

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

The regular meeting of the Smithsburg Mayor and Council was held on Tuesday, October 4, 2011, with Mayor Myers and Councilmembers Aurand, Jernigan, Lushbaugh, Martin and Souders present.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember Martin.

Mayor Myers introduced the following members of Boy Scout Troop #108 who were attending tonight's meeting as a requirement for their Communication Merit Badge: Matt Pryor, Heath Hott, Patrick Coleman and Daniel Frantz.

Joseph Jefferson of the Tour of Washington County Stage Race gave a presentation on the annual bike race which is held in Smithsburg, Boonsboro and Williamsport in June of each year. He was requesting that the Council consider making a donation to this race. More discussion will be held on this issue at an upcoming work session.

On a motion by Councilmember Souders, Council unanimously voted to approve the agenda as written.

Councilmember Martin made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 6th meeting of the Mayor and Council. The minutes of the September 27th work session were approved by a majority vote on a motion by Councilmember Aurand. (Councilmembers Aurand, Jernigan, Lushbaugh and Martin voted in favor of the motion, Councilmember Souders abstained from voting.)

The Treasurer's report was approved unanimously by the Council on a motion by Councilmember Souders.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Myers reported on the following: (1) Attended and spoke at the Smithsburg Volunteer Fire Company flag pole dedication on 9-11-2011. This ceremony was a combination of dedicating the flagpole as well as "In Honor and Remembrance of the Heroes and Victims in the fight against Terrorism and to celebrate the Enduring Spirit of all Americans." Many thanks to the Woodmen of the World, Lodge #1, for the flag pole. (2) Met with the Town Engineers, Public Works Dept. and other Town staff to review two areas that were brought to our attention by Councilman Jernigan. Council requested for input from our engineers as to what could be done and the estimated cost. One site was an area where water runoff on Railroad Lane goes across Mr. Jernigan's property. The other site was the widening of East School Lane. Consensus of the Council, at a follow-up work session, was to review these and all other needs within the Town and establish a Capital Improvements Plan for the upcoming years with the priority concerns being addressed first. This action would assist in all future budget decisions. (3) Attended Washington County Council of Governments meeting. The main topic of discussion was county-wide recycling. There was a sharing of recycling issues from all municipalities present. (4) Participated in the annual Steam and Craft Show Parade. (5) Attended Washington County Municipal League meeting hosted by Keedysville. The sole priority for the MML in the coming 2012 session of the Maryland General Assembly is to recommend the restoration of state shared revenues, specifically highway user funds and police aid. (6) Attended the Smithsburg Branch Library's 5th Anniversary celebration.

REPORTS -- DEPARTMENT HEADS

Betsy Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/ Manager reported the following: (1) Printed copies of Trumpet for distribution to area businesses. Last issue of the Trumpet will be the December issue. After that, all information will be available on the town's web site. (2) Attended meeting with town engineers, Mayor Myers, Randy Dick and Jeff Long regarding Railroad Lane Drainage and E. School Lane. (3) Attended Pride Days meeting. Next meeting of the Pride Days Committee will be held on October 13th at 7 PM.

November Meeting will be November 17th. The committee is seeking ideas for the theme for this year's event. (4) Reviewed all water meter readings and mailed out bills. (5) Attended Multi Hazard Mitigation Planning Meeting. (6) Attended Meeting with Mayor Myers and Robin Richardson of Benecon, the company that is working with LGIT in regards to group health insurance. Have compiled information that Ms. Richardson requested in order for her company to give the town a quote. (7) Attended Meeting with Randy Dick and Julie Pipple to discuss WIP budgetary numbers. (8) Continued working with the auditors on the financial report. (9) Attended County Council of Government meeting. Topic of discussion for this meeting was recycling. (10) Assisted with the preparation of the State Aid for Police Protection Report. (11) Welcomed the two new businesses to the Town: Main Street Hair Designs at 14 S. Main Street and Outreach Ministries Christian Book Store located at 9 N. Main Street.

