

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

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, December 28th, 2015

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

Meeting was called to order by Christine Oldham at 7:10 P.M.

Council Present:

Christine Oldham	Victoria Norris
Suzanne Morris	Mark Maguire

Council Absent:

Ray Morris was traveling out of state.

Public Attendees:

Cathy Samardza
Deanna Jackson

II. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

Suzanne Morris provided Invocation
Christine Oldham led in Pledge of allegiance

III. Approval of Previous Minutes/Approval of Tonight's Agenda

Mark Maguire motioned, Victoria Norris 2nd, approval of November Meeting Minutes. Motioned carried.

Mark Maguire motioned, Suzanne Morris 2nd, approval of tonight's agenda. Motioned carried.

IV. Jan 1, 2016 – Dec 31, 2016 Fiscal Budget

Posted in Dover Post the week of 16th and the 23rd Cathy Samardza confirmed there was an article in 23rd paper regarding Hartly's budget. Confirmed budget was published for 2 consecutive weeks. One amendment made to budget, Community Transportation Fund \$81,800.00 was added to the FY 2016 budget because income/expenses of those funds did not take place in 2015 as expected and therefore are identified as 2016 budget.

Mark motioned that all motions, moving forward, will be a Roll call vote, Victoria seconded. Roll call vote:

Mark Maguire – Yes

Victoria Norris - Yes

Suzanne Morris - Yes

Christine Oldham - Yes

Ray – Absent

Motion carried.

Vote on Fiscal Budget will follow Public Comment / Council Member Comment agenda item.

V. Public Comment / Council Member Comment

The property taxes in the budget, are they representative of Property taxes collected or if all were paid and no delinquency? – It represents if all are paid and at the current rates already established.

Is MSA a set dollar amount each year? -MSA is based on the Delaware State Budget – Legislature identifies & then the money passes through DeIDOT for distribution. Secretary Cohen, DeIDOT, indicated at the last DLLG meeting that the same amount for each year will most likely be appropriated in 2016/17 State Budget, currently \$537.74. Suzanne mentioned she would like to question why we do not receive money for the road mileage in town limits. We currently only obtain funds based on town population.

Is there specific items that we can spend this MSA money on? - Yes, however the electric is one of the approved expenditures.

Are you looking for a new bank to save bank fees? - We did look at WSFS but that will be discussed at a later meeting. Cathy Samardza indicated that Citizens bank may also not charge fees and to check with them too.

Question regarding the imbalance of the budget. It is odd to have a budget identified with a negative result. – The budget represents our best indication of expenses and income for 2016. The core reason for the negative balance is due to the electric bill and no taxes collect for the past 5 years. We did not have any budget guidance from the past 5 years. Through research on-line and review of other town's budgets we provided our best recommendation. The budget can be amended throughout the year as differences may occur. The Town's charter does not declare a budget must be in balance. Many of us are taking money out of our own pockets or doing work ourselves, for example copies, printing, ink, spraying sidewalks, to alleviate expenses.

Have you reached an agreement with the electric? – No, the \$4,500.00 is the estimate of one year's electric.

What is a Town Solicitor for? - A lawyer. There are initiatives that need to be taken to instill town ordinances and update the Town Charter that will require a Town Solicitor's review and representation. There was mention from previous town meetings that folks would offer to pay for or donate legal work, however we do not have particulars surrounding those conversations (they were prior to current council's existence). Additionally, the town wants to make sure that we don't cause a conflict of interest when using a lawyer of a local resident or free services. If the appropriate case presents itself and lawyer costs are less than projected we can amend the budget at that time. You can make an amendment to your budget at any time. An example, if we obtained CTF funding in July for something, we would need to amend the budget to show that income & expense.

How will you keep track of the budget? – We will keep track of the budget on a monthly basis. There will be a budget committee that will help identify the best manner to report, the Treasurer is responsible, however a committee (Sally W. and Tammy E.) have offered to assist. Cathy Samardza offered to see if the accountant at her office could help Victoria with creating a monthly report by use of excel.

In regards to copies, Cathy mentioned they have a fund in their budget that helps with making copies. May be able to help cover cost of printing. Cathy will verify with the office and let us know.

Question on Insurance cost? - Cost is an estimate, it could be lower. There are a variety of riders that we may need or not. Based on the final coverage needed, that will direct the actual cost.

