

Town of Mars Hill  
**MAYOR & BOARD OF ALDERMEN**  
Monthly Meeting

May 2, 2011  
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; Rick Morgan; Steven SuBera; Robb Pierce; Larry Leake, Town Attorney; Darhyl Boone, Town Manager; Joanne Rice

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Chandler with the first item of business being approval of the April, 2011, Minutes. With no changes, Nick Honeycutt made a motion to approve the Minutes as written. The motion received a second from Stuart Jolley and was unanimously accepted.

With no modification to the Agenda, a motion was made by Bob Zink, second by Larry Davis, to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion received unanimous approval.

Rick Morgan, member of the Board of the Southern Appalachian Repertory Theater, addressed the Board concerning SART utilizing the basement of the old Town Hall facility for storage of scenes, etc., used for their plays. He explained that the current facility has developed a leaky roof as well as some electrical problems. SART will sign a written agreement for use of this space and Richard Seagle, Production Manager, will be responsible for daily supervision of activities. Liability insurance will be carried by SART and they will pay electric usage over the minimum that the Town currently pays. The space will be kept clean and waste material disposed in a dumpster paid for by SART. No toxic materials or paint will be used or stored in the building. SART will be responsible for maintenance and security of the building and will keep it locked when not in use. They will also assist Friends of the Library in moving boxes of books currently stored there. Question was posed as to placement of a dumpster with response that Darhyl will look into the proper location. Parking should not be an issue because the people will be coming from campus and Owen Theater is located in such close proximity that they will walk. Darhyl stated that the Town will need to rearrange some of the Town's stored material but there will be sufficient room. Larry Leake stated that he had no legal concerns with a lease of this space to SART. A motion was made by Bob Zink to enter into a lease agreement with SART. Stuart Jolley gave a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved. SART will have need of this space from mid-May through August. Larry Leake will draw up a lease agreement for this space.

Darhyl gave an update on a visit by Bobby Blowe, Infrastructure Director, NC Rural Center. Darhyl, Karen Kiehna, and Mr. Blowe visited the Weaverville Interconnection Project for which the Rural Center has provided \$500,000. Mr. Blowe was very pleased with the project which should be completed in approximately two months. They also visited the Transmission Line Replacement Project for which the Rural Center has provided \$1,000,000 in funding. Mr. Blowe enjoyed this tour which proved educational for him. He is from the 'flat lands' and was amazed by the mountainous terrain over which the Town water travels. The meeting was good for the Rural Center but, also, for us. Mr. Blowe had reported in a meeting with Land of Sky how impressed he was by what he was able to see.

Darhyl presented the Board with a copy of the Mars Hill Walking Tour brochure done by the TDA. They provided the Town with copies and, in addition, the Town had 500 more printed. These brochures have been so well received that we already need to order more. The HandMade in America brochure has been placed at North Carolina Welcome Centers and they, also, have been widely circulated.

The March 31, 2011, Financial Statement was presented. Darhyl commented that the Town's financial condition is better than anticipated. All departmental expenditures are under the amount of revenues collected. A motion was made by Stuart Jolley, second from Nick Honeycutt, to approve the Financial Statement as presented. The motion received unanimous approval.

Darhyl gave an update on the Energy Efficiency Project that is a joint effort for Mars Hill, Marshall, and Madison County. He reported that replacement of the heating and cooling system at the Water Treatment Plant has been completed and, by the end of this week or first of next, the remaining work should be ready for bid. This includes lighting, dock doors, etc.

Under Old Business, Darhyl reported that the cistern at the Fire Department is proving to be an asset to the Department as well as the Town. A company hydroseeded at Ingles Market which generally requires purchase of water from the Town. This company had a pump and was able to pump the 9,000 gallons needed from the cistern which holds 10,000 gallons. The cost was much less to the company and conserved the Town's treated water. With the rainfall since, the cistern was again full in a few days. Chief Eddie Fox has been using the water for training.

Under New Business, Darhyl reported that Madison County will begin a program for recycling electronics including cell phones, computers, etc. Beginning in June, the landfill will be accepting electronics and recycle areas will be at each of the collection centers. Town residents will be required to take any electronics to the centers for recycling. On May 28 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., the County will hold a one-day free electronics collection event at the landfill.

Under Public Comment, Rick Morgan expressed appreciation to Robert Sams for his consideration in notifying him of water line work to be done that would cause a reduction in pressure at his home on Duck Drive.

With no further Public Comment, a motion was made by Bob Zink, second from Stuart Jolley, to go into Closed Session for discussion of a legal matter. The motion received unanimous acceptance.

A motion was made by Mayor Chandler, second from Stuart to return to Open Session. There was discussion in regards to replacement of members on the Zoning Board of Adjustment. No action was taken at this time.

Larry Davis explained that one of the volunteer fireman, Casey Tweed, had an accident while on a call. He suffered a broken ankle which will be filed with the Town's Workers' Comp.

A motion was made by Bob Zink to adjourn. The motion received a second from Stuart Jolley and was unanimously approved.

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