

October 8, 2013

The monthly meeting was held at 7PM at the Town Hall.

Present were:	Supervisor:	Steve Breneman
	Councilmen:	Jeff Smith
		Riley Closson
		Nancy Elwood
	Town Clerk:	April Law
	Highway Supervisor:	Jim Smith
	Planning Board Chair:	Kathryn Elwood
Absent were:	Councilman:	Sharon Eltz
	Dog Warden:	Chip Elwood
	Code Officer:	Mike Andersen

Also present were: Accountant Debbie Fisher, Marie Peri, Historian Beth Hummel, Bobbie Elwood & Elijah Closson.

Steve began the meeting at 7PM with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Beth Hummel said Pat Johnston wanted her to inform the Board that she has picked up all the flags in the Potter Hill Cemetery. Pat would also like to know who to contact to cut back some trees that are pressing into the stone wall from the outside of the cemetery. Jeff and Jim both agreed that was State Land and they would have to contact DEC to have it taken care of. Jeff told her to contact the Department of Environment and Conservation, Steve said or Mitch Smith. Nancy pointed out all the woods on the outside is State Land and Jeff agreed saying DEC would have to be contacted. Steve wished her Good luck and Beth asked if anyone had seen any of the markers that have been put up. Steve said yes he had remarked about them, they are very nice. Nancy said they have about 3 more going up. Beth explained they marked historical places and said one is going on the bridge, one marks the old church and they couldn't remember the third right off hand. Beth said Pat would know she does all the paperwork and filing for the markers. Steve said while we are on the subject of Historical Society

he asked if there was any word on that headstone and Nancy replied not yet. Steve said that it was really bugging him and Nancy said she didn't know. At this point Riley came and the meeting was put on hold for him to review and sign vouchers. Steve asked Jim if he was happy with Vestal and he said yes. Jim said he had not received a bill on it yet but understood that they were about .50 cents cheaper across the board. Steve asked if most of Suit Kote's oil comes out of Canada and Elijah said yes. They bring it in by rail in cold cars and store it all sorts of places. Riley questioned one invoice and Jeff cleared up the confusion. Jim explained that the invoice was for his labor and prevailing wage is what killed us. Jim said while Riley was signing vouchers he had a question he would like to ask. The generator that was purchased he would like to put it on Auction International. The way it is set up now, they changed all the wiring, to get 110 or 220 they have to get new regulators and exciters. Jim asked if it was better to put it back out as a 3 phase instead of trying to say you got to have this and this for it. Riley asked if the guy wouldn't take it back and Steve said he would take it back. Jim added that they thought they might be able to make a buck on it this way. Jim said it doesn't cost the Town anything to list it and then people can bid on it and go from there. Riley said put a reserve on it and Jim said right if it don't bring what we want then we will take it back. Riley said try it, make a buck and then contact Woodford brothers and get the one they need. He said you use to be able to go through Lennox for the same generator but they quit doing it. Jim said Auction International will take pictures and everything.

Prior to the meeting the Board read copies of the minutes

Kathryn said that April had put that they had a meeting but didn't state it was a special meeting and it should because they held it for people looking to subdivide on Union Valley. April said she would fix it. Riley then added that in the minutes it says Jeff nominated Jaymie to type up dog Law's for Chip and it should say Riley nominated her, April said she would take care of it right away.

**MOTION:** "Accept minutes with changes"

Made by Riley Closson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeff Smith

Votes Cast:           Riley Closson  
                              Jeff Smith  
                              Nancy Elwood

**carried**

**MOTION: “Accept Accountant’s Report as written”**Made by Riley Closson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeff Smith

Votes Cast:	Riley Closson	
	Jeff Smith	
	Nancy Elwood	<b>carried</b>

Prior to the meeting the Board discussed, reviewed and signed vouchers

**MOTION: Pay Highway Vouchers for a total of: \$67,012.70**Made by Jeff Smith, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Riley Closson

Votes Cast:	Riley Closson	
	Jeff Smith	
	Nancy Elwood	<b>carried</b>

**MOTION: Pay General Fund Vouchers for a total of: \$7,058.73**Made by Jeff Smith, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Riley Closson

Votes Cast:	Riley Closson	
	Jeff Smith	
	Nancy Elwood	<b>carried</b>

Total Funds disbursed was:	\$74,071.43
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**INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE:**

