

TOWN OF RISING SUN

BOARD OF TOWN COMMISSIONERS

MAYOR
Judith M. Cox

COMMISSIONERS
Deborah Craig
James Majewski
August Pierson
Stewart Yust

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
Calvin Bonenberger, Jr.

CLERK-TREASURER
Sandra D. Didra

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May 13, 2008

Present: Judy Cox, Skip Yust, Jim Majewski, Debbie Craig, Augie Pierson

Town Administrator: Calvin Bonenberger, Jr.

Guests: See Attached List

The regular scheduled meeting of the Mayor and Commissioners of Rising Sun was held on May 13, 2008 at the Town Hall with all members in attendance. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Cox followed by the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence. Mayor Cox asked that those in attendance reflect on the catastrophes around the world.

The minutes of the April 22, 2008 meeting were presented. A motion for approval was made by Mr. Pierson, seconded by Mrs. Craig and carried. Mr. Bonenberger also presented Records of Closed Meetings for Executive Sessions held on 5/2/08 & 5/5/08. A motion for approval was made by Mr. Pierson, seconded by Mrs. Craig and carried. Mr. Bonenberger noted that the format used for this purpose is what is recommended by the Open Meetings Law of Maryland.

A discussion ensued concerning the fact that a previous Record of Closed Meeting was not voted on at the last meeting. A ratification to this fact will be brought up at the next meeting.

Members of the Rising Sun Boys & Girls Club were in attendance and made a presentation to Chief Michael of \$100 for the K-9 unit.

Resolution 2008-01 was introduced by Mr. Bonenberger. This resolution amends the current fee schedules for the Town. A motion to adopt Resolution 2008-01 was made by Mr. Pierson and seconded by Mrs. Craig. The secretary questioned that there was not a fee for copies of police accident reports. Following a discussion, Mr. Pierson amended his motion to include under Administrative Fees (B) Finger Print Cards/Accident Reports (1) Town Residents - \$5 per card or report; and (2) non-town residents - \$10 per card or report. The amended motion was seconded by Mrs. Craig and carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mayor - Mayor Cox made the following recommendations for the Board of Elections: Patsy Craig, Robin Madron and Tom Mumey. She advised that she had spoken with these persons and they had agreed to serve. A motion to approve the recommendations was made by Mrs. Craig, seconded by Mr. Pierson and carried.

Streets & Sidewalks - Mr. Yust reported on the painting of the parking spaces on Pearl Street and advised that they are trying to set up a meeting with PNC Bank about moving the bank sign to help with visibility at the intersection of E. Main and N. Walnut. Mr. Yust also read a letter concerning the moving of the toll plaza on JFK Highway. A copy of the letter is attached and made a part of these minutes.

Water & Sewer - Mr. Majewski reported that the maintenance department would be conducting hydrant flushing on May 21 & 22. He advised that the application for the grant through the Water Quality Infrastructure Program has been deemed ineligible. Mr. Bonenberger is attempting to get MDE to reconsider the application under different criteria.

The results of the Sewer Modeling Study are complete and will be reported on at a later meeting once they have been reviewed.

Public Safety - Mr. Pierson advised that he would like to correct the information given at the last meeting. The speed camera legislation passed the house, but failed Senate. So, it will not be going into effect this year.

Parks & Recreation - Mrs. Craig reported on the progress of getting the updated list for the Individual and Team names for the State Champion signs at either end of Town. She has two more to get. Mayor Cox will ask at the Alumni Banquet this Saturday.

She advised that the Cecil County Arts Council will be doing their driving tour in June. She has asked Mr. Fowler to come to the next meeting so that the Town can acknowledge his work and give him our share of his expenses.

Town Administrator - Mr. Bonenberger that the deadline for receiving trash bids had been extended until 5/20 and that addendums had been mailed to those who picked up packages so that they could respond. He also advised that he would be getting webpage updates every Wednesday at 3 PM

Planning & Zoning - Mr. Bonenberger advised that the next P & Z meeting would be held on June 2, 2008, since the regular meeting date of May 26, 2008 is a holiday. He reported that the P & Z had made a recommendation to the Board of Appeals not to grant the variance to D & J Builders to the right of way and road width. He also advised that Janes United Methodist Church has submitted plans to construct a 2 story 24,130 square foot addition to the church.

The Mayor and Commissioners will soon begin meeting with potential candidates for the 3 positions whose term expires on 6/30/08.

Board of Appeals - Mr. Bonenberger reported that the Board of Appeals will meet on May 29, 2008 to consider the Variance Request of D & J Builders. The Mayor & Commissioners will also be meeting with potential candidates to fill the 3 position that have expired on the Board of Appeals.

Finance - Mr. Bonenberger addressed the Board concerning the Constant Yield Tax. He advised that according to the State Department of Assessments, the Constant Yield Tax for Rising Sun should be .337 percent. The current real estate tax rate is .36 per \$100 of assessed value. Mr. Bonenberger had presented the Board with a graph of different tax rates to consider. He brought to the Board's attention the road work that needs to be completed and other projects that they are considering in the FY 2009 budget. He advised that rather than a big increase, it would be better to raise taxes in smaller increments over a period of time. He reported that raising the rate to .375 would cost the property owner an additional \$55 per year.

Mr. Pierson addressed those present and advised that raising taxes is like being between a rock and a hard spot trying to decide what to do. The Town can't put off work on Mason Runn as it is at a critical stage. It will be at least 3 years before we see additional development.

Following additional discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Pierson to raise the Town's real estate property tax rate to .375. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Craig, who advised the reasoning being so that we have negotiation room on the 27th. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Yust advised that he would not be attending the meeting on the 27th.

Mr. Bonenberger listed future meetings for the budget process, he corrected the times 5/16 time is 4:30 PM or 5/23 at 8 AM

Historical Preservation Commission - Tom Mume reported in the absence of Diane Ehrhart. He advised that they had a number of students do tours and their meeting is tomorrow night at 7 PM. He invited all interested persons to attend.

Old Business - None

New Business - The Mayor asked the Board's feelings concerning writing a letter of support to the County about the fly ash situation. It was the consensus of the Board to support the County. Mayor Cox also suggested that a letter go to Constellation.

CITIZEN'S INPUT:

Ed Ellison asked what the status of the grant was for the new sewage plant. He was advised that there was no grant at this time.

Ken Jenkins asked the status of removing the parking places on S. Queen Street and E. Main Street. He was advised that it was in the hands of the State. Since both are State highways, the State will have to make the decision. He advised that he would contact Mr. Lindsay's office about the matter.

He also questioned the moving of the light pole at E. Main and N. Walnut. He was advised that the cost just to move the pole would be \$33,000 plus the cost to move whatever other lines are on the pole besides Delmarva's.

He voiced his concern that in his opinion nothing physical has changed since 10/06/07.

Mr. Callahan questioned why a resident on N. Walnut was tearing up the curbing and sidewalk at the house the Town use to own. He was advised that he broke the sidewalk when re-doing his porch for which he has a permit. He knows that he will have to repair the sidewalk and curbing.

With no other business coming before the Board a motion for adjournment was made by Mr. Pierson, seconded by Mr. Yust and carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra D. Didra,
Secretary