

**TOWN OF HARTLY**  
**P.O. Box 181**  
**HARTLY, DE 19953**

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**MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015  
7:00 P.M.

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Council Members Present:

Christine Oldham	Raymond K. Morris	Mark Maguire
Victoria Norris	Suzanne Morris	

Other Attending:

Jeff Spiegelman, Representative	Dave Lawson, Senator	David Kuznicki
Pete Morris	Rose Ann Ballek	Francis Ballek Sr.
Sally Wojcieszny	Tara Wilbur	Linda Lewis
Robert Weissenfluh	Donna Dixon	Nancy P Hoffstein
Deanna L Jackson	Pat Lawson	Jay Poore
Judy S	Dawn Sbriglia	Cathy Samardza
Tammy Evans	Velvet Bowen	Kevin Colder
Cathy Thompson-Moore	Bonnie Gladen	Tom Gladen
Verna Sellers	David Brown	Becky Kohout

- I. Call to Order & Roll Call  
Christine Oldham called the meeting to order at 7:05PM  
All Town Council members were present.
- II. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance  
Prayer delivered by Rose Ballek.  
Christine led in the Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Approval of Previous Minutes/Approval of Tonight's Agenda  
Mark motioned & Suzanne 2<sup>nd</sup> approval of August Meeting Minutes. Motioned carried  
Suzanne motioned, Ray 2<sup>nd</sup> approval of tonight's agenda. Motioned carried

#### IV. WELCOME GUEST:

##### a. David Kuznicki, Ohio based filmmaker.

Christine welcomed and thanked David for coming to Hartly and wanting to help us here in our little town.

#### V. Reports

##### a. Bills (Electric & Other)

- Christine reported on the electric bill. Oct 5<sup>th</sup> \$27,068.97. We have paid the last two months bills, total of \$658.09. Maryann Murphy at Delmarva has been researching the issues. Hartly has 29 lights and Maryann is researching whether Hartly had requested all 29 lights or if the state had requested some. Maryann is still doing research. Christine had asked for contracts and any documents from the past.
- Audience was asked to comment:
  - Average monthly bill is approx. \$340.00
  - We have asked Delmarva to research if Hartly is responsible for electric bill since the state maintains all the streets in Hartly and the electric bill is strictly for street lights.
  - When Christine asked Delmarva why the lights had not been turned off previously, they did not have a reasonable response.
  - The Electric bill is strictly for the street lights.
  - Several notices were received regarding shutting the lights off but they have not, to-date, been disconnected. And, then they charged late fees, and now they say they can't refund any late fees.
  - Senator Lawson asked that Hartly stay in touch regarding this matter.
  - There was question regarding LED replacements
  - After phone calls Delmarva has not produced any previous records.
  - Because this is a delinquent account, the history of the account must be maintained.
  - Suggestion is to move up the ladder to the next person in charge and see if we can get resolution.

##### Other bills:

- Insurance bill of \$475.00 for 3 years was paid. Insurance covers the funds in the Towns checking account and also covers all council members for fraudulent activity. It was suggested that the council obtain liability insurance in next year's budget.

##### b. Taxes

- Taxes were mailed in August. Total \$2,142.00 is the annual income from taxes. \$1,517.80 received to date (includes previous year donations too). \$1,197.00 still due, due date is Oct 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Late notices will go out after the 31<sup>st</sup>.

c. Budget/Finance/Fund Raising

- You do not need to live in town limits to be on town committees.
- Discussed the Town's drafted budget.
- Budget will be posted to the website.
- Need volunteers now. Please step up if you are interested in helping write grants, be part of Finance or Fund Raising. We are looking for people to take charge of putting fund raiser together

d. Building Permits

- Mark reported no building permits issued.

e. Correspondence

f. Delaware League of Local Government: several email's received

- Tax inquires
- Received email with contact information regarding restitution from Rich Casson.
- Received email regarding our website is now live

VI. Unfinished Business

a. Comprehensive Plan

- Met with Office of State Planning, suggested that Hartly work with Kent County and with MPO to get some final updates prior to turning in for a PLUS review.
- Will try to get submitted into PLUS review by Nov 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Need a final meeting with the Comp Plan committee.