Steve addressed the Budget and Debbie explained that she had given Highway Superintendent a 3% raise and other employees a 1% raise. She then explained that she has budgeted a ¾ full time guy for Highway with 170 hours of overtime but other than that the Budget was about the same. She said Jeff had addressed the Fire Contract being the same and she explained that she didn’t have any new numbers to go on but if anything it might be 2% and could be covered with a slight tax increase. Debbie asked if anyone had any questions and Nancy said she had an issue with the 3% raise for Highway Superintendent. When we get nominated into a position we take the job at the current salary so she is assuming that whoever wins the Road Supervisor position will not get a raise. Nancy asked why they should be entitled to a raise. Marie asked Jim if he was retiring and was all done and Jim replied yes. Marie pointed out that now we have a vacant seat and when these two nominees decided they were going to run they knew what the current salary was and that is what they should be getting. Nancy agreed saying they should not automatically get a 3% raise and Debbie said it can be

taken back out and Nancy said she understands that because back when Jim talked about quitting before and there was talk about Norm doing it and it was brought up that Norm would not make what Jim did. Marie agreed and said a raise has to be deserved and pointed out that Jim worked a long time to get up to where he was. Debbie asked if there was anything else, right now the Budget was adjusted and reflects 1% for all employees and Highway Supervisor at current rate. Highway employees would be hired at \$14.08 (Full time) and \$12.50 (Part time) as what was talked about the other day. Steve asked Debbie if the incoming Highway Supervisor's salary would be starting up and Debbie replied \$35,850.00 and Riley said he thinks we should leave it at a 3% increase and Nancy said I say we don't. Marie agreed with Nancy saying there was no reason to and Riley said why not. Marie again said they took the nomination knowing what the salary was and Nancy said we just went through this issue a few days ago. Riley said he felt that they should get it up to what the other Towns are paying, or close to it. Jeff added that Taylor does pay the least of anyone and Debbie added that we pay 100% of health care coverage and most Town's do not. Debbie said many Towns require employees to pay 50% or more of their health coverage. In this case this becomes part of their salary and Riley said he knows Cincinnati pays 100% of the Insurance package. Jim asked him who does and Riley said Cincy, don't they? Jim shook his head and said no. Brian has to pay a portion of his health coverage and Riley said he was referring to the Highway Supervisor and Jim said he wasn't sure on that. Steve said well with all that being thrown in the pot maybe this time around we should just keep it where it's at with paying 100% of hospitalization. Steve asked Jeff what he thought and Jeff said something but no one heard him and Steve laughed saying your mumbling. Nancy added what's fair is fair and Jeff said it has taken a long time to get this up to a position that anybody wants. Nancy said that is a heck of a lot more than a lot of people make and Jeff said that may be, but it is also a heck of a lot less than people make. Nancy added that she guesses it depends on who gets the raises and such and Jeff said you are going to get these people from construction and they make more. Riley said he thinks the salary needs to be adjusted and said to Nancy I am sorry you don't agree and Nancy said I don't agree. Jeff added that he was on the same page with Riley and Nancy said that's because they are relatives. Jeff said what and she said they are related or relatives and Jeff said that really had nothing to do with it, to him. Elijah said it was 2 sided what did it matter to him and Debbie said the Budget is still in proposal stage and we have to approve it within the next month. Marie pointed out that the meeting would have to be done over again and advertised to the

public, it was an illegal meeting. You have to have a Public meeting for them to come to so they know what is going on. Nancy said it is supposed to be a public meeting and Jeff asked if it was advertised. April said she was not given enough time and Steve said well it was but we changed the date on it. Debbie said maybe Steve would have numbers for her on the Insurance and he said he had a meeting next week so he should have final numbers for that. Steve said he was going to turn it over to Riley now saying he got good numbers on a truck. Riley said he got final numbers on a truck and said to Steve that's what you wanted me to do, right. Steve asked him about the trade in value on the old one and Jim asked if it was a State bid. Riley said it was a State bid truck that he found and Steve asked if it was with the snow plow. Riley said yes, he had to rely on them because he had no idea when it comes to plows. Jim asked if it was the 9 foot one and Riley replied yes there were four choices and he had no idea which one. Riley said snowplows were not his specialty and Steve laughed asking him what his specialty was. Riley answered turds that or your furnace don't work. Jeff mentioned that they may need more quotes and might have to check the policies. Steve asked even if it is a State bid type of thing and Jeff said he believed so and Steve said well we will get 2 more bids then. Jeff then asked Marie if she knew if there was a Procurement Policy on file and she said yes. Steve told Jeff that he had it on file in his office and Jeff said that everyone should have a folder containing all the Town policies; Procurement, Harassment, etc. Steve asked Debbie if he had made her copies because he thought he did. Jeff again said that everyone should have a copy of them. Riley told Jeff that he didn't know the information and was just getting Budget numbers. Jeff told him that was fine to get the numbers and Riley said he just wanted them in to go in the Budget. Steve quoted the price of \$47,136.70 to Debbie. Jeff said it was good to get the numbers in and Debbie asked Steve what he was talking about with the figures. Debbie asked if it was the same number she saw and Riley said no they added the plow onto it. Debbie said she was going to take it and put it in her Budget folder and Riley said that was fine or he would lose it and already had once. Debbie explained she was trying to find it in the Procurement Policy and Nancy asked if they had to have 2 more bids or what. Jeff told her that if it is over a certain amount of money they are supposed to have 3 bids and Nancy asked him if that was going to be hard to do and Jeff said no they would just have to call a couple of other truck dealers. Jeff said Jim should be able to help with that and they should come up with something comparable. Jeff explained that he wished it could be easier but if we find in the Procurement Policy that they have to have more quotes if a certain value is

