



Town of Mars Hill

MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN

John L. Chandler
Mayor
Nicholas A. Honeycutt
Vice-Mayor
Robert W. Zink
Treasurer
Stuart L. Jolley
Clerk
Larry H. Davis
Secretary

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING Mars Hill Town Hall – Conference Room January 6, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

The Town of Mars Hill Mayor and Board of Aldermen met in regular session on Monday, January 6, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Mars Hill Town Hall.

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

Alderman Stuart Jolley was absent.

STAFF PRESENT: Nathan R. Bennett, Town Manager; Jamie Stokes, Town Attorney

OTHERS PRESENT: Sandy Stevenson, Taylor Barnhill, Janet Foster, Mike Foster, Bill Downey, Susan Sewell, Bill Sewell, James Heintz, and Ryan Bell

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor John Chandler. Mayor Chandler welcomed those in attendance.

Approval of the Agenda

Mayor Chandler asked the Board to review the proposed agenda for approval. Upon review of the agenda, Mayor Chandler called for a motion. Alderman Nick Honeycutt made a motion that the agenda be approved as presented. Alderman Larry Davis seconded the motion. Upon a call for a vote on the motion by the Mayor, the agenda was approved unanimously. (Attachment A)

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Chandler then asked the Board to review the minutes of the regular meeting held on December 2, 2019. There being no modifications to the minutes, Alderman Davis made a motion that the minutes for December 2, 2019 be approved as presented by management. Alderman Bob Zink seconded the motion. Upon a call for a vote on the motion by the Mayor, the minutes were approved unanimously.

PRESENTATION – Appalachian Barn Alliance

Mayor Chandler then recognized Ms. Sandy Stevenson for a presentation by the Appalachian Barn Alliance (ABA). Ms. Stevenson thanked the Board for the opportunity to provide information regarding the ABA organization and opportunities that group sees in a potential partnership with the Town to provide a heritage farmstead and cultural heritage programming at the Town-owned Smith Farm/Bailey Mountain Park property. Ms. Stevenson introduced Mr. Taylor Barnhill, an architect and planner who works on behalf of the ABA to assess and protect barns in Madison County, and also other members of the ABA present. The ABA is a local non-profit volunteer organization with a mission to preserve Madison County's agricultural history through the preservation of barns, outbuildings, and their histories throughout the county. Ms. Stevenson presented a summary of the ABA 2019 Year Report and provided Board members a packet of information regarding the organization history and activities. There was discussion of the heritage farmstead conceptual ideas and examples of such operations at other locations in western North Carolina and the region, such as the Vance Birthplace and the Mountain Farm Museum near Oconoluftee in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Upon completion of the presentation, Board consensus was to take the concepts presented under consideration as the Town moves forward with planning for the development of the park property. (Attachment B)

Town Manager Report – Nathan Bennett, Town Manager

Mayor Chandler then recognized Mr. Bennett to provide the Town Manager Report.

Weaverville Water System Interconnection – Agreement Renewal

Mr. Bennett reported to the Board that the existing agreement between the Town of Mars Hill and the Town of Weaverville regarding the water system interconnection has expired. This original agreement from October 2008 set the terms for the construction of the interconnection of the two town water systems to provide an emergency water source for Mars Hill. The agreement also addressed the terms of ownership, maintenance and usage of water relating to the interconnection. Mr. Bennett advised the Board he has had preliminary discussions with Weaverville officials and there is great desire to renew this agreement and continue having this interconnection as a water resource for Mars Hill. Mr. Bennett requested the Board grant authority to the Town Manager and Town Attorney to negotiate terms consistent with the existing agreement with Weaverville to establish a new agreement for the continued use of the water system interconnection. Upon review and discussion of the existing agreement and recommendation by Mr. Bennett, Mayor Chandler called for a motion. Mayor Chandler made a motion to authorize the Town Manager and Town Attorney to draft a new agreement between the Town of Mars Hill and Town of Weaverville for the continued operation and use of the existing water system interconnection consistent with the recommendation of management and bring the proposed agreement back to the Board at the appropriate time for approval. Alderman Honeycutt seconded the motion. Upon a call for a vote on the motion by the Mayor, the motion was approved unanimously.

