MECHANIC FALLS TOWN COUNCIL

May 4, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Nancy Richard, Chair

Stephen Bolduc

Cathy Fifield

Lou Annance

Wayne Hackett

**STAFF PRESENT:**

John Hawley – Town Manager

Shirley Marquis – Town Clerk

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Nick Konstantoulakis

Jeff Sturtevant

Win Durgin

Nancy Richard called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with all Council present. We stood and saluted the flag.

**Reports:**

**1.01 Council Meeting Minutes** April 6, 2015 **1.02 Municipal Financial Reports 1.03 Departmental Reports Submitted** Cathy Fifield made a motion to approve the reports as submitted. Seconded by Lou Annance. All in favor. So voted.

**Public Comments:**

John explained that Jeff Sturtevant has asked to address the Council. Jeff is on the Recreation Committee. Jeff explained that the Rec is looking to build a multi-use field in the area that is currently the Babe Ruth field. They have talked with Poland and Minot. There is a need for a football, soccer & field hockey field, with Astro turf and fenced in. Poland has trouble finding fields for practice. The Rec committee is looking at used astro turf. They have some sponsors that will help to support this project. It’s getting to the point that it’s feasible, but before they go much further, that would like to know that they have the Councils support. They could offer adult flag football maybe a walking track. Used turfs for now, then another step go new. The Council asked how the Rec Committee felt about it. Jeff said everyone was for it. We will get together with the other towns. They have so many programs at the High School; many times Rec couldn’t practice or use the fields. The Andy Valley Tournaments said we have the best fields. Nancy stated that she is worried about the money. Jeff said to approve it and then we will do it and keep the Council informed. Lou made a motion to allow Recreation Committee pursue this. Seconded by Stephen. Cathy Fifield said that the money should be run through someone else, not Rec. Poland and Minot wants part of this, John said we could setup an Enterprise fund where the money doesn’t fall back into the general fund if they aren’t expended. Jeff said he would also like to apply for a grant through the Alfond Foundation, they prefer to do large value projects for kids – its grant money and done to their specs. Where this project will benefit 3 Towns, which should help us. Cathy said she would like to have a Committee to oversee this project. Jeff said that could be done, and that he has been elected pretty much to be the spokesperson. No further discussion. So voted. All in favor.

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**Reports of the Town Manager:**

**Old Business:**

**3.01 County Charter Hearing**

The County Commissioners have proposed a charter amendment to deal with the budget authority issue. Some budget committee members aren’t happy, they had full authority. John said that he will be attending the hearing on Wednesday, May 6th for discussion. The Attorney General didn’t want to give an opinion.

**3.02 Voting**

John said that voting will be held June 9th from 4 to 8 pm in the Council Chambers. Absentee ballots will not be available until after the RSU Budget Validation meeting on May 21st, and their ballots are available.

**3.03 Appointed Committee Policy**

**4.02 Development Commission Bylaws**

John stated that the Council requested a review of this policy, with the amendment made in September of 2014 regarding residency. John explained that the Development Commission changed their bylaws, but it was in violation of the Town Charter. The Council appoints. John will be meeting with the MFDC next Monday. John will look into the MFDC Charter. The Council told John to have them get their own members, but the Council will appoint them.

**3.04 Appointed Comm. Vs. Assoc.**

John said that appointed Committees are an extension of the Council. The Rec Committee does their own fundraising. Municipalities can’t do fundraisers. The Library Association is guidance to the Library-not the Librarians boss. MMA Risk Management went over the guidelines and it was sent to the Committees and Associations. The Council supports this issue.

**3.05 Lane Road Construction**

John stated that we sent bid proposals to 9 contractors. The bid opening is May 13th, Shirley will do a phone vote to award the low bidder the contract; after making sure the proposals are apples to apples. Hope to have the job going from July 15 to September 15th weather permitting.

**3.06 Plowing Elm, Street School**

John stated that Poland will give a number and we will give them a number, we haven’t heard back from Poland. They are still up in the air about doing the plowing.

