

Town of Montville Public Works/Solid Waste Sub-Committee
Special Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 1, 2011 – 5:30 p.m.
Room 102 - Town Hall

1. Call to Order

Councilor Beetham called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Present were Councilors Beetham and Buebendorf, absent was Councilor McFee. 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 March 23, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Councilor Buebendorf, seconded by Councilor Beetham to approve the March 23, 2011 regular meeting minutes of the Public Works/Solid Waste Sub-Committee with the following correction;

Remove the title “Vice Chairperson” and change it to read Councilor Buebendorf on page #1, item #1, Call to Order.

7. Remarks from Public Regarding Items on the Agenda – none.

8. Old Business

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

Ms. Sandie Gregory stated she was at the Transfer Station and witnessed people taking items from the donation area on a Wednesday, and when she inquired why they were there she

discovered they were told they could take items from this area by staff only on Wednesdays. She stated these people are taking items away from the organizations that rely on them for sale at the tag sales. Mr. Bourdeau explained the items the people are taking are left over from previous tag sales and would be added to the recycle and trash piles if they are not removed by individuals that are interested in taking them, at a cost to the Town. A discussion was held regarding the best way to dispose of the property returned from the tag sales and the consensus of the Committee to post a sign indicating certain days during certain hours that people can take items from the donation shed. Mr. Bourdeau stated he will have a sign made indicating the rules and regulations for removing items from this area. Councilor Beetham suggested making up a flyer to make the public aware of the rules and regulations.

Ms. Gregory discussed an issue she has been having at the tag sales with “early birds” trying to get into the building prior to the 9:00 a.m. sale time. She stated there is a certain bunch of people who get there at 8:00 a.m. to pick through the sale items and this is not only a hazard but it is not fair to the other people who follow the rules and arrive at 9:00 a.m. when the early birds take all the valuable items prior to the actual time of sale.

Motion made by Councilor Buebendorf, seconded by Councilor Beetham to request the Mayor post a sign on the Fair Oaks building stating only members conducting the sale are allowed in the building prior to 9:00 a.m. Discussion, none, voice vote, 2-0, all in favor, motion carried.

- b. Update/discussion regarding results of the town auction to dispose of surplus property.

Mr. Bourdeau indicated there was a public auction and the property that did not sell was sold to DW Transport for scrap. He stated in the future he would like the Council to adopt an ordinance or a policy that will allow him to sell vehicles as soon as they are taken out of the town fleet, he believes the town would have a better chance of getting a fair price for a newly retired vehicle than one that has been sitting for years and has been vandalized and exposed to the elements. Councilor Beetham stated he will review the Town Charter to determine if Mr. Bourdeau’s proposal is feasible.

- c. Update/discussion regarding Adopt a Road Program

Mr. Bourdeau stated there has been interest from the Boy Scouts in participating in the Adopt a Road Program. He discussed the use of inmates to help with clean up. A discussion was held regarding the best way to get the word out regarding the program and a suggestion was made to request a write up on Patch.com and the use of the town’s website.

d. Update/discussion regarding road repairs and paving

Mr. Bourdeau stated he is waiting on budget approval to determine how much money will be available for road repairs and paving. He discussed the roads that are in the worse shape and hopes there will be money available to fix them. He discussed chip sealing vs. paving and stated he will have to repair more roads than fix, and discussed the problems the plows have on chip sealed roads. He discussed the possibility of using rubber blades for snow plowing to reduce the plow problems with chip sealed roads.

e. Update/discussion regarding Transfer Station Operations

Mr. Bourdeau discussed a proposal to submit for a STEAP grant for upgrades to the Transfer Station. He stated he will not need an engineered plan to submit for this grant. A discussion was held regarding the use of the top area of the old dump for leaf composting. He stated he could use the composted materials as a top dressing on the athletic fields as well as at various areas in town that require organic fertilizer at no cost to the town. He discussed the proposal of the schools to switch over to organic materials in place of expensive fertilizers and pesticides and stated this would be a great asset for use in town areas and the unused area of the landfill could be put to good use.

f. Update/discussion regarding bridge repairs

Mr. Bourdeau stated talks are ongoing with the Montville Road Bridge and the town has applied for a STEAP grant for help with costs to repair the bridge. A discussion was held regarding the high cost of engineering on this project. A discussion was held regarding the pros and cons of hiring a full time engineer for the town and the equipment necessary to do the job.

g. Update/discussion regarding proposed metal collection ordinance

A discussion was held regarding the number of metal collection companies that are willing to come out to a residence to pick up unwanted materials. At the last meeting a suggestion was made to post a list of these vendors on the town's website, and Mr. Bourdeau questioned the liability to the town for doing so. A suggestion was made to request Patch.com run a story regarding the services that are available to homeowners who want to remove metals from their property and the options they have to do so.

Motion made by Councilor Buebendorf, seconded by Councilor Beetham to remove this item from the agenda, discussion, none, voice vote, 2-0, all in favor, motion carried.

h. Discussion regarding a sidewalk ordinance.

Councilor Buebendorf stated it is a good time to start discussions regarding this issue because there is a need for an ordinance or a policy for snow removal prior to the winter months to avoid liability and safety issues. Councilor Buebendorf suggested Councilor Beetham review the materials she copied regarding sample policies and laws from other towns and to discuss this at the next meeting. Mr. Bourdeau will work on a draft policy for the Councilors to review at the next meeting. Councilor Buebendorf stated she will forward any information she has to his office to incorporate into the policy and she is willing to work on the draft policy with him.

9. New Business

a. Discussion regarding and increase in the tipping fees.

Councilor Beetham stated it is not a good time to consider an increase in fees with the economy as bad as it is and unemployment numbers so high.

b. Update/discussion regarding the “Pay as you Throw” program.

Councilor McFee was not available to give the Committee and update regarding his “bag” experiment. Councilor Buebendorf stated she is in favor of the “Pay as You Throw” program because it is the fairest system for everyone and it encourages recycling.

c. Discussion regarding removal of materials at Camp Oakdale.

Mr. Bourdeau stated he would be willing to remove the materials from the Camp Oakdale site if he had a place to put the materials. He discussed the possibility of utilizing the land recently acquired by the Water Pollution Control Authority in a land swap for storage of materials but this would not be until a fence was installed and the area was paved. He stated it would be a waste to dispose of the materials because he can use them for projects without having to pay for the materials.

10. Remarks from the Public

Ms. Sandie Gregory stated her husband had a suggestion regarding the Human Resource position in the town, stating the position could be shared with the Board of Education with a shared cost.

11. Remarks from the Councilors – none.

12. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilor Buebendorf, seconded by Councilor Beetham 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