MINUTES
January 6, 2020

Attending the meeting was Mayor Spencer R. Schlosnagle, council members Pam Humberson, Sheryl MacLane, Julia Sines, Bob Sines, Edward Kelley and Clerk/Treasurer Karen Benedict. Councilman Jess Whittemore was unable to attend the meeting. In the audience was Deputy Michael Saturday from the Garrett County Sheriff’s Department.

Call to Order: Council President Pam Humberson called the January 6, 2020 general meeting of the Mayor and Town Council to order at 6:08 pm.

Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance: the “Lord’s Prayer was recited by all attending the meeting followed by everyone saying the “Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda: Councilman Sines moved to approve the agenda for tonight’s meeting. Councilwoman Sines seconds the motion. All in favor.

Approval of the minutes: Councilman Sines moved to approve the minutes of December 2, 2019 with a correction. Councilman Kelley seconds the motion. All in favor.

TO THE FLOOR

Deputy Michael Saturday stated it was a quiet month for the town when he gave the calls for service for December.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Lion’s Club Building: Councilman Kelley suggested the town write a lease for 5 years or more. In years one, two and three there would be no user fee, however for years four and five and beyond the town charge a $100 user fee. If the organization spends $100 or more in repairs to the building, the town will refund the user fee upon presentation of the invoices to town council. He stated they need to carry liability insurance and sign a hold harmless agreement. Karen will draft a sample and send to council for their additions or corrections and then it will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Signage in the Recreational Parking Lot: If signs were to be placed in the parking lot as suggested by Sheriff Corley it could be very costly for the town. Charlie Walbridge of American Whitewater agreed to put on the American Whitewater website there is to be no camping or sleeping in the parking lot and he feels this should settle the problem for the town. Also, Lynn Aycock, owner of Stillwater Haven, has agreed to inform her
guests that this is not allowed either. After discussion, Councilman Kelley moved to have another set of signs made by the Garrett County Roads Department like the ones we have and put them up down by the Friendsville Methodist Church entrance and to change the wording from no sleeping to no camping in the parking lot. Councilman Sines seconds the motion. All in favor. Otherwise, we will wait and see how this year goes in regards to the parking lot.

- Update on cameras: Barry Savage is not interested in doing the trenching but was still interested in locating the buried lines. Karen will email Paul Browning from CHIPS and see if he can recommend anyone else.
- MML Letter: Mayor Schlosnagle presented a letter from Scott Hancock, Executive Director of the MML, giving a brief rundown of this past year. They also sent a certificate for our membership for this year.
- Donation in memory of Joe Sessa: Councilwoman Sines moved to donate $50 to the Friendsville VFW in memory of former councilmember Joseph Sessa who passed away recently. Councilman Kelley seconds the motion. All in favor.
- Garrett County Celtic Festival update: The Celtic Festival is scheduled for June 6th this year. After discussion, Councilman Sines moved to keep the fee for using the Community Park for the Celtic Festival at $500. Councilwoman MacLane seconds the motion. All in favor.

COMMITTEES

- Buildings: Peggy Jamison will be working on our Maryland Heritage Area Grant for exterior painting and spouting on the Friend Family Museum building.
- Streets/Walks: The Garrett County Roads Department will try to mill some on Maple Street if the weather holds out, but the drop boxes on Second Avenue will have to wait until Spring because of needing blacktop.
- Christmas: Nothing.
- Economic Development: The chain is now up on the poles along the Kendall Trail entrance.
- Safety: Nothing.
- Park: Nothing.
- Trees: The limbs at Kevin Sessler’s have been cut on Park Street by Kevin Savage.

MAYOR’S REPORT

- Noise Ordinance: Mayor Schlosnagle suggested council review the Noise Ordinance as we may need to amend it. Karen will email a copy to council to review.
- Concession stand door: Town employee Dred Lowdermilk will get proposals to have a new entrance door put on the building.
• Board of Education meeting on December 10, 2019: Mayor Schlosnagle attended the meeting and reported there was support from the Facilities Committee recommending to do some upgrades to our school and that it was not being recommended to be closed. Supporting community schools is the committee’s top priority.
• CDBG Grant Application: The town was awarded $45,000 to put a new roof and ramp on the Community Center Complex. We are waiting on the official letter and Grant Agreement.
• Wages of Mayor and Town Council: Mayor Schlosnagle suggested council consider raising the wages per meeting for the mayor and council members. The current rate of $15 per meeting for council and $30 per meeting for Mayor has been in effect for over 30+ years. Mayor Schlosnagle contacted and gave council the rates of all other 7 municipalities and what they pay. Friendsville is one of the lowest. Mayor Schlosnagle stated this would only go into effect for the new Mayor and the 3 newly elected council members. The remaining council would not receive an increase until next March (2021). Councilwoman MacLane moved to double the wage to $30 per meeting for council and $60 per meeting for Mayor. Councilwoman Sines seconds the motion. All in favor.

**APPROVAL OF THE CLERK’S REPORT/PAYABLES**

Councilman Sines moved to accept the Clerk’s Report for the month of December. Councilwoman MacLane seconds the motion. All in Favor.

Councilwoman Sines moved to approve the payables for the month of December. Councilman Sines seconds the motion. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen S. Benedict
Clerk/Treasurer

Approved by: