

Regular Meeting Minutes
Ellendale Fire Company
LOCATION CHANGE: 302 Main St, Ellendale, DE 19941
July 21, 2020

At 7:00pm, the regular meeting was called to order by Virginia Weller, Vice President. Moment of silence was held, and Pledge recited. Due to COVID-19, the regular town hall meeting was held at the Ellendale Fire Company

Roll Call: Kim Hughes, President – Absent; Virginia Weller, Vice President – Present; Sherita Perry, Treasurer - Present; Tanya D. Mann, Secretary – Present; Tamara Skis – Present; and Town Solicitor Daniel DeMott

Also present were residents Aaron Moore, Roxann Moore, Rowland Moore, *see signⁱⁿ sheet*

Citizen Recognition Program: The 2020 Sidewalk Art Contest Winners were recognized.

Logan – Most Colorful, Group 1
Rowan – Most Positive, Group 1
Maverick – Most Creative, Group 1
Lanie – Most Creative, Group 2 (Absent)
Acelynn – Most Colorful, Group 2 (Absent)
Skylar – Most Positive, Group 2
Caitlynn – Most Creative, Group 3 (Absent)
Roxann – Most Positive, Group 4

Approval of Agenda: Changes: Tabling B, D, G, H, and J under Old Business. Under Old Business, K was marked off as complete. Under New Business, B was tabled. Tamara Skis - motion to accept agenda with the changes and Sherita Perry gave second. All present voted in favor. Motion Carried

Approval of Minutes: Tanya Mann - motion to approve the June Minutes as submitted and Sherita Perry - second. All present voted in favor. Motion Carried

Treasurer's Report: Virginia Weller read the Treasurer's report. Tanya Mann – motion to accept the Treasurer's report for June 2020, Tamara Skis – Second. All present voted in favor. Motion Carried

Police Report: Chief Bruce VonGoerres was not present to read the minutes, so Virginia Weller read them. Discussion was had around whether or not there should be full addresses with the report. The report as submitted was inconsistent regarding street numbers. Tamara Skis – motion to table the Police Report until there is clarification. Tanya Mann – Second. All present voted in favor. Motion Carried

Solicitor's Report: Daniel DeMott advised that he will participate when a relevant topic arose.

Recognition of Visitor's:

Rowland Moore asked to be recognized by the town. Since section H under old business was tabled, he requested that the drainage around his property at 311 Main St be reviewed and made a priority. With the additional work on Rt 16, his property now floods. Roxann Moore advised that the additional work on East Railroad now blocks the water from properly draining. He reminded Town Council that he has taken the Town to court regarding the sidewalk that is beyond the right of way on his property. The court ruled in his favor, and yet the sidewalk is still on his property. Mr. Moore would like to see other property owners duly fined for their parking on the sidewalk.

Aaron Moore was recognized. He pointed out that the Council and Solicitor have said they are not able to give out parking violations in Ingram Village, even though there is no clearance for fire apparatus. However, Rowland Moore, a firefighter himself, has been issued parking violations.

Tamara Skis asked to readdress the issue at 311 Main St. In a previous session, they had discussed getting some allotting funds to clear some drainage. Rowland Moore advised that what was previously voted on by Council would not address his needs, and that this was a separate issue.

Roxann Moore was recognized by the Town. She brought a new idea for the Sunshine Committee to hold a contest of sorts which she titled Birds, Bugs, and Buds. This is a nature scavenger hunt of sorts in which the whole family go outdoors and discover the wildlife of Delaware. She would like this to be a month-long contest with a handsome prize of \$100. Further discussion occurred in Committee Updates. Roxann also discussed doing some kind of archaeological digs and some other outdoor activities that might encourage young kids to pursue a science degree of sorts.

OLD BUSINESS

Ingram Village on-street parking issues update: Council has been working with inspectors to put the new signs up, that was all the information given to Virginia Weller from Kimberly Hughes.