**New Business:**

**4.01 RSU Budget/Voting/Warrant**

This is a reminder of the town meeting style vote of the RSU budget on Thursday, May 21st at 6:00 PM. The ratification vote date has changed to align with our municipal budget referendum on Tuesday June 9th from 4-8:00 PM. The Council will also need to approve the municipal budget warrant. Stephen Bolduc made a motion to approve the warrants as presented. Seconded by Cathy Fifield. No discussion. So voted.

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**4.03 Road Condition Survey**

John explained that he has completed the road condition survey which is used to determine which roads would be in greatest need for paving improvements. John and Scott score them separately then they go over the results together. Based on last year’s costs, it looks like we can only do about 3.5 miles of roads. John knows that there will be calls coming in because we have 6 miles of road that need paving work, be we are only able financially to do 3.5 miles.

**4.04 Computer Use Policy**

MMA Insurance has asked us to update our current policy to include some items they felt were necessary. Cathy Fifield made a motion to adopt the Computer Use Policy as amended. Seconded by Stephen Bolduc. No further discussion. So voted. Unanimous.

**4.05 Social Media Policy**

MMA Insurance has asked us to update our current policy to include some items they felt were necessary. Stephen Bolduc made a motion to adopt the Social Media Policy as amended. Nick asked if MMA made this policy. John explained. No further discussion. So voted. Unanimous.

**4.06 FEMA Overtime Policy**

After a meeting with FEMA regarding the January blizzard reimbursement, there is some confusion regarding eligible costs for overtime. Because our guys didn’t accrue overtime until after the 40 hours are worked. FEMA isn’t secured on their overtime policy. FEMA will re-calculate the best 48 hours. They are going to give us more than we requested.

**4.07 Board of Appeals**

With the pending resignation of Ed Piirainen from the Board of Appeals, we are now in a critical position as we do not have enough members to make a board for review, although the BOA met once, 9 years ago. I have asked MMA Legal to weigh in on this issue and should have a response from them by the meeting date. Nancy Richard said she would go on it. John will ask Mark Gary to serve on it also.

**4.08 New Hire**

Chris Arsenault has been rehired to fill the full-time position that has been vacant since Tim Estes left last summer.

**4.09 Conf. Space/Trenching Policies**

The Safety Committee has reviewed and updated these policies that need your adoption. Stephen Bolduc made a motion to adopt the Confined Space and Trenching Policies as amended. Seconded by Lou Annance. No discussion. So voted. Unanimous.

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**Ordinances, Resolves, Policies & Licenses**

**5.01 Resignation – Ed Piirainen – Board of Appeals**

John told the Council that Ed Piirainen has resigned from the Board of Appeals.

**5.02 Resignation – Vicki Dean – Library Trustee**

John told the Council that Vicki Dean has resigned as a Library Trustee.

**5.03 Appointment – Pam Black – Dog Park Committee**

John told the Council that Pam Black would like to be on the Dog Park Committee. Lou Annance made a motion to appoint Pam Black to the Dog Park Committee. Seconded by Cathy Fifield. No discussion. So voted. Unanimous.

**5.04 Retirement – Bob Goddard – Public Works**

John told the Council that Bob Goddard has retired from Mechanic Falls Public Works. Cathy Fifield asked if any of the above people resigning should be on the Community Service Plaque. Only Vicki Dean has been on the board greater than 10 years.

**5.05 Mobile Vendor – Permit – Raymond Bisson, 343 South Main Street**

Stephen Bolduc made a motion to grant a Mobile Vendor Permit to Raymond Bisson. Seconded by Lou Annance. No discussion. So voted. Unanimous.

John explained that the council will hold their last meeting on June 1st. The Council will hold their Organizational Meeting on June 15th at 6:30 pm. Nick explained that the loan was approved for the $350,000, but the Sanitary District has stopped, waiting to see what Sasseville is going to do. We have one year from April 29th to accept the money.

Cathy Fifield made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Lou Annance. No discussion. So voted. Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.