



DECEMBER TOWN MEETING

Tuesday, December 19, 2023 at 6:00 PM

RUTH TOWN HALL

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

David called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION

David offered an Invocation

ROLL CALL

Mayor Guy, Commissioners Goode and Steppe, Manager Hanaway-all participating

AGENDA ADOPTION

William made a motion to adopt agenda as presented, Nicked seconded, passes unanimously.

GUEST SPEAKERS

No guest speakers preauthorized/signed up to present or speak.

COMMUNITY FORUM

Present are: Jeff & Megan Seals

Jeff shared the christmas decorations look great but cannot be seen due to the rubbish left by the highway development. He asked if there are plans to address the rubbish. David asked Amie to share an update. Amie communicated the problematic issues with the decoration itself (sockets, lights, floodlight theft); she shared the land where the rubbish is located belongs to the DOT, not the Town, the Town cannot alter DOT property without proper clearances; Amie shared she reached out to DOT they wanted to clear the property themselves. Shortly thereafter they did, however, it has regrown and they should be contacted again. She specifically asked if it was the underbrush he was referring to, he replied it was the pear trees refuse, David shared the moratorium on cutting the trees for foul. Amie asked is it the underbrush, Jeff replied yes. Amie communicated it would be an ongoing dance of working with the DOT for them to maintain their property. Amie thanked Jeff for bringing it to their attention and she will reach out to the DOT again for continued maintenance.

Jeff highlighted another concern regarding a pothole on Acorn Street that others had been throwing concrete into, he inquired if the drainage culvert could be extended with some concrete? William asked for clarification of pothole and extending drainage culvert. Jeff explained it was where water was flowing down to drainage culvert and a pothole had been created, someone throwing concrete in the pothole for aid. Amie highlighted those are two different issues, William agreed. Jeff explained it's where the buses traverse and it's causing complications. Amie will dispatch our road assessor to see what we might do.

Megan has requests for overgrowth encroaching on the roadway around Northview Dorsey and Youngs Drive & Hwy 64. David communicates we will send a letter to the property owners to maintenance their property line. Regarding the Youngs Drive and Hwy 64 exit, it was communicated what an ongoing concern this entrance and exit is; it has been an ongoing battle and safety risk. Megan shares the difficulties entering and exiting especially when the Qwik Stop has deliveries and the large trucks park in the right of way completely obstructing visibility. There are flags of advertisement interfering and the car repair shop always parks its cars along the white line on the State Hwy 64 right of way, also blocking line of sight.

Amie will reach out again to the DOT and the board will have a conversation with Rosie to see if they would be willing to move the flags back and have the delivery trucks park elsewhere. Amie shared of the sight line distance issue the DOT has helped with in the past, she will urge them to assess this area again. Amie underscored the danger and thanked Megan for bringing it to the forefront again.

Megan asked if we have a leash law? Amie shared if the county has a leash law the Town of Ruth has a leash law and she believes that do have a leash law. David shares of the restructuring of animal control and the challenges we have faced. Megan shared there are dogs running free and one has attacked her neighbor. She feels unsafe to walk the neighborhood because of all the animals. Megan identified there are four big white pyrenees. Megan feels there is a lady that lives in the neighborhood that works at a vet and she feels she may be bringing them home. Amie communicated it's a problem we've dealt with for 50+ years and there has never been a good answer.

APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING'S MINUTES

No changes-additions or deletions to the minutes from last meeting, stand as presented and read.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business to review in December.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Financial Reporting

Financial reports have been submitted. Amie reviewed with board. Amie submitted the resolution/ordinance for the ARPA revenue replacement to the board for review and approval. Amie communicated we are utilizing our Fire protection as the project for which we want to replace the revenue. William asked if the money will now come out of the restricted "bucket" and be placed in our general fund. Amie replied that is correct it is replacing the revenue we expended on our fire protection from March 2021-July 2023. David invited a motion to approve the Grant Project Ordinance for The Town of Ruth American Rescue Plan Act of 2021: Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds; William made a motion, Nick seconded, motion passes unanimously.

2. Amie will update board of Christmas light activities and trail occurrences due to Christmas activity. The latter has involved Nick, David, Amie, & James from Camp.

Nick and David reviewed the occurrences encountered in the light tunnel on the trail. This involved several photographers utilizing the trail for special occasions and for photo ops during the holiday. There was also an instance of power being siphoned from our power box. It's obviously a liability and David worked with the individual offering to get him what he might need in the future.

Amie updated the bulb and decoration challenges with the board; specifically with the SHOUT JOY LIVE PEACE sign having many missing sockets and incandescent light bulbs. Those bulbs were swapped out with LED and floodlights were added back to replace the stolen floodlights. Amie shared this is one of the decorations that will be reworked. She communicated we have been swapping out the LED's we purchased with the light trees; changing them to solid colors at the same time. They look really good. She shared the plan for removal and tagging those that need reparation.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Visibility of the need for evacuation procedures has certainly occurred. The board has begun discussions and will continue to develop a plan that meets all potentialities.

Given the recent explosion at Trelleborg, it of course highlighted the need for a direct communication line and a specific plan for evacuation. Nick shared his awareness and knowledge of an "incident commander" and a plan that is to be followed. Nick feels the board should meet with Chief Brandon and Emergency Management sometime to find out what we need to do and how we do things better. David chose to moderate his comments regarding his inquiries of Emergency Mgmt, fire stations, neighboring Towns. David spoke with Frankie Hamrick of Emergency Mgmt his request for him to sit down with the Board. David mentioning there is a messaging system and it wasn't activated. This is an ongoing discussion with many resources being consulted, however it is on the forefront of the board's mind and they are working tirelessly to design a comprehensive plan to accommodate for hazards like this one. Updates will be reported as the plan is crafted and solidified. David referenced our participation with South Mountains Hazard Mitigation Plan, how does that help us, etc. Amie had shared a communication system of a second phone line with details, website, etc. David was contacted by the news outlets and was embarrassed to have no knowledge. He agrees with Nick there probably is a plan, but no one knows the plan and it hasn't been practiced. He feels practice practice practice is key. William inquired as to whether "word of mouth" was the notification method for those in the evacuation zone? Our understanding is the answer was yes, and fireman and police were on foot going door to door to notify

those affected. The board is certain they are learning lessons from this and we will all work together to improve. The issue itself was addressed it was the communication of it that was faulty.

4. Board needs to pick a date early January to review the audit packet with our auditor via zoom.

Board set a date of January the 8th, 2024 4:00 pm via Zoom to meet and review with the auditor. Amie communicated with the board due to dipping into appropriated fund balance due to fire tax increase, the board will have to respond to LGC regarding our awareness and how we plan to avoid this from happening in the future. We will review with the auditor on the 8th.

ADJOURNMENT

Nick made a motion to adjourn, William seconded, passes unanimously.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons who need accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Town Hall at (828) 287-7943 within 48 hours prior to the meeting to request such assistance.