

Town of Montville Public Works/Solid Waste Sub-Committee  
Regular Meeting Minutes of the Wednesday, February 27, 2013 Meeting  
5:30 p.m. – Room 102 – Montville Town Hall  
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1. Called to Order at 5:30 pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call: Present were Councilors McFee, Caron, Longton and Public Works Director Don Bourdeau. Guests: Dick Wilson, Steve & Barbara McShane and Ralf Fargo (Sterling Superior).
4. Presentations: None
5. Alterations to the Agenda: None
6. Approval of the January 23, 2013 meeting minutes: Motion to approve by Councilor Caron and seconded by Councilor Longton. Vote was 2 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 Abstention. Councilor McFee was not present for the January meeting. Motion carried.
7. Remarks from the Public Regarding Items on the Agenda: None. Mr. Wilson indicated that he had things to say and asked permission to say them during the meeting at the appropriate time. This courtesy was extended to him.
8. Old Business
  - a. Discussion regarding re-use/free items and tag sales (Sandy Gregory). Ms. Gregory was not present so Mr. Bourdeau was asked to provide his assessment. He said that donations had not improved and that given both the weather and the economy that he was not surprised.
  - b. Discussion regarding road repairs and snow removal efforts (Don Bourdeau). Mr. Bourdeau indicated that Kittymaug and Raymond Hill roads are targeted for early spring repaving. The work on Raymond Hill will be at no charge to the town as it is a re-do of work done last fall that was sub-standard. The snow removal budget is considered healthy and the town is prepared for any additional storms. Spring street sweeping will begin in the spring.
  - c. Discussion regarding Transfer Station Operations/STEAP Grant to redesign (Don Bourdeau). Nothing new to report. He reiterated January's report that it will be sometime in June before the state tells us whether or not the grant is authorized.
  - d. Discussion regarding Montville Road bridge repairs (Don Bourdeau). This project is still in the planning stages. Norwich is onboard. CLA Engineering is still talking with Norwich. Don Bourdeau indicated it would be sometime in 2014 before the project is completed. Councilor McFee stated he believed it could be accomplished before the end of 2013. Mr. Bourdeau replied that it was certainly possible but in his opinion 2014 was a more likely timeframe.

e. Discussion regarding RFP for town wide trash pickup. Discussion centered on progress regarding whether or not to send an ordinance to the Town Council or to have the Town Council schedule a referendum for the town's residents to vote the switch up or down. Councilor Longton indicated that he had been hearing from many residents who were both in favor of the switch and who were opposed to it. Most of those had also expressed a preference for the issue to be decided at referendum by the town's residents. Mr. Wilson exercised his privilege to speak, granted earlier in the meeting, and explained that state law does not allow a Town Council to send an issue to referendum except in the narrowest of circumstances. He indicated that the councilors should just do their job and bring an ordinance to the Town Council for a vote. He further indicated that while the statutes provided for only 1 official public hearing of the ordinance prior to Town Council vote, that there were no restrictions on the number of informational hearings that could be made available to the residents by any of the Councilors individually. Councilor Longton asked Mr. Bourdeau how he arrived at the figure of 5,300 households that was provided to the press at the February council meeting. Mr. Bourdeau indicated that there were approximately 7,300 households in the Town of Montville, that approximately 2,000 of those purchased Transfer Station passes and that the 5,300 figure was simply the remainder. Councilor Caron asked guest Mr. Fargo of Sterling Superior how many accounts they had in Montville. Mr. Fargo indicated that they had approximately 2,000 accounts more or less. Councilor Caron indicated that the Transfer Station Passes and Sterling accounts accounted for approximately 4,000 households and asked how the remaining households were disposing of their trash. Mr. Fargo indicated that Lowes accounted for approximately another 800, leaving approximately 2,500 households in town disposing of their trash in unknown ways. Mr. Bourdeau indicated that some were using dumpsters and indicated his belief that an unknown but sizable number of residents with a Transfer Station pass were transporting more household refuse than just their own; likely that of friends, neighbors and relatives. Councilor Longton indicated that was not right, that households disposing of their trash at the Transfer Station, regardless of how it is transported, should be purchasing a pass to fund the service they are using, apparently for free. The discussion then returned to the subject of actually creating an ordinance that could be acted upon by either the Council or at Referendum. Councilor Longton indicated that he was in possession of an example of a similar ordinance from the Town of Ledyard.

Motion: by Councilor Longton to draft an initial ordinance for Montville Curbside Pickup and bring it to the March meeting of the Committee, seconded by Councilor Caron. During discussion Councilor McFee moved that the motion be amended to include that the draft being presented at the March meeting would be worked by the committee with a view to being able to place it before the Town Council at its April meeting for action. The motion was seconded by Councilor Caron. The vote was 3-0: the motion to amend was approved. Councilor Longton read the amended motion, which was to bring a draft ordinance for Montville Curbside Pickup to the March committee meeting and that the committee would work the draft with a view to being able to present it to the Town Council at the April Town Council meeting for action. A vote was taken on the amended motion; 3 in favor, 0 opposed 0 abstentions. Motion carried. A final comment from Mr. Wilson was that he would be happy to assist in writing the draft because he had experience in drafting such documents.

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9. New Business: None

10. Remarks from the Public: Steve and Barbara McShane wanted to know if there was a possibility that there would be an exit off Montville Road directly into the Wal-Mart/Big-Y parking lot. Councilor McFee addressed the question and indicated that it was one of the options being studied because it would go a long way to alleviating Norwich's traffic concerns with traffic exiting left (west) onto Rt 82 to reach the shopping complex entrance. Norwich believes it is a safety issue. The McShanes seemed satisfied with the answer and indicated that tonight's committee meeting was one of the best they had attended.

11. Remarks from the Councilors: None

12. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Councilor Caron, seconded by Councilor McFee. Vote was 3-0 in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 pm.