Budget Amendment – FY 2020-01

Mr. Bennett advised the Board that the budget line item for contracted services in the sanitation department is exceeding the approved appropriation due to costs associated with recycling disposal

with Curbside Management in Woodfin. Mr. Bennett advised that at the time of budget adoption he was not aware that the town had not used Curbside for this service a full year and for budget planning used the year to date total. Mr. Bennett further advised that he had placed funding in a contingency line item in the sanitation department in case this type of unexpected overage occurred. Mr. Bennett advised that the proposed budget amendment authorizing an interdepartmental transfer of \$2,000.00 from the contingency line item to the contracted services line item in the sanitation department will resolve this issue and provide adequate funding for the remainder of the fiscal year and will have no net impact on the overall budget amount. Upon review and discussion of the proposed budget amendment by the Board, Mayor Chandler called for a motion. Alderman Honeycutt made a motion to approve the “**2019-2020 Fiscal Year Budget Amendment – FY 2020-01**” as presented. Alderman Davis seconded the motion. Upon a call for a vote on the motion by the Mayor, the motion was approved unanimously. (Attachment C)

Audit Report – FY 2019

Mr. Bennett advised the Board that the Town’s auditors, Johnson Price Sprinkle, PA (JPS), have completed the Town’s annual audit and it was submitted on December 31, 2019 to the N.C. Local Government Commission (LGC). Mr. Bennett advised he has reviewed the draft audit and overall it is a very good audit. Highlights noted by the auditors state that all transactions were completed with proper authority and guidance and there were no difficulties with management in performing and completing the audit. The auditors noted a couple of material weaknesses – segregation of duties in regard to the cash receipts (which is a common finding in governments with a small finance staff) and the lack of the preaudit certification on a contract to repair a water line – both of which have been addressed and corrected by management as appropriate. There was a 5.7% increase to the general fund balance reserve which places the town in a stronger financial position. Once the LGC reviews the audit they will notify JPS of any modifications needed for final approval and then the official version of the audit will be delivered to the Town and Board Members.

General Update

Mr. Bennett provided the Board with a status report on capital projects that are underway as well as a summary of various town activities. Mr. Bennett advised that the Christmas Parade was successful, and many positive comments have been received from community members. Mr. Bennett announced that the John Deere tractor declared surplus by the Board in December is being sold by sealed bid and those bids are due to be opened on January 15, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. in the Large Conference Room in Town Hall. Mr. Bennett also reported to the Board that the crew worker position for the public works department has been advertised and many applications have been received with interviews scheduled for next week.

Old Business

The Mayor then moved to address old business. There was no old business.

New Business

The Mayor then moved to address new business. There was no new business.

Public Comment

The Mayor then opened the floor for public comments.

Bill Downey asked the Board if they were aware of an issue with an unsightly auto yard in the vicinity of the gas station near Stone Cottage Road. The Mayor advised Mr. Downey that location is outside the town limits but is in the ETJ for zoning purposes. Further, he stated that the Town is aware of this situation and the Town Attorney has sent letters to the owner to attempt a remedy of the potential zoning violation and those actions are pending.

James Heintl then addressed the Board concerning his recent purchase and ongoing development of property located at 10 North Main Street. Mr. Heintl expressed concerns for future issues regarding parking in the downtown area, issues with water penetration through cracks in the asphalt on North Main Street, and cracks near the sidewalk. He also asked about trash receptacle placement for his property. Mr. Heintl was directed to work with the Town Manager and public works department on a potential location for placement of trash receptacles. He was advised that North Main Street is a state-maintained roadway and repairs to any cracks or other maintenance issues concerning that roadway is the jurisdiction of the NCDOT. Mr. Bennett advised him that we can contact the local NCDOT office to address his concerns regarding the street deficiencies.

There were no additional public comments.

Closed Session (Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6))

Mayor Chandler then advised that the Board would need to enter closed session to discuss personnel matters. Alderman Zink made a motion for the Board to enter closed session to discuss personnel matters pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6). Alderman Davis seconded the motion. Upon a call for a vote on the motion by the Mayor, the motion was approved unanimously.

Closed Session

Upon completion of business pertaining to the closed session, Mayor Chandler called for a motion to end the closed session. Alderman Zink made a motion to end the closed session and return the meeting to open session. Alderman Davis seconded the motion. Upon a call for a vote on the motion by the Mayor, the motion to return to open session was approved unanimously.

Return to Open Session

Upon returning to open session, Mayor Chandler made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to implement a classification and pay rate adjustment for administration employee Jessica Honeycutt from current part-time status to full-time employment status and increase pay rate by \$2.00 per hour as she has successfully completed the required introductory period. Further, that Derral Jenkins be promoted to the position of crew leader with the public works department with a pay rate increase of

\$1.50 per hour; and, that Jason Riddle, Gordon Peek, and Tommy Worley with the public works department receive a pay rate increase of \$0.50 per hour for additional responsibilities. Alderman Zink seconded the motion. Upon a call for a vote on the motion by the Mayor, the motion was approved unanimously. The consensus of the Board was to allow the Town Manager to fill the vacant position of crew worker in the public works department.

Adjourn

There being no further business before the Board, Mayor Chandler called for a motion to adjourn. Alderman Zink made a motion to adjourn, Alderman Davis seconded the motion. Upon a call for a vote on the motion by the Mayor, the motion to adjourn was unanimously approved.

Approved and authenticated this the 3rd day of February, 2020.