exceeded they have to do it. Steve said he thought it was different and depended on what it is for and said Emergency purchases such as the bridge are exempt and Jeff agreed. Steve brought up some of the spending limits one being \$5,000.00 up to \$10,000.00 and said that he thinks they need to up some of the limits. Debbie pointed out that some of the spending limits are State Law and can't really be changed. General Law sets some of the spending limits and Steve said okay but what are the current limits and said who knows when this was written. Steve said that at one point anything over \$3,000.00 had to be bid and now anything up to \$20,000.00 is acceptable for schools and that. He said that they had no idea how outdated this could be and said \$10,000.00 doesn't go very far anymore. Steve said he wanted to check into it further and told Riley to look it up then Debbie told him the address to find information. Steve laughed saying Riley was going to go home and have his wife do it. Debbie stated that she knows the \$20,000.00 for professional services is correct and Steve asked why anyone would hire professional services and she said it would apply more to schools. Steve said if you buy a piece of equipment \$10,000.00 hardly covers the cost of breakdown. Jeff agreed chuckling and said tell me about it. Steve said to Jeff you are looking at the blue book a lot tonight and Jeff when training on how to do the Budget and he said he did not remember a Budget workshop having to be advertised and said he was trying to see if he could find anything in the Law Manual about it. Steve asked Riley if he had the price for the truck and he said Debbie took it to put it in the Budget. Steve said okay we will see how we work out with that. Riley told him that they are going to have to put a bid in on it. Steve asked him if he had the specs and everything on it, diesel and all of that and Riley nodded yes Steve said okay. Riley told Steve he would drop all the paperwork off to him tomorrow morning unless he had something else going on. Steve asked Jim if he would be around Monday or Tuesday morning and he said maybe, maybe not. Jim showed everyone his hand in a brace saying it depended on his hand and Steve asked him when that was and he said this Friday. Debbie found in the Procurement Policy that State bids under contract are exempt and Jeff said are exempt she nodded yes and he said okay. Jeff asked her if it says they don't need 2 more bids and she said it says States bids are exempt so no you do not need more. Steve asked her if she had anything else and she said she was done.

### **HIGHWAY REPORT:**

Jim said they got the oil and stone done, have been busy digging ditches and the sand is in. He said in about a week or so we and Steve made the joke will be

plowing snow and Jim agreed saying he could be but they are going to start get things up and going. Jeff asked if Roy's was going and Jim said the Sterling is going first and Jeff said oh you got it up there now and Jim said they took it up there yesterday. Once that truck is done they will take the other one up and then they can get them all suited up. He said if there wasn't any questions that was all he had and said he knows he spent a hell of a lot of money but he didn't make it rain and take the creek out either. Steve said that we were probably fortunate compared to what Willett must have spent this year as well as other communities.

### **PLANNING BOARD:**

Kathryn said they had a meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September for 2 people in Union Valley that are going to subdivide to get the places the way they want them. She said it was Paul Loomis's daughters and once they get it subdivided and a map of how they are doing it they will let her know and they will have another meeting. Kathryn said that was all she had this month and thanked April for making copies for her, April said you're welcome.