Tamara Skis advised that it appears that some of the residents have received the notice regarding on-street parking, but now cars are being parked on the sidewalks. It's usually the last vehicle that can't fit in the driveway.

Roxann Moore advised Council that Ingram Village was up for Sale. Tamara Skis advised that Council may have to review how that affects the Comprehensive plan

Comprehensive plan review updates: Tabled for month of July 2020.

Committee Update:

Sunshine Committee: Roxann Moore again proposed her new contest idea. Discussion was around running this all August long. The Sunshine Committee was tasked taking the remaining discussion offline and putting the full contest together. Tamara Skis – motion to review the council funds and if possible, fund a \$100 prize for the month-long Birds, Buds, and Bugs contest. Sherita Perry – Second. All present voted in favor. Motion Carried

Festival Committee: Discussion was around distributing the backpacks again and trying to get supplies out to families in need. Regardless of how the schools react to COVID-19, families are still going to need supplies.

Tree Lighting: Still a possibility if using social distancing measures.

Charter Changes Project: Tabled for month of June 2020

Revision 2018 Audit: Completed books were distributed to all council members. Tamara Skis – motion to table the vote until the audit gets a chance to be reviewed. Sherita Perry – second. All present voted in favor. Motion Carried

Proposed Budget/Fee Schedule: Tamara Skis advised that Council previously voted on Fee Schedule and it would not be changed for 2020. Discussion was around how previous councils have addressed the budgets. Clarification was needed to understand that the Fiscal year starts January 1st and ends December 31st. Per the charter, by July 31st the Town Council must have a Town Budget for the ensuing Fiscal Year.

Tamara Skis advised that at the August 2020 meeting, the Town Council needs to review the FY2021 Budget.

Tamara Skis requested justifications on the 2020 budget. The Police Training budget was questioned; why was it \$11,000 in 2019 and why is it believed \$11,000 will get spent again? Tamara Skis pointed out that the Moores did come before Town Council requesting that the work that is owed to them by the Council be addressed. That is additional funds that need to be found for that work. It was discussed that there needs to be a special session just to discuss the budget line

by line to justify where these numbers are coming from. Tamara Skis – motion to table the FY 2020 budget until there is justification of the expenditures. Tanya Mann – second. All present voted in favor. Motion Carried

Ingram Village Zoning issue – Townhouses: Tabled for month of July 2020

Church paving issue on Washington Avenue: Tabled for month of July 2020

Add fire channel on the police radio: Installed and Working well.

Park Reopening: Tabled for month of July 2020

NEW BUSINESS

Grant Submissions: Tamara Skis advised that she has been able to find grants for which the Town of Ellendale would be eligible. Some of the grants that she was able to find included ones for underserved communities, minority populations, small towns, community outreach. She requested permission to submit grants on behalf of the Town. Specifically, she requested the EIN number for .gov grants or other vetted sources. Tanya Mann – motion to allow Tamara Skis to submit grants on behalf of the Town and be given the EIN number for such purposes. Sherita Perry – Second. All present voted in favor. Motion Carried

Tamara Skis requested to extend her ask to reach out to private companies for donations. Daniel DeMott requested time to review the distinction between requesting donations and grant requests.

Correspondence: A property owner brought a complaint to the Town regarding lights on another's property. Daniel DeMott advised that this was a civil issue and the Town should not get involved.

Executive Session: Tamara Skis – motion to go into Executive Session at 8:38. Tanya Mann – Second. All present voted in favor. Motion Carried

Tanya Mann – motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:52. Sherita Perry- Second. All present voted in favor. Motion Carried

Adjournment: Sherita Perry – motion to adjourn. Tanya Mann – Second All present voted in favor. Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 8:54pm

Minutes Submitted by Tamara Skis

Kim Hughes
President/Mayor

8/5/2020
Date

Tamara M Skis
Secretary/Councilmember

Aug 5, 2020
Date