MECHANIC FALLS TOWN COUNCIL

 June 1, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Nancy Richard, Chair

Stephen Bolduc

Cathy Fifield

Lou Annance

Wayne Hackett

**STAFF PRESENT:**

John Hawley – Town Manager

Shirley Marquis – Town Clerk

Jeffrey Goss – Police Chief

Stephen French – Water Department

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Nick Konstantoulakis

Dan Carroll – Harvest Hill Farms

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** May 4, 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:**

**2.01 Public Hearing – Proposed Water Department Rate Increase-** John turned the Public Hearing over to Stephen French with the Water Department. He read the attached 2015 Rate Case, prepared statement. Stephen said they are proposing a 10% increase, we could ask for up to 30% increase. The last increase was in 2008 and it was 13%. No further discussion. Stephen French did mention that every rate payer in Mechanic Falls received a notice of this public hearing.

4.02 Water Department Pickup Truck bids- We received two bids O’Connor GMC $11,825 and Goodwin Chevy $17,600. O’Connor gave us a greater trade on the 2010 pickup. Cathy Fifield made a motion to award the bid to O’Connor GMC in the amount of $11,825. Seconded by Stephen Bolduc. No further discussion. So voted. Unanimous.

5.02 Liquor License (New) - Harvest Hill Farms – Lou Annance made a motion to grant the Liquor License to Harvest Hill Farm, Seconded by Stephen Bolduc. No discussion. So voted, Unanimous.

4.03 Police Cruiser Bids – 3 invitations to bid. Rowe Ford did not bid. Quirk Ford of Augusta $21,700 and Ripley & Fletcher $19,819. Quirk met all the specifications, Ripley &

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Fletcher did not. It will cost much more to outfit the one from Ripley & Fletcher. It’s a black vehicle, and Quirk has it on the lot. It’s a Ford Explorer, but they call it a Utility Police Interceptor, 2015. The Charger is a 2012. Lou Annance made a motion to award the bid to Quirk Ford of Augusta in the amount of $21,700. Seconded by Wayne Hackett. No further discussion. So voted. Unanimous.

Old Business:

Item 3.01 County Charter – The County Commissioners held a meeting and voted to send proposed charter amendments to voters this November. The proposal falls short of the changed that still should be recommended. The 3 Charter Commissions need to answer some questions. Contact all selectman/Council people of the 14 communities. Stay in the fight. Stephen Bolduc said we need to change this situation for the better.

Item 3.02 Committee Membership – Cathy, Wayne and John all attended the MFDC meeting, and they were under the impression that the Council would go and recruit and appoint new members. Change our membership policy, a 7 member board reduced to 5 members. Wayne Hackett made a motion to accept the draft as presented. Seconded by Lou Annance. No further discussion. So voted. Unanimous.

Item 3.03 Plowing Elm Street School – John explained that Minot and Poland declined to assist with plowing the Elementary Schools. Talked with Scott and broke down the costs, allowing for flexibility $200 per storm, no fine work and $100 per hour as needed for snow removal. Wayne Hackett made a motion to not offer to plow. Seconded by Lou Annance. No further discussion. All in favor. So voted. Unanimous.

Item 3.04 Voting – Voting will be held on Tuesday, June 9th from 4 pm to 8 pm in the Council Chambers. Absentee ballots are available.

Item 3.05 Five Corners Update – John explained that DOT had held their public hearing and they are still working on updates, the only issues presented were from the Smoke Shop. They will be starting hopefully next summer.

New Business:

Item 4.01 Paving Bids – 4 invitations were sent out, only 3 bidders. If budget passes on June 9th, we will have $500,000 to be used for paving. The bids came in much lower than expected. We will have $85,000 to do additional work, much more done for our money. Cathy Fifield made a motion to award the paving bid to Pike in the amount of $418,150. Seconded by Stephen Bolduc. No further discussion. So voted. Unanimous.

Item 4.04 Lane Road Bids – John explained that the bids came back all over budget estimates. We went back to ask for more money and its going for review. We are allowed up to

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$30,000 for Town match. Public works has some money and contingent has not been used. To purchase the culvert this year at a price of $57,000. $10,000 to require work easements, which we can do at a smaller price. We need the Council’s blessing to purchase the culvert from PW budget and Contingent Account, and to do the work easements. Wayne Hackett made a motion to purchase the culvert from PW funds and Contingent account. Seconded by Lou Annance. All in favor. So voted. We had invited 8 contractors to bid, 5 came back. FEMA funds have to go to the low bidder. We changed the date of the bid opening. They need to provide a Performance Bond, and a list of references equal to this project. Everett filed a grievance Pratt didn’t sign addendums, didn’t supply reference list. FEMA Policy low bid unless you have justifications. Low bid J. Pratt Construction Stephen Bolduc made a motion to award the bid to J. Pratt Construction. Seconded by Wayne Hackett. Lou Annance abstained. 3 in Favor. So voted.

Item 4.05 Before and After School Lease – John let the Council know that the Before and After School program renewed their lease and are now able to pay $100.00 per month in rent.

Item 4.06 MMA Executive Committee – It’s that time of year to submit nominations for executive representation. The nominating committee has made recommendations.

Item 4.07 Water Dept. Sanitary Survey – The annual Maine Drinking Water Program inspection done every three years and found no deficiencies.

Item 4.08 Shared Sewer Jetter – The Public works uses it regularly in the winter to unclog frozen culverts. We will go half with the Sanitary District on a new one. We do have money in the PW Equipment Reserve. Wayne Hackett made a motion to spend up to $15,000 for a shared sewer jetter with the Sanitary District. Seconded by Lou Annance. No further discussion. So voted. Unanimous.

Item 4.09 Town Office Hours June 28th – John explained that June 30, Tuesday is our year end, we will be closing at 11:30 to close the books. Wednesday is the last ½ a day, if budget passes we will be open all day on Wednesdays. Thursday we will be closing at 11:30 and will be closed Friday for the July 4th holiday.

Item 4.10 Council Organization Meeting – Town Council organizational meeting will be held on Monday June 15th at 6:30 pm.

Ordinances, Resolves & Licenses:

Item 5.01 Appointment - Nancy Richard, Board of Appeals

Cathy Fifield made a motion to appoint Nancy Richard to the Board of Appeals, effective 7/1/2015. Seconded by Lou Annance. No discussion. So voted. Unanimous.

Item 5.03 Appointment – Melanie Judd, Library Trustee

Stephen Bolduc made a motion to appoint Melanie Judd as a Library Trustee. Seconded by Wayne Hackett. No discussion. So voted. Unanimous.

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Item 5.04 Discharge of Liens – John Best, 2 Tirrell Avenue, $706.45

John explained that this is the property that the Town does not want to own. It has IRS Liens attached and with the state of the trailer and the back rent that is owed, it would be in the Towns best interest to discharge the liens. Stephen Bolduc made a motion to discharge the 2013, 2014 and 2015 tax liens. Seconded by Wayne Hackett. No further discussion. So voted. Unanimous.

Item 5.05 Liquor License – American Legion Post #150

John explained that they brought this in after the agenda was made; it is for the Legion to hold a beer tent on Community Day. Stephen Bolduc made a motion to approve the Liquor License for the American Legion Post #150 to have a beer tent on Community Day. Seconded by Lou Annance. No further discussion. So voted. Unanimous.

John told Nancy Richard that since this was her last meeting, he wanted to let her know that we would miss her and thank you for time served.

Lou Annance made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Stephen Bolduc. No discussion. So voted. Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm.