

Town of Mars Hill
MAYOR & BOARD OF ALDERMEN
Monthly Meeting

March 7, 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, News Record and Sentinel; Katie Mason; Dr. Harley Jolley; Faye Chandler; Connie Kramer; Betty Ammons; Bill Zink; 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 February, 2011 Minutes. A motion was made by Larry Davis, second by Stuart Jolley, to approve the February, 2011 Minutes as written. The motion received unanimous approval.

Under Agenda Modification/Acceptance, Darhyl Boone requested an addition under Old Business for an Energy Efficiency Project Budget Ordinance. A motion was made by Stuart Jolley to accept the Agenda. A second was received by Larry Davis and was unanimously approved.

Darhyl Boone gave an update on the cistern project at the Mars Hill Fire Department. Due to some problems with the soil as well as the weather, this project has been delayed and the cost has been slightly more than originally anticipated. The cisterns are now in place and Eddie Fox, Fire Chief, has reported that they are being used constantly for washing vehicles, testing equipment, etc. He has reported that other departments are contacting him regarding testing of their pumps. Darhyl stated that this will be a tremendous advantage to the Fire Department and will result in the use of this run-off water as opposed to using the Town's treated water.

Mr. Boone gave an update on the Library Energy Grant to place solar panels on the roof of the new Library. The total project cost is approximately \$91,000 with \$76,000 in grant funds and the balance from local funds. The heating of water will be modified so that solar energy will be utilized for this purpose. Further meetings have resulted in permission for the Town to do as much of the work as possible freeing up funds so that additional panels can be added. After meeting with French Broad Electric, Darhyl reported that there will possibly be enough energy generated by the solar panels to operate the Library.

Mr. Boone reported that application has been made for the change order in the Weaverville Interconnection Project that will tie in the water line on Roy Edwards Lane to the 213 line. This has previously been a dead-end line and will greatly enhance the water pressure in this general area. USDA approval is pending following approval for DOT right of way and State approval. Darhyl stated that according to information received to date is favorable for this change.

Information was provided for the Department of Transportation "Litter Sweep" scheduled for April 16 – 30, 2011. This information is available in the Town Hall for any interested volunteer participation.

The Mayor's Cup Race has been scheduled for June 5. Steve Garrison, County Manager, is trying to get a team together from Madison County. Anyone interested should contact Mr. Garrison.

Darhyl Boone shared that there will be a Local Food Night at Pitman Dining Hall at Mars Hill College on March 24, 2011 from 4:30 until 7:00 p.m. All food served during this time will be locally produced.

The next item of business was an Amendment to the 2010-2011 Budget. The Fire Department cistern project cost was \$23,931. The Soil and Water conservation funded \$9,959 with \$13,972 from reserve funds. In addition, under Contingency Fund/Library, \$6,110 has been paid to Friends of the Library. In closing the Library Project in the previous fiscal year, the Town had paid for furnishings and was reimbursed by Friends of the Library. Due to some furnishings being returned, the Town had to reimburse Friends for the amount credited and this return of funds took place in the current fiscal year. A motion was made by Stuart Jolley, second from Nick Honeycutt, to approve the Budget Amendment as presented by management. The motion received unanimous approval.

Under Old Business, The Budget Ordinance Energy Efficiency for Municipal Buildings was presented by the Town Manager. Manager explained that this project would be for retrofitting of public buildings with more energy efficient lighting for buildings, energy efficient HVAC for the Water Plant and the Fire Department and two dock doors for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The project is ready to begin with bids already accepted on the HVAC at the Water Plant. A motion was made by Stuart Jolley, second by Bob Zink, to approve this Budget Ordinance. The motion received unanimous approval.

Being no New Business, the next item was Public Comment. Katie Mason asked about the publicity that has been in the local paper with regards to the Amendment to the Water Policy. According to the paper, a delinquent amount on rental property can be passed on to the next renter. She asked who is responsible. Darhyl Boone explained that the paper had misrepresented the policy which states that if a delinquent amount is owing on rental property, another account cannot be opened for another renter but must be placed in the property owner's name. The property owner is responsible for any delinquent amounts.

Following Public Comment, a motion was made by Bob Zink to go into Closed Session for discussion of a legal matter. The motion received a second from Stuart Jolley and was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Bob Zink, second from Mayor Chandler, to go back into Open Session. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Stuart Jolley, second by Larry Davis, to adjourn the meeting. Motion was unanimously accepted.