### **CLERK'S REPORT:**

April began by saying this month she sold 31 spayed/neutered dog licenses which the Town receives \$6.00 from each resulting in \$186.00. She also licensed 9 Unspayed/Unneutered dogs, Town receiving \$11.00 of each making a total of \$99.00, total commission for Taylor was \$285.00. 5 Building Permits were issued last month all permits are listed with fees attached totaling \$125.00. She wrote a check to Steve for \$410.00 (\$285.00+\$125.00) and provided a copy of the check on the back of her report. She said her other report was the copy for the State and those fees are \$27.00 for spayed dogs and unspayed dogs were \$31.00 for this month totaling \$58.00 and I have copied the check that is sent to Department of Ag and Markets. Steve said good and asked if there were any questions for April. Jeff said he had one on the licensing and stated that he had more than a lot of people mad at him over the hunting license thing and April said okay. Jeff said he was not at the meeting this was decided at but he had read through some of the minutes and he had stopped up to Chip's to look at some things and he got to looking at it. He said told Chip that what he was told what it was a lot of added cost and he wasn't sure what the other Town's had decided and Chip said they were selling them. Jeff told April that he believes she was mistaken because he called Donna McCall (?) from DEC and was told that any computer that will run

these few things and he showed a list of programs; Windows XP, Windows 7 only one that can't be used is the Apple IOS. He said our current computer, if it is able to run these programs, is able to sell those licenses and we did not need any of that equipment. Nancy and Steve both said but that is not what they said or what they put out originally when this all came about. Jeff said he understands they made changes and Steve said they put it out there they are making changes but we had already made the decision not to do it. Jeff said in June the decision was made and one of them (letters) was looking for what equipment we had and Steve asked April what the date of her letter was and she said she would have to dig it back out. Jeff said it is done and he understands we can't do it this year but he would like to see it available next year. He said we are still an issuing agency because he asked her what we would have to do to renew it and she told him that we had to send in a Resolution if they wanted to opt out. Jeff said the minutes say that April said they would need a Resolution and Steve said he would draft a letter, so they have no Resolution in their office. So as far as they concerned we are still an issuing agent in their eyes and April would have to go to a class. He asked her where those are and she said there are various ones but there was none available right now. He said it is one class consisting of five hours and there are ones around that no one should have to drive more than 50 miles. He said he thinks it is something people feel very strong about and if it is not going to cost the tax payer any money because we can run these programs with our computer and added if we can't our computer is outdated anyhow. Jeff read of the sheet Windows 7 with a 32 bit and Steve started laughing and Jeff said he had no idea what that means. Riley said his computer is old compared to his wife's, but his will run the Vista program listed but all he does is paperwork on it. Steve said you know I don't want to say we acted hastily but we acted on the information we had at the time. Jeff said he understood that and did not come to that meeting so he wasn't here to hear it. Riley said they may have jumped the gun and Steve said we felt we needed to make a decision at that point and we made a decision. Jeff said he had no problem with that but everybody is very upset about it and after digging into it and Riley looking at April said yes we pay mileage so go do it. Nancy interrupted him saying like Riley said you can get it right on your computer at home and Jeff said not everyone has access to the internet. Jeff added personally he doesn't hunt and April said she knows when the question was proposed to me by Marie Peri of using the same computer she called DEC and because we were also running Tax Collection software they said no way, it had to be its own database. April said she presented all the information to the Board and was not



trying to do anything malicious and Jeff said he was not saying that things were done maliciously he was just thinking mistakes were made or misunderstanding. He said from what he found out he didn't think they were going to have to foot anything expensive. Even at a cost of \$500.00 he said there are a lot of people out there that are upset that they can't come to their Town Clerk and get licenses so he thinks she should do the class and get it running for next year and be done with it. Steve said he distinctly remembers reading it and it said you had to get this this and this and Nancy agreed saying she thought the same thing. Marie said I saw it as well and Jeff said you saw it and Marie said yes, Jeff said oh. April said I presented it to the Board. Steve said they changed it and Riley stated they are working on a program, because he gets the outdoor news, instead of finishing it this year they paid millions of dollars for a company to set this up, they renigged basically. He went on to say that after sending those letters out a month later they realized it wasn't going to be done so they paid a company billions of dollars to set this something similar to what he did this year at home. Next year when he does his license it should be similar to how it worked this year but they are going to continue to let Town Clerk's do it. Jeff said he did not mean that anyone did anything wrong and Steve agreed saying no, no, no. Jeff said the wrong could be what we did and Riley said he was still able to get on the computer. April pointed out the State is still making out because all they did was take out the middle man. Instead of giving the Town \$.50 they get to keep all the money from the sale and Riley agreed. Riley did say that supposedly this way will be obsolete in 2 years anyways. Jeff said it turns out as of now that come next year as long as we have the class we can sell licenses. Steve said yes let's see what happens come next year and Jeff said as of right now this is what we have to do they may change it to some other wacky way. He said he asked if it had to be a separate computer and they any regular office computer can do it. From what she told Jeff this is where it stands and as many people that have questioned him on it he can't see not doing it.

Steve requested the Board to **Executive Session**

**MOTION:** Adjourn the meeting was made by Nancy Elwood, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Riley Closson.....**carried**

Respectfully Submitted,

April Law, Town Clerk

