

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

June 28, 2011  
7:00 p.m.

Town Hall

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Darhyl Boone, Town Manager; Joanne Rice

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Chandler with the first item of business being Agenda Modification/Acceptance. Darhyl request three items be added to be included before Public Comment. A motion was made by Stuart Jolley, second from Larry Davis, to approve the Agenda with the requested changes. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Bob Zink for the meeting to go into a Public Hearing for the purpose of reviewing the 2011 – 2012 Fiscal Year Budget. The motion received a second from Stuart Jolley and was unanimously accepted.

With Board members provided a copy of the proposed budget prior to the meeting, Darhyl was prepared to give an overview for the public. Since there were none in attendance, the Board was asked if they had any questions or concerns with the budget as presented. With no questions, Darhyl stated that the tax rate would not increase but a 2% water and sewer rate increase was included. This increase will help to off-set the \$400,000.00 USDA loan on the Water Line Replacement Project.

He further stated that the Weaverville Project would be closed prior to the end of the current Fiscal Year; however, the \$600,000.00 USDA loan funds would not be reimbursed until mid-July. USDA said that to wait would give the Town a ½ % decrease in interest on the loan which, over forty years, will be a substantial amount.

A motion was made by Bob Zink, second from Larry Davis, to close the Public Hearing and return to open session.

A motion was made by Bob Zink to approve the 2011 – 2012 Budget as presented. The motion received a second from Stuart Jolley and was unanimously approved. In discussion, Board asked if raises for personnel were included. A \$500.00 annual raise was included for all employees with \$2,500.00 for Darhyl. The Board awarded Darhyl this pay increase due to the extensive time and effort he has put into the various projects for the Town.

Darhyl presented an Agreement with the Madison County Board of Elections for approval. This agreement is for the County Board of Elections to conduct the Town's election in November. The Board of Elections will meet on July 15 and need this agreement executed prior to their meeting. The question arose as to whether there would be one-stop voting. This element of the election process can be decided after the agreement is signed. A motion was made by Bob Zink, second from Stuart Jolley to

approve the Agreement with the Board of Elections as presented. The motion received unanimous approval.

Darhyl informed the Board that Sue Fitzgerald is leaving Mars Hill and Mars Hill College and Mars Hill Baptist Church are planning a celebration for her on July 17. Neighbors in Need want to be a part of this also in appreciation for all her work for that organization. Darhyl suggested that the Town also be involved because of all Ms. Fitzgerald's service to the Town for many years. He suggested the Town, along with Neighbors in Need, provide the fruit for the reception. He also suggested that the Town might want to present Ms. Fitzgerald with a 'Key to the Town.' Mayor Chandler suggested that the Town pass a proclamation declaring July 17 'Sue Fitzgerald Day.' A motion was made by Bob Zink to approve a Proclamation declaring July 17, 2011 'Sue Fitzgerald Day.' The motion received a second from Stuart Jolley and was unanimously approved. Larry Leake will be asked to compose this proclamation. Mayor Chandler will also present her with a 'Key to the Town.'

Darhyl reported to the Board that he had received a call for Jeanne Hoffman asking about renting a portion of the old Town Hall building for a realty office. There was discussion about the best location within the building. The general consensus of the Board was that this would be a good use of the building and possibly could attract more individuals needing office space. Darhyl will meet with Jeanne Hoffman for further discussion.

Darhyl informed the Board that Police Officer Brian Fulmer has resigned and is going to the Town of Fletcher. David Lewis and George Cole have been interviewing applicants and apparently have narrowed the search to Bobby Wheeler. Both David and George know him.

Bob Zink asked if there had been any further discussion with the Madison County Parks and Rec regarding the adult league softball. Darhyl has a meeting scheduled with Lynn Bowles.

With no further discussion, a motion was made by Bob Zink to adjourn. The motion received a second from Stuart Jolley and was unanimously accepted.

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