

Town of Mars Hill
MAYOR & BOARD OF ALDERMEN
Monthly Meeting

February 6, 2012
7:00 p.m.

Town Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor John Chandler; Aldermen Larry Davis, Stuart Jolley, Nicholas (Nick) Honeycutt, Robert W. (Bob) Zink

OTHERS PRESENT: Anna Freeman, The News Record and Sentinel; Karen Kiehna; Jon & Dianne VanHoff; Ryan Pickens; Larry Leake, Town Attorney; Darhyl Boone, Town Manager; Joanne Rice

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Chandler with the first order of business being approval of the January, 2012, Minutes. A motion was made by Nick Honeycutt, second from Stuart Jolley to approve the January Minutes as written. The motion received unanimous approval.

Under Agenda Modification/Acceptance, Darhyl Boone requested a Closed Session before adjournment for discussion of legal matters. A motion was made by Stuart Jolley to approve the Agenda with the requested modification. The motion received a second from Larry Davis and was unanimously accepted.

The meeting was called into a Public Hearing for the CDBG Urgent Needs Grant Program Closeout. Karen Kiehna explained that the CDBG funding would be successfully closed out on the Weaverville Interconnect Project. The Project has enabled Mars Hill to be connected with the Town of Weaverville's water system. The water line runs on the east side of I-26 making water service available to that geographic area. The CDBG funds along with other grant and loan funding have been expended and the work is complete. The Board is requested to give approval of completion and authorization for the Mayor to sign closing documents for CDBG. A motion was made by Bob Zink to approve close out of this project and to authorize Mayor Chandler to sign all closing documents. The motion received a second from Nick Honeycutt and was unanimously approved.

Karen Kiehna explained that some funding is now available through CDBG – Grant Application for Community Improvement Project. The preliminary application requires a Public Hearing which is being conducted along with the close out Public Hearing. She stated that six categories of funding would be available being housing rehabilitation, home emergency repair, economic development, utilities hook-up, infrastructure, and catalyst. The catalyst project would be to provide implementation that could pull in any of the five other categories. HUD, EPA and the Department of the Treasury have developed six livability principals as criteria for this grant funding. If the Town is planning to make an application, a second Public Hearing will be necessary to identify the need for the funding with a deadline of April 30. Work will begin by Darhyl and Ms Kiehna to determine if the Town has a possible need that would be suitable for this CDBG funding.

The next item on the Agenda was USDA Resolution for the Water Line Replacement Project. This Resolution states that the Town of Mars Hill accepts the conditions set forth in the Letter of Intent to Meet Conditions, Request for Obligation of Fund and Certification Regarding Drug Free Workplace. It further authorized the Mayor be authorized to execute all forms necessary to obtain a grant from the

Appalachian Regional Commission. A motion was made by Nick Honeycutt, second from Stuart Jolley to approve the Resolution. The motion received unanimous approval and signatures were affixed to the necessary documents.

The Financial Statement for quarter ended December 31, 2011, was given to the Board for review prior to the meeting. With no questions, a motion was made by Larry Davis to approve the Financial Statement as presented. The motion received a second from Nick Honeycutt and was unanimously approved.

Being no Old or New Business, the meeting proceeded to Public Comment. Ryan Pickens addressed the Board concerning the Mars Theater Project. Mr. Pickens stated that he had a Business Plan completed and had a possible investor. His hope is to have the business up and running by Spring of 2013. Mr. Pickens also suggested that the Town might apply for grant funds through the CDBG – Grant Application for Community Improvement Project to build steps from his property down to the Library property. He further stated that when the property was being developed for the new Library, due to the expanded structure, the old steps were removed. Mr. Pickens feels that a walkway joining the two properties opens up the area for pedestrians.

With no further comments, a motion was made by Bob Zink, second from Stuart Jolley, to go into closed session. Motion received unanimous approval.

Mayor John Chandler made a motion to return to open sessions. His motion received a second from Stuart Jolley and was unanimously accepted.

Stuart Jolley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion received a second from Nick Honeycutt and unanimous approval.