Chief George Knight of the Smithsburg Police Department presented the following report: (1) There were 140 calls for service during the month of September with no arrests. (2) The department patrolled a total of 3,290 miles this month and did 22 hours and 50 minutes of foot patrol. (3) A total of 3,414 patrol checks and 17 premise checks were conducted during the month. (4) Chief Knight attended a meeting in Hanover, MD for the State Aid for Police Protection Grant. (5) Chief Knight attended the Remembrance in the Park ceremony at Hagerstown City Park. (6) Chief Knight attended a meeting at the Washington County Health Department for the Underage Drinking/DWI Enforcement Grant. (7) Chief Knight reported that the owner of 10 N. C&P Lane is working to clean up his property. (8) He reminded everyone that the Christopher Nicholson Memorial Motorcycle Ride will be held this Saturday.

The following report was submitted in writing by Jeff Long, Public Works Director: (1) Completed 3rd quarter water meter readings. (2) Replaced 16 defective meters. (3) Replaced a fire hydrant at Geiser Way and Jason's Ridge that was damaged by a vehicle accident. (4) Assisted with the Steam & Craft show and parade. (5) Completed the last weed spraying for the season. (6) Performed safety inspection and repairs on park play ground equipment. Upcoming Events and Projects: (1) Hydrant flushing. (2) Training in Baltimore at M.D.E. on the 28th. (Jeff Long) (3) M.R.W. class on the 18th at Boonsboro. (Jeff Long & Jason Elliott) (4) M.R.W. class on the 25th at town hall. (5) Pothole repairs. (6) Storm water pipe replacement at the entrance of Stanley Hauver Dr. Average daily water usage for the month was 212,320 gallons.

REPORTS -- COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES

Appeals Board – No cases.

SCAC – Councilmember Souders reported that SCAC met on Monday evening and continued discussion on their plans for the Christmas in the Park event. The tree lighting ceremony will be held on Friday, December 2nd with the parade and other Christmas activities to be held on Saturday, December 3rd.

Parks and Improvement Commission – Per a written report the following was reported by the Park Chairman Carlo Belella: This report includes the activities of the Parks and Improvement Commission reported in the minutes of our September meeting and subsequent updates. (1) Eagle Scout candidate, Connor Brown, is having trouble receiving scout approval for the work on the picnic pavilions and wildflower project. He is working with one of our members to get the issues resolved. The plan of a second candidate, Austin Lane, was approved and will be presented to the Council at the October Work Session. Benjamin Connelly, a third candidate, has decided to do a different project for his Eagle Scout requirements. (2) The seasonal decorations for the square have been received. Other decorations for the planters are in the works. (3) Our POS request for the pavilion upgrade at Veterans Park is being reviewed by the State for funding. The preliminary sketches prepared by our member Mark Cline will be presented for review by the Council at the October work session. (4) After checking with adjacent jurisdictions, the Parks Commission is recommending to the Council that all of the parks rental fees be increased by \$5.00 for all non-residents starting with new reservations made after January 1, 2012. (5) Members of the High School Life Skills project have been helping Public Works with parks clean-up. Today they cleaned up

around the Memorial Gardens. (6) A check for \$141.53 has been received from Pepsi for our Veterans Park vending machine. (7) The next meeting will be on October 10th at 7:00 PM.

Planning Commission –The next meeting of the Planning Commission will be held on October 13th at which time the Commission will review the comments received from the State on the Comprehensive Plan. The Commission will also work on the Zoning Ordinance.

On a motion by Councilmember Souders, Council unanimously voted to accept all reports.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION REPORTS

A written report was submitted by James Ulrich, Deputy Chief of SEMS. The report stated that they had 84 calls for service in September with a year to date total of 893 calls. SEMS is on standby at the home football games. They attended the 9/11 Remembrance Parade in Boonsboro and the 9/11 Remembrance in the Park ceremony at Hagerstown City Park. They also participated in the Steam and Craft Show parade and attended the event commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Clear Spring Volunteer Fire Company. SEMS has received a check for \$5,500 from the Bonanza Extravaganza fund raiser which will be used towards the purchase of a hydraulic stretcher, which prevents costly back injuries to EMS providers that are sustained when lifting and lowering patients.

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS OR MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS/CONCERNS

No comments.

