

Town of Montville Public Works/Solid Waste Sub-Committee  
Special Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, August 3, 2011  
5:30 p.m. – Room 102 – Montville Town Hall

1. Call to Order

Chairman McFee called the special meeting of the Public Works/Solid Waste Sub-Committee to order at 5:30 p.m. after establishing a quorum.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Present were Councilors Beetham and McFee. Absent was Councilor Buebendorf. Also present was Public Works Director, Don Bourdeau and Sandie Gregory, Volunteer Coordinator, Re-use/free items.

4. Presentations – none.

5. Alterations to the Agenda – none.

6. Approval of the June 1, 2011 Special Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Councilor Beetham, seconded by Councilor McFee to approve the June 1, 2011 special meeting minutes as submitted. Discussion, none, voice vote, 2-0, all in favor, motion carried.

7. Remarks from the Public Regarding Items on the Agenda

Chairman McFee asked three times if there was anyone from the public who would like to address the Committee.

8. Old Business

a. Update/discussion regarding re-use/free items and tag sales.

Ms. Sandie Gregory stated donations have been down considerably and sales have been below normal, averaging between one hundred and seventy five dollars and three hundred dollars per sale. She stated the decline in donations could be because families are having their own tag sales during the nice weather. Councilor McFee stated many families are selling their metal items to scrap yards to make extra money. A discussion was held regarding when the public is allowed to go through the items left over from the tag sales in the free area at the transfer station.

b. Update/discussion regarding the Adopt a Road program.

Mr. Bourdeau stated he did not have anything new to report.

d. Update regarding road repairs and paving.

Mr. Bourdeau stated the Public Works employees have been working on patch work throughout the town. He explained he is trying to get as much work done with his budgeted five hundred thousand dollars as he possibly can by chip sealing most areas instead of paving them. He explained that chip sealing lasts for ten to twelve years and is a fraction of the cost of paving. He stated work will be done on Fires Street, Leffingwell, Fellows, Noble Hill, and a portion of Moxley Road, Butlertown Road and Massapeag Side Road. He discussed drainage work that needs addressing on Lathrop Road and stated he will contact the Town of Waterford to determine if they will help with any of the costs for repairs. Mr. Bourdeau stated he is doing his best to maintain the streets that need the most work to try to avoid having to bond for a complete overhaul of the roads in the future because the Town can not afford to keep up with the routine maintenance. A discussion was held regarding plows and the best blades to use on chip sealed roads.

e. Update/discussion regarding Transfer Station Operations.

Mr. Bourdeau stated the inmates no longer come to the Transfer Station to help out because the State is requiring that the towns take full responsibility for all actions of the inmates while they are on town property and the Mayor has decided not to take on this responsibility. He stated the policy will need to change before the town can take back the services of the inmates in the future. Councilor McFee discussed the recycling procedure in the town, stating he would like to see Mr. Bourdeau remove the recycling containers from the Transfer Station because residents can place their recyclable material on the curb and the town will pick it up free of charge. He stated the town has to pay for the recycling that is brought to the Transfer Station and it is unnecessary to do so. Councilor Beetham stated people like to do things their way and to tell them they can not do so would only cause problems and most of the recyclable materials would end up on the side of the road when frustrated citizens are not allowed to bring them to the transfer station. A discussion was held regarding making it easier to recycle curbside by letting residents know the service is available. Councilor Beetham stated the residents prefer to have the option of taking their garbage and recycling to the transfer station and because it is open on Saturday and Sunday residents will continue to do so.

f. Update/discussion regarding bridge repairs.

Mr. Bourdeau stated he will set up a meeting with the City of Norwich after he receives the engineer's report and he discussed bonding for the bridge repairs. Councilor McFee stated he is in favor of going to a public hearing to request bonding for the bridge repairs on Montville Road.

g. Discussion regarding a proposed sidewalk ordinance.

