculations in the design drawings by the engineer on the project. They did that, and said the values were accurate from the engineer and reflected as-built conditions. But they also said the change in land use can definitely contribute to more water runoff than the previous land use and isn't factored into the calculation. Triad shared some ideas for that area to help water infiltrate including aerating the ground or planting trees. We are still evaluating what makes the most sense for us. We can't make any guarantees that anything we do will make any major difference during a heavy runoff. I'll update you when we have a more formal plan."* This is a good indication as the land use has changed and the school board is taking the issue seriously; Tim will keep the mayor and council posted with any updates.
- Received an inquiry about establishing a short-term rental at a property on East Main Street. Property is Zoned TR. A special exception application would need to be filed with the Board of Zoning Appeals.
- Received an inquiry about establishing a family child day care business in Town. No address was provided. Will respond to the inquiry this week.
- At the request of the Mayor & Council, the Planning Commission prepared recommendations for Zoning Ordinance amendments to address the use of shipping containers as accessory structures in the Town. In order to provide staff with sufficient time to review the proposed text and prepare a formal Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment document, it has been recommended that a temporary Moratorium be placed into effect immediately for a period of 120 days.

## Council Reports

### Robbie Waters

- Larry and Son's work on bathroom was completed
  - Old well was filled in and dug; finished grating and grass seed when complete
- Met with Roto Rooter for pond clog, created a cement block to prevent further clogging-inlet of pond was clogged
  - Built and created concrete pads for ADA tables for pond
- Planning ground prep for playground installation
- Torn down shed and cleared fencing at Big Spring property
- Fishing Rodeo is scheduled for the last Saturday of April from 7 am to 10 am, all ages from 15 and under.

### Joe Kudla

- Cleaning of culverts and inlets. We are on schedule for street sweep for one week before Memorial Day parade.
- Linda P. from MDOT talked while looking at walls this week and she told me an engineering study will be done to assess the ability of people to look in all directions with the current placement of the signage, (cars should stop before stop sign). They will decide from a legal and safety standpoint where no parking should exist. After the walk to the walls, it was apparent that there is a safety issue, there will be an engineer study and no parking near the Lutheran church property.
- Sharpsburg Wall Update: Determining ownership of the walls in Sharpsburg has been a timely task. The MDOT SHA is responsible for the maintenance of 2 major walls in Sharpsburg and the town has been made aware. An inspection was performed by the MDOT SHA Office of Structures and deemed sound. The walls need repointed only. Tony met most recently last week with the town and MDOT SHA's Office of Structures to determine a course of action. The walls will be repointed. This will require permitting and MD Historical Trust involvement. Work is anticipated late Summer/early Fall. The town would like them to be complete by the 160th Anniversary for the Antietam Battle. Tony is optimistic that work will be done before the celebration. ACTION: Tony will provide an update on the status at the next meeting
- Joe noticed that Antietam Broadband workers not cleaning up tree limbs and debris as they are working to install 5G wiring. Carrie will call tomorrow to speak with the project manager to make sure this is taken care of and they clean up.
- Walls will be regouted, pointed and any loose or missing stones will be replaced. This will be completed late summer early fall.
- Called Verizon as there are many cable lines that are hanging and Verizon said a crew will come out to fix/repair any wires. They are also committed to the repair of the bricks up near the cemetery.
- The dust/pollen issue a few weeks ago made Joe aware that there are no steps in place for an emergency of this type. Russ' grandson mailed off a sample and was told that more of the substance was needed. The company will try to test. A West Virginia's agency claimed it was pollen. Joe will be inviting MEMA, Washington County Emergency Services and our Fire Department to the next meeting to get ideas and procedures in place. Good way to build partnership bridges with these government agencies. Carrie will share the name of the fire chief with Joe. With being close to rail it is important to know what to do if there are situations needing emergency services.
- 120 N Main has some overgrown trees that is making the ROW unsafe; the fire company reached out. Joe asked Robbie to contact the resident and Robbie will trim back the tree after speaking with the owners.

### Jacob Martz-

- Memorial Day parade preparations
  - Received 5k from Washington County Hotel Rental Tax Fund
  - Purchased hardware for Memorial Day banners
  - Ordered and received band chairs, working on platform for the grand marshal and next meeting is tomorrow at 6 pm

- Sent letter to mother of juvenile who did not pay for shed damages, money was received
- Installed three door stops in Town Hall
- Attended a volunteer meeting for town events
- Submitted bond request fact sheet for Boyer House
- Met with DSL to address issues with sound system and video conferencing issues
- This Sunday the fire alarm went off due to the compressor on the dry sprinkler system that tripped and charged the system. A sprinkler company will need to drain the system and fix the compressor. Carrie called Noel's and there is a PVC pipe that needs repair; Robbie will take a look at the pipe after the meeting. John suggested creating a folder or lock box with essential companies, keys, codes and passwords in case of emergencies.

### **Ed Beeler**

- Attendance: 02/2023-142 02/2022 – 46
- Walls were painted and the display cases will soon have new displays.
- Three grants were written
- Donation of a Christmas card from 1913
- Metal Detecting Expo-Saturday March 11<sup>th</sup> from 10-2 at Paul's social room
- Speaking at the Sharpsburg Elementary for the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> History Club along with one of our student interns, reached out to about 32 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> graders who are part of the school's history club
- Museum goal is to have hands on experiences for youth and adults
- In the process of developing programs with the public and home schoolers

### **Mia Parsons**

Next phase of the tree planting would like to work with Sunny Meadows, however they do not plant. Will be walking the locations and put locations in the Town Crier so there are not any issues repeated from the last planting. By next meeting, will have tree bids and submission of plan in the Town Crier. St. Paul's would like a tree replanted to match the one that was taken out.

### **Community Partners**

Officer Peyton-report submitted electronically-Russ asked council to send him any ideas about safety that the new sheriff can address; Russ would like for him to come to a meeting soon.

- Checks- Antietam Station-7, Park-7, ball field-1
- Foot patrol-2 hrs.
- Traffic enforcement 4 hrs. (2 citations 6 warnings & 1 parking)
- Damage to property advisement, loitering complaint, 2 parking complaints and 4 hrs. court time

Chris Vincent-Antietam Advisory board-next meeting is the Wednesday.

### **Old Business/ACTIONS:**

#### **HB 1194-No parking legislation Russ to attend and speak via ZOOM**

Russ and Jake will testify for this legislation via ZOOM this Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup> Delegate Wivell has been very helpful with this issue. Will go into effect in October. There should not be any issues with this piece of legislation.

### **New Business**

#### **MML Dinner-**

This month we are hosting the dinner and it will be at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Please let Carrie know if you will be attending.

#### **Spring bulk trash pick-up date???**

Council discussed to have bulk trash pick-up early May. Carrie to call AVW to schedule a date in May

#### **Sea/shipping container moratorium and ordinance amendment**

Lots of discussion on the definition of temporary and permanent structures and how long a resident can have a temporary one in case of a home remodel or a move. A moratorium was drafted by Tim to be adopted by the town to give mayor and council time to craft wordage on the ordinance. Robbie motioned for the moratorium, Ed seconded and all were in favor of the Shipping Container Temporary Moratorium, effective date is today, March 6, 2023.

#### **Railings for front of Library and Town Hall**

Last meeting John had secured a bid for fixing the new railings. This did not include paint and went over the 2k allotment amount council voted during February's meeting. John, Russ and Robbie spoke about a variety of different fixes and it was left that Robbie and John would work together to find a solution that would not cost a lot of money. Their findings will be discussed at the April mayor and council meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm and the next meeting will be Monday, April 3, 2023