John L. Chandler, Mayor

ATTEST:



Nathan R. Bennett,
Town Manager





Town of Mars Hill

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AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING

Mars Hill Town Hall Conference Room

January 6, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order – *Mayor John L. Chandler*
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes: December 2, 2019 meeting
4. PRESENTATION – Appalachian Barn Alliance, Sandy Stevenson and Taylor Barnhill
5. Town Manager Report – *Nathan Bennett, Town Manager*
 - a. Weaverville Water System Interconnection – Agreement Renewal
 - b. Budget Amendment – FY 2020-01
 - c. Audit Report – FY 2019
 - d. General Update
6. Old Business
7. New Business
8. Public Comment
9. Closed Session (*Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 – if needed*)
10. Adjourn

Mars Hill Town Hall

280 North Main Street • P.O. Box 368

Mars Hill, North Carolina 28754

Phone: (828) 689-2301 • Fax: (828) 689-3333

APPALACHIAN BARN ALLIANCE -- 2019 year report

The APPALACHIAN BARN ALLIANCE was formed in late 2012 with a mission to preserve our agricultural heritage by documenting the barns and farms through oral histories, photographs and architectural drawings. To do this, we have raised money to contract with a researcher to perform that task. This information goes into an archival database on the organization's website and is shared with the Southern Appalachian Archives at Mars Hill University and the state Cultural Resources Department of Archives and History. We also produce self-guided tour brochures to attract more tourists to the area. The long-term goal is to support the establishment of a heritage farmstead in Madison County displaying all the information collected.

A summary of the accomplishments of the APPALACHIAN BARN ALLIANCE over the last year.

- The ALLIANCE received a prestigious \$2500 grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation
- The ALLIANCE now has archival information on over 100 historically significant barns.
- The ALLIANCE continued steps to establish a Heritage Farmstead in the county
 - We are developing partnerships to establish and sustain this
- The ALLIANCE was recipient of another historic barn and several large farm implements An important step to establishing a Heritage Farmstead.
- The ALLIANCE donated a display of the 200 Years of Barn Evolution for the lobby of the County offices on the bypass to reach residents instead of just attracting tourists to our history.
- The ALLIANCE continued fundraising events
 - The sixth annual Barn Day in May featuring a guided tour of barns, followed by a dinner, auction, and local music. We attracted attendees from beyond Madison County. This is the signature event of Barn Month which also showcased barns at the Madison County Arts Council and Zuma.
 - The fourth annual "A Seat at the Table" at The Farmers Hands featuring a Farm to Table Dinner combined with a tour of the barn on the property.
 - The inaugural Pastoral Palette Art Gala attracted over 300 participants and raised just short of \$13,000
 - Quilt Raffle—concluding at Bluff Mountain Festival
- The ALLIANCE hosted almost 170 people on regular van tours of barns during the year and two special tours for photography groups as well as a bus tour for a group from Haywood County Lifelong Learning class
- The ALLIANCE continued to raise funds through memberships, donations and business supporters

Specific goals for 2020:

- Create a lesson and field trips for all 4th grade students
- Develop resources for barn owners to repair or stabilize their barns and outbuildings
- Expand participants and events in Barn Month in May
- Expand the reach for attendees at the Saints of Paint Gala Art Show & Dinner in June
- Continue a regular advertised schedule of barn tours—one a month from April through October and offer specialized tours for other groups
- Continue raising funds through grant applications, fundraisers, donations, business support, and memberships
- Continue the work to support the establishment of a Heritage Farmstead
- Continue documentation of historically significant barns

www.appalachianbarns.org is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

Board of Directors: Jeannie Blethen, Janet Foster, Mike Foster, Rob Kraft, Laura Ledford, Sara Nichols, David Wyatt and Sandy Stevenson.

Advisory Council: Joy Anders, Chad Ayers, Dedrick Cody, Ryan Cody, Jemima Cook, Bonnie Cooper, Pat Franklin, Sidney Harrison, Jerry Jacover, Ethel Kirkpatrick, Gail Meadows, Maurice McAllister, Paula Shelton McAllister, Susan McChesney, Don McGowan, Karen Paar, Ryan Phillips, Robin Reeves, O'Neal Shelton, Steve Tweed and Ross Young.

Town of Mars Hill
Mars Hill, North Carolina

2019 – 2020 Fiscal Year
BUDGET AMENDMENT
FY 2020-01

GENERAL FUND:

Expenditures:

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| 10-5800-7900 Contingency | (\$2,000.00) |
| 10-5800-4500 Contracted Services | \$2,000.00 |

Sanitation Department – Contingency Funds transferred to Contracted Services that were under-budgeted.

This budget amendment approved by the Mars Hill Mayor and Board of Aldermen meeting in regular session on this the 6th day of January 2020.



Approved: _____

John L. Chandler
John L. Chandler,
Mayor