

Town of Mars Hill
MAYOR & BOARD OF ALDERMEN
Monthly Meeting

January 9, 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: Joy Anders; Eddie Fox, Fire Chief; Darhyl Boone, Town Manager; Joanne Rice

Mayor Chandler called the meeting to order with the first item of business being approval of the December, 2011, Minutes. A motion was made by Stuart Jolley, second from Larry Davis, to approve the December Minutes as written. The motion received unanimous approval.

Under Agenda Modification/Acceptance, Darhyl Boone requested another Amendment to the Budget be considered in addition to the Amendment on the Agenda. Nick Honeycutt made a motion to accept the Agenda with the one modification. The motion received a second from Stuart Jolley and was unanimously approved.

The meeting moved into a Public Hearing for the purpose of considering a rezoning request. Darhyl explained that the request was from Joy Anders to rezone less than .25 ac. of property located at 735 Crossroads Parkway from R-1 (Rural Residential/Agricultural) to C-2 (Highway Business). The property surrounding is zoned C-2 and would simply put this small parcel in line with the adjoining property. Darhyl stated that the Planning & Zoning Board had considered and recommended this rezoning, all notifications have been made including advertisement in the local paper as well as letters to the adjoining property owners. Ms. Anders addressed the Board and there was a brief discussion with Mayor Chandler making a motion to grant this rezoning request. The motion received a second from Stuart Jolley and was unanimously accepted.

A motion was made by Bob Zink, second from Nick Honeycutt, to close the Public Hearing and return to regular session. The motion received unanimous approval.

Chief Eddie Fox, Mars Hill Fire Department, reported to the Board presenting the list of officers for 2012. They are: Eddie Fox, Chief; William B. Zink, Deputy Chief; Bryan Hopps, Assistant Chief; Matthew Griffin and Jimmy Metscher, Captains; Asheley Davis, Secretary; Jim Kirkland and Jason Pearman, Safety Officers and Cecil Hopps, Chaplain. A motion was made by Bob Zink to accept the 2012 Fire Department Officers as recommended by Chief Fox. The motion received a second from Nick Honeycutt and was unanimously accepted.

Chief Fox presented some proposed changes in the Policy for Incentive Pay to Volunteer Members. The schedule for accumulated training hours will change to November 1 through October 31 of the current year and the active member must have responded to 10% of calls during the same time period.

Member must have a combination of at least 36 hours of approved training and have documented response to at least 10% of calls. A motion was made by Nick Honeycutt, second from Larry Davis, to approve the changes as outlined by Chief Fox. The motion received unanimous approval.

Chief Fox reviewed a copy of the Mars Hill Fire Department By-Laws with the Mayor & Board explaining the highlighted changes including but not limited to provision for Associate Members, Lifetime Members, and that the office of Chief shall be a paid position hired by the Mars Hill Town Board. There were questions and brief discussion followed by a motion by Nick Honeycutt to accept the By-Laws with the changes presented by Chief Fox. The motion received a second from Stuart Jolley and was unanimously accepted.

Chief Fox updated the Board on a proposed plan to contract with the West Yancey Fire Department to establish a Fire Insurance District in a portion of the Mars Hill Fire District to include a part of Crooked Creek, Paint Fork and Metcalf Creek. He explained that West Yancey would respond to fire calls but Mars Hill would still cover First Responder and rescue calls. The importance of this contract will be to allow home owners within the proposed insurance district to have a Class 9 Insurance Rating which is not possible with only Mars Hill providing fire protection since the property is closer to West Yancey than Mars Hill. The cost to the Town would be a portion of the fire tax collected on this property, portion of which is still under discussion. The general consensus of the Board is to allow this plan to move forward.

Darhyl presented an Amendment to the Waterline Replacement Project – Phase I & III Budget. The reason for this amendment is to move projected amounts to satisfy more specific needs. A motion was made by Larry Davis and second by Bob Zink to approve the Waterline Replacement Project Budget Amendment as presented by management. The motion received unanimous approval.

A General Fund 2011 – 2012 Budget Amendment was presented to allow for proposed renovations to the old Town Hall Building on Main Street. The Amendment will allocate \$17,000 from reserve fund to Capital Outlay Public Buildings. Darhyl explained that these funds had been reserved for some time for revitalization projects and he hoped to use a portion of this for North and South Main Street entry signs. A motion was made by Bob Zink to approve the General Fund Amendment as requested by management. The motion received a second from Stuart Jolley and was unanimously accepted.

Under Old Business, Darhyl reported that John Hough, Robert Chapman, Pat and Walter Smith have agreed to begin work on a History of the Town. Darrell Norton has agreed to assist. Darhyl will also contact C. Robert Jones to see if he would be willing to serve on this committee. Darhyl explained that this was a project that could possibly be accomplished by each person assuming responsibility for a segment of the project that is of most interest to them. Discussion occurred as to whether a Board member should be involved and both Nick Honeycutt and Stuart Jolley expressed an interest in assisting. Mayor Chandler suggested that the next step would be to get these people together and go from there. Eddie Fox also suggested that they might use the Fire Department history that was compiled for the Department's 100 year celebration.

Darhyl gave an update on the Solar Panel Project at the Library. It was actually connected on Friday, January 6, is up and running and producing electricity.

He also reported that the USDA Engineer has given approval on the Waterline Replacement Project but wants bids to be taken on a variety of line materials, not just ductile iron. This project should be out for

bid in February with the bid award ready for the March, 2012, meeting. In response to a question, the line will run along the roadway from the Old Murray Road to Town.

Being no New Business or Public Comment, Bob Zink made a motion to adjourn, second by Stuart Jolley, and unanimous acceptance.