Suzanne made motion to approve 2016 budget as presented/posted, Mark 2nd. Roll call vote:

Mark Maguire – Yes

Victoria Norris - Yes

Suzanne Morris - Yes

Christine Oldham - Yes

Ray – Absent

Motion carried.

Other Public Discussion:

Christmas Event – Were you pleased with the events outcome? - Yes, it was fantastic. We were impressed and excited that there were so many people present. The children loved the play, Thanks to Cathy – Itinerant Dance Theater - for a wonderful performance! The total funds raised was approx. \$1,800.00. Thank you Deanna Jackson for all the efforts put forth to make this such a success! Per Deanna, there were many compliments regarding the event and only one complaint in regards to selling tickets on the toys and not announcing it. The individual didn't think it was fair to only give one ticket per child yet allow the sale of additional ones. It caused a monopoly on who had the better chance to win the toy. All in all, there was a lot of good feedback and people were happy. Cathy mentioned the one male dancer in The Itinerant Dance Theater was his first time performing with the amount of children present. He said he had a blast performing for the children and they were very interacting with the skit.

The Itinerant Dance Theater has agreed to perform at the 2016 event. (It will be a different show).

Deanna will Chair the Holiday Event next year (2016) as long as there is a co-chair appointed that will take over in 2017.

Many suggestions:

Look for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts troops to participate next year. (Check on line for local troops) And the arts group has a list of local artists & non-profit groups too.

Need an agenda for the event.

Do away with silent auction & move to more adult entertainment in the hall. Maybe have baskets donated and do raffles instead of silent auctions.

Town Tree and lights – It is like a symbol to people driving through Hartly. There were many inquiries as to why the lights were half on or not on at all at times throughout the holiday season. We must address these issues that occurred during this season and assure they are not encountered in the future. It was mentioned that the tree could be used for different holidays and events. Cathy suggested that we could have a sponsor for the tree; where a business or group sponsors the decorations and electric cost.

Creating committees – It has been difficult to get folks to commit to chairing events. We should talk to the new Hartly/Marydel Ruritan to see if they will pair up on chairing some of the events.

Hartly Documentary – Proposed to be the next event. Possibly do a dinner and show. Suzanne will contact David to determine the timing of this event. Discussed variety of options regarding the event. Check with Dave Brown about his interaction with the Historical Society meeting regarding interest in this event – documentary. Talked about who to invite - Governor, Senate, Representatives, DLLG Directory, Mayors, anyone who has helped and or has a special interest in the event. Possibly a two day event. One dinner & show at a cost and the next day a community/family showing for free. Maybe have a “keepsake” item for attendees.

Farther discussion on possible events for Town of Hartly. 4th July Event – parade – floats – etc.
Josh Thompson – does acoustic music
Someone in Hartly does a great African Drums performance.
Cathy will make a list of artist that we could solicit to perform at a parade type event once we determine a date and theme for the event.

VI. Adjournment

Mark Maguire made motion to adjourn, Suzanne Morris 2nd. Roll call vote:

Mark Maguire – Yes

Victoria Norris - Yes

Suzanne Morris - Yes

Christine Oldham - Yes

Ray – Absent

Motion carried.

Attached: Town of Hartly Approved 2016 Budget

Town of Hartly 2016 Budget:

2016 Revenue:		2016 Expenses:	
Property Taxes	\$2,142.00	Bank Fees	\$325.00
Cell Tower Contract	\$1,000.00	Electric	\$4,500.00
Municipal Street Aid (MSA)	\$540.00	Phone	\$540.00
Other Income (Fundraisers/ permit & ordinance fees/transfer fees)	\$4,000.00	Dues/Subscriptions/Education	\$760.00
		Postage	\$350.00
		Office Supplies/Copies	\$500.00
Community Transportation Fund (CTF)	\$81,920.00	Community Events	\$500.00
		Insurance/Bonding	\$1,775.00
		Town Solicitor	\$2,500.00
		Maintenance & Supplies	\$500.00
		Gingerich Masonry Const. (CTF)	\$81,920.00
TOTAL	\$89,602.00	TOTAL	\$94,170.00
		Deficit	\$-4,568.00

Current Assets:		Current Debt:	
General Checking Account	\$10,624.94	Delmarva Power	\$27,068.97
Municipal Street Aid Account	\$72.00		
TOTAL	\$10,696.94	TOTAL	\$27,068.97
		Deficit	\$-16,372.03

TOTAL 2016 DEFICIT: \$-20,940.03