b. Municipal Street Aide

- Documentation was turned into DelDOT representative and it still needs to be reviewed and completed by Treasury.
- Additional research uncovered that 2009's MSA funds were received, thus reducing the amount we can receive in back funds.
- Eligible for 2011 – 2015 MSA, totaling \$2,611.31. We should finalize in the next 30 days.

c. Ordinances Review

- Would like to adopt ordinances similar to Magnolia.
- Ordinance must be presented at a meeting, re-present at a second meeting, post for 30 days, and then it can go into effect.
- Believe the Comp Plan must be completed but can do Ordinances and Comp Plan in tandem.
- Without an Enforcement officer we will likely have to rely on Kent County assistance. Many municipalities have a MOU with Kent County to enforce ordinances.

d. Town Website

- Website is Live

e. Other unfinished business as may necessary for discussion and/or action

- Letter submitted to DeIDOT in regards to our interest with TAP funds. It will be a long process, starting with preliminary tasks in October. A 3 – 5 year project.
  - We now have a contact with the Courts in reference to Rich Casson restitution payments. Uncashed payments will be reissued.
  - We do not have a contact with the Court in reference to additional actions regarding. There was a probation hearing on Sept 29<sup>th</sup> but the town was not informed of the hearing.
  - Per Senator Lawson, Judge Withal is aware of the situation and is looking over the case. Senator Lawson will make sure we are aware of any action or resolution.
- Treasury Report: Beginning balance \$3,508.53, 1 deposit \$609.00, w/d \$1,233.09, balance \$2,884.44.
- Is there a no fee checking account. We will look into other banks to see if there are other option at no cost.

VII. New Business

a. David Kuznicki – Documentary on Hartly and other Small Towns of America

- 60 minute documentary about what happens in Hartly from reforming a government to 365 days later. Hope that PBS will like the content and bring some national recognition to Hartly. There is a facebook page “Hope for Hartly”. David does all the work at his own expense. He does have a “Go Fund” me account. David has done several news articles over that past week. David saw an article about Hartly last year and it appealed to him. David was here in April, and this past week, will be back here in Jan timeframe. And would likely be back in April of next year for the next election. Once the documentary is completed David will make sure we have a link to the completed film. David will

send links to his other documentary's so we can post links to them on the towns website.

1. Motion made by Mark for Secretary to draft a letter to the Hartly Volunteer Fire Company requesting any previous cell tower funds unpaid be paid to the town. Suzanne seconded. Either 4 or 5 years unpaid. Motion carried
2. Motion made by Mark that the budget described today be used as a guideline, with a formal budget be presented/read at the next meeting. Ray seconded. Motion carried.

#### VIII. Public Comment / Council Member Comment

- Tax increase would be based on what the current charter indicates, the comp plan does not need to be completed to do so.
- Any tax increase would be based on a projected annual expenses, not based on the current electric bill.
- Annexation: intention is to annex whole properties, have a re-assessment completed, and tax income would increase based on new figures.
- Discussion regarding monies coming from State Police patrol. There is a law against making money on police patrol. They were not here to make money, they were here to make the town safe and slow down speeding.
- Question was asked about using other town's police. It is something we want in the future but we are not in a place to do so at this point in time.
- Council is moving as fast as the information is forthcoming, prefer to take cautious steps and slowly move forward; keeping in mind the towns' people and their economic situations.
- There was an unofficial meeting held but several folks were unable to attend, there will be another meeting scheduled
- Deanna would like to start a committee for a Holiday event. Deanna asked for volunteers to help her.
- Mark thanked Tammy for putting the draft Budget together for the town.

#### IX. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn by Ray, Mark seconded, motion carried.

#### Post activities:

1. Drawing for Basket – raised \$545 – winner - Shawn Haley winner
2. David is working on another raffle for a side of beef.
3. Review of Website – obtained verbal agreement from Nancy Powell and a facebook text from Alice McFarland's daughter allowing us to post the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary booklet on the Town of Hartly website.