

# **TOWN OF BATH COUNCIL MEETING**

Tuesday, August 15, 2017

CALL TO ORDER: @ 5:30PM by Mayor

ROLLCALL:

Scott Merki (X) Susan Webster (X) Chris Chapman (X) Rose Jackson (X)

Elizabeth Skinner(X) Andy Swaim (X) Rick Weber (X)

QUORUM PRESENT: YES

REVIEW OF MINUTES: August 2, 2017: Approved by common consent

PERSONS BEFORE COUNCIL:

Diane LaVelle came before Council to receive the approved minutes of the August 2, 2017, meeting during which the agreement was made concerning the property transfer between the Town and Ms. LaVelle.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR:

Mayor Merki presented the announcement and application for the West Virginia Clean Community Award Competition. The application deadline is September 22, 2017.

The Town received a letter from Girls Scouts Service Unit 15-09 requesting permission to park cars in the lot behind the Berkeley Depot for the Apple Butter Festival as a fund raiser this year. Ms. Heather Weschler (Membership Specialist Assoc. 15 & 70, Martinsburg, WV office) was present and spoke along with her daughter, Mary Jane, who is a Brownie. Since the Bath Development Authority has parked cars there as their major fund raiser the Mayor encouraged the two groups to work on a mutual agreement.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

No report at this time.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### WATER WORKS:

Chairman Chapman will begin holding the regular meetings of the Water Committee on the first Mondays of each month at 4:30PM at Town Hall with the next meeting to be held September 11, 2017. He reported that the Committee had been working on adjustments to customer water billing and filling open positions.

### PUBLIC SAFETY:

Building Permits: None requiring Council acceptance at this

time.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

The Chief reported on criminal activity in the community. He is pleased with the cooperative efforts of the Morgan County Sheriff's Department and the Berkeley Springs Detachment of the WV State Police.

CLERK / RECORDER:

No report at this time.

FINANCE

- Town of Bath Bills: \$12,058.59  
Motion to Approve by: Swaim/Weber - Motion carried.
- Berkeley Springs Water Works Bills: \$19,897.22  
Motion to Approve by: Swaim/Weber - Motion carried.
- Greenway Cemetery: \$589.00  
Motion to Approve by: Swaim/Weber - Motion carried.

Next Finance Meeting: August 16, 2017 @ 9am

Town of Bath Tree Board: \$4,300.00

Motion to Approve by Swaim/Skinner – Motion carried

Chairman Swaim explained that the Tree Board bill is a split of \$1,600.00 to be paid by the Tree Board and \$2,700.00 is to be paid by the private property owner.

The next regular Finance Committee meeting will be August 16, 2017, at 9AM.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Chairman Weber reported that the Warren Street bridge repair will be able to be done in house. The remainder of the Street budget will be assigned to street paving. Council expressed appreciation for the good job done by the Labor Crew in cleaning up after the last storm.

ORDINANCE:

The Chairman and Committee members have agreed to meet on the last Mondays of each month at 5:30 at Town Hall. The first meeting will be Monday, August 28, 2017, at 5:30 in Town Hall.

BATH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY:

Board member Susan Webster reported that the Bath Development Authority had elected new officers as follows: Ken Craft – President; Ron Martin – Vice-President; Karen Richards – Secretary; Cindy Bodin – Treasurer. President Craft is very interested in pursuing the guidelines for

economic development as proposed in the Town of Bath Comprehensive Plan. Council agreed that President Craft should come to the next Council meeting.

GRANT:

No report at this time.

TREE BOARD:

Councilman Swaim reported that the Memorial Tree Program has another participant. The Tree Board is working with the Viet Nam Veterans Memorial Committee on guidelines for the Memorial. The trees slated for removal from the Old English Cemetery will be cut the week after next.

Appreciation was extended to Lance Strait for his quick work with overhanging branches of trees on Congress Street.

CEMETERY:

Chairman Skinner reported that the Committee had met this morning. Work on the driveway on the south side of the new section of Greenway will begin.

PLANNING COMMISSION:

The Commission has scheduled the annual presentation to Council to be the first meeting of Council in September.

STREETSCAPE:

Chairman Lower reported that survey crews were in Town for the beginning of Phase IV Streetscape Project/Berkeley Springs State Park Project. Further discussions are being had on the drainage issue on lower Fairfax.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Town of Bath has board vacancy.

TRAIN DEPOT:

Mayor Merki reported that the Town had received the Phase II Interior Rehabilitation estimates from the Mills Group for the Berkeley Springs Depot. Chairman John McCracken is pleased that the estimates are within the budget for the project. The estimates have been sent to DOH Project Manager Mark Scoular for review.

RAIL/TRAIL:

Further environmental work on the CSX Lot to begin. Co-Chair Larry Lower reported on the upcoming Brownsfield Conference on September 12 – 14 and that there are

scholarships available. Pete Brown, member of the Streetscape Committee, is interested in working on the Rail/Trail Committee.

LANDMARK COMMISSION;

The next meeting of the Historic Landmarks Commission will be Monday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 4PM. The survey of buildings for the BAD Buildings Project has begun. Mayor Merki mentioned the sidewalk brochure that was started last year. He suggested that a separate meeting be arranged for the community and business owners to be given the opportunity to express their opinions.

PERSONS WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL:

Barb Wolfe wants the Town of Bath budget report, financial report, income and expenses and trial balance to be added to the town's website. She wants President Ken Craft of the Bath Development Authority to explain how the Authority wants to spend income gained from vehicle parking on the lot behind the Depot.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Webster, Motion Carried

Attest:

Mayor Scott E. Merki

Recorder Suzanne Webster