OLD BUSINESS

Randy Dick reported that the state has given the loading numbers for the WIP program. More information will be forthcoming. The next meeting of the WIP committee will be held on October 7th.

Randy Dick reported that the Planning Commission has received comments from the State on the Comprehensive Report and will be reviewing these at their next meeting.

Betsy Martin went over the bids received from the replacement of the A/C unit at Town Hall. Three bids were received for this project that is funded through the Energy Grant. The bids were: Absolute Supply and Services - \$2,500 (This bid was rejected due to insufficient information on their bid submittal.) Total Comfort Heating and Air Conditioning at a cost of \$5,466.00 and Warner Service's bid of \$7,006.00. On a motion by Councilmember Martin, Council unanimously voted to award the replacement of the Air Conditioning Unit to Total Comfort Heating and Air Conditioning. For the replacement of the existing eight incandescent signals in the traffic light at the square, the only bid received was from Antietam Electrical Contractors with a bid amount of \$6,350.00. On a motion by Councilmember Martin, Council unanimously approved the bid from Antietam Electrical Contractors.

Mayor Myers presented information on the Grove Lane Bid Proposal. She stated that she had Huntzberry Brothers submit a new contract for Phase 1 only. The Town Attorney, in a written letter to the Mayor, stated that with respect to the bids for Phase II and the curbing, the bids are viable until the contractor withdraws them. Majority of the Council stated that no other work should be awarded for Grove Lane at this time. This project will be a part of the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan.

Discussion was again held on E. Bishop Lane. Betsy Martin contacted the town attorney as discussed at the September work session and told him to stop all work on the E. Bishop Lane project. Mr. Nairn stated that the County Attorney is also working on this project and that he would not have the county attorney stop their part in this project. Randy Dick reminded Council that as part of the agreement with

Campbell subdivision for Shannon Estates, E. Bishop Lane was to be improved by the owner of Shannon Estates. Chief Knight also spoke of the liability issue of traffic coming out of E. Henrietta Street to S. Main Street. Councilmember Martin made a motion for the Town to cease and to desist all work on E. Bishop Lane. Councilmember Martin, Souders, Lushbaugh and Jernigan voted in favor of the motion, Councilmember Aurand voted in opposition. Motion carried by a majority vote.

NEW BUSINESS

On a motion by Councilmember Souders, Council unanimously voted to change the November work session to November 29th.

The Mayor and Council will be holding a special work session on Tuesday, October 11th to go over the financial report with the town's auditor. On November 8th, the Council will hold a special work session to discuss the tree issue.

On the agenda for the October work session will be: (1) Boy Scout Eagle Projects – Parks and Improvement Commission. (2) Park Fees – Parks and Improvement Commission, (3) Snow Removal Policy – Public Work Director and Police Chief. (4) Maple Grove Estates Trash Collection Issue. (5) Personnel Manual Amendment. (5) Campaign Finance – Election regulation.

COUNCILMEMBER REMARKS

Councilmember Lushbaugh participated in the Steam and Craft Show Parade. He said the event was a great success and there was a good turnout. He stated, with the change from having the Trumpet to now having a website, we need to get the word out to the residents to visit the website at www.townofsmithsburg.org. He commented that it is a beautiful website.

Councilmember Aurand attended the flag pole dedication at the Fire Hall. She thanked the Modern Woodmen for their donation and stated that there was a good turnout for the event. She attended the Historical Society Board of Directors meeting. Councilmember Aurand also attended the MML dinner. She encouraged the other Council members to attend the MML meetings.

Councilmember Souders also reminded everyone to check out the website at www.townofsmithsburg.org and sign up for alerts. He stated that the town is always looking for more volunteers. Councilmember Souders also encouraged everyone to recycle.

Councilmember Jernigan thanked the Scouts for attending tonight's meeting. He thanked Betsy Martin for her work on the Energy Grant. Councilmember Jernigan also encouraged the citizens to get more involved with the town through attending work sessions and meetings.

Councilmember Martin participated in the Steam and Craft Show Parade. He attended the 5 year celebration at the library. He also reminded residents that recycling benefits the town. He stated that if anyone had any questions about recycling to contact him.

On a motion by Councilmember Aurand the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Martin,
Clerk/Treasurer/Manager