Mr. Bourdeau distributed copies of an ordinance the sub-committee drafted for a town wide sidewalk maintenance ordinance. There is currently an ordinance in place for Route 32, but the remaining areas of town do not have a policy for snow removal or sidewalk maintenance. At this time, if someone is hurt on a sidewalk anywhere in the town the town is responsible because there is no policy in place. The sidewalk ordinance will make homeowners responsible for the sidewalks in front of their homes. They will be responsible for snow removal in a timely fashion and to keep the sidewalk free of debris. Councilor Beetham stated this ordinance could pose a problem for seniors and handicapped homeowners. Mr. Bourdeau stated the alternative would be to hire additional personnel and equipment to clear the sidewalks after snowstorms and this could possibly raise taxes. He stated the town will be responsible only for maintaining town owned property under the proposed sidewalk ordinance. He stated the ordinance will put the liability of sidewalks on the homeowners and not the town, giving them incentive to clear their sidewalks after snow and ice storms. The Public Safety Commission has discussed the ordinance and is in favor of implementing one. A public hearing is required prior to passing the ordinance and Councilor McFee suggested Mr. Bourdeau compile numbers regarding the costs of additional personnel and equipment to clear sidewalks throughout the town if the residents decide they do not want to pass the ordinance. Motion made by Councilor McFee, seconded by Councilor Beetham to forward the proposed sidewalk maintenance ordinance to the Town Council and to schedule a public hearing to allow input from the residents. Discussion, none, voice vote, 2-0, all in favor, motion carried.

h. Update/discussion regarding the Pay as You Throw Program.

Chairman McFee stated he would like to leave this item on the agenda for future discussion, stating it would have cost savings to the town and an incentive to recycle.

i. Discussion regarding removal of materials at Camp Oakdale.

Mr. Bourdeau stated he has piles of millings that he will use stored at Camp Oakdale. He has discussed moving the materials to the WPCA property on Pink Row so the Fire Department can use the parking area at Camp Oakdale for a training facility. Currently the Lakowski property is being utilized by the Lakowski's for screening materials and he proposed storing the materials on the adjacent property but was advised by the town attorney to get an agreement in place prior to doing so to avoid any legal issues in the future. He discussed improving the site line at East Lake Drive to avoid future accidents in this area.

9. New Business

a. Discussion regarding tree survey and removal.

Mr. Bourdeau stated the Tree Warden budget has gone over but there are many trees in the town that need to be addressed before they fall and damage property. He stated the town can conduct a tree survey and then remove any trees identified to be hazardous, but if the town does the survey and does not address any issue found, they will be liable for any damages the trees cause. He stated he would rather be pro-active than re-active and conduct the survey. He suggested adding the tree survey to the Capital budget once the trees have been identified as being a danger to the public and to remove them. It was the consensus of the Committee to authorize Mr. Bourdeau to look into the costs of the tree survey and report back with his findings.

b. Discussion regarding the disposal of surplus property.

Mr. Bourdeau stated the town needs to change its policy for disposing of surplus town property. The current policy states an auction must be held after the list is approved by the Town Council. He explained that by the time all the procedures are met it can be six months to a year before the property is sold and by this time the vehicles are not of value and do not run or have been vandalized, bringing in much less than the town could have received if the vehicles were sold as soon as they were taken out of service. He read the policy of the Town of Griswold that gives the authority to dispose of property to the Finance Manager to determine the best route for disposal of the property and stated this would be an appropriate policy for the Town of Montville as well. He will get additional sample ordinances and discuss this proposal with the Town Council at its next meeting to get input as to how to best proceed.

10. Remarks from the Public

Chairman McFee asked three times if there was anyone from the public who would like to come forward to address the Committee.

11. Remarks from the Councilors

Mr. Bourdeau stated the Hazardous Waste Collection date is August 21, 2011.

12. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Beetham, seconded by Councilor McFee to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. Discussion, none, voice vote, 2-0, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Audrey Ulmer, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville.