

The regular meeting of the Beverly Town Council was held Monday, June 8, 2020, at 6:30 pm at the Beverly Fire Hall. Members and visitors stood for the Pledge of Allegiance and were led in prayer by Pastor Gary Phillips. Mayor Andy Burns called the meeting to order in the presence of Recorder Barbara Smith, members Debbie Stalnaker, Robbie Moyer, Matt Lewis and Katie Whittaker. Becky Weese was absent. Clerks Robin Wilson and Mellanie Dilley were present as well as all members from both utility boards. Several town residents were present for the public hearing regarding the ordinance for a water rate increase for the town. Mary Hudson from Rural Water was present to answer questions regarding the ordinance.

With all members having received copies of the minutes, Mr. Moyer made a motion to forego the oral reading of the May 11, 2020, minutes and to accept the minutes as submitted. Motion seconded by Mrs. Stalnaker, with all in favor.

Mayor Burns introduced Rural Water representative, Mary Hudson. Mayor Burns asked Ms. Hudson to give some information regarding the water rate increase. She said Beverly had not had a water rate increase since 2010 and West Virginia has imposed some regulations on systems having a capital improvement plan. The plan was supposed to be funded over three years and it hasn't been. It wasn't anyone's fault, usually when a system does an upgrade; it is included in the funding. For bond requirements, 2½ % was required for R&R (repair and replacement). She compared rates of Huttonsville and Elkins to the rates Beverly has now and even with the increase, Beverly will still be the lowest. With the increase, the town will be around number 175 out of 366 towns with one of the lowest rates. She explained that we were fortunate to have two young operators with Class 3 license; there are around 2500 operators in the state with many retiring.

She said in February of this year, the state passed a State Code that states if your system is not sustainable that the County Commission can step in and make you consolidate with one of the joining water systems. (Huttonsville minimum rate now is \$45.00). Sometimes someone else will come in and run your system (a company that buys up small water systems). This increase will put rates at 115%; Ms. Hudson said at this point we will be credit worthy with the State. If something would happen and the town required a 2 or 3 million dollar upgrade on the system, the 115% will qualify the town to acquire a loan. She pointed out that if towns would do a 2 or 3% increase every year or two, they would be better off than to have to do a large increase at once.

The Mayor pointed out that electric has doubled, internet services have tripled, repairs and maintenance has raised, chemicals continue to increase, equipment has aged and needs replaced.

Several residents had questions for Ms. Hudson and the council. Many of the questions were answered earlier by Ms. Hudson. The Mayor and Ms. Hudson tried to answer all questions

regarding the increase. Some residents were satisfied with explanations and understood the need for the increase. Others still asked for less of an increase, while some were afraid what would happen in the future if the increase did not take place. See attachment #1, dated 6/8/2020, of persons commenting during the public hearing.

OLD BUSINESS

2ND AND FINAL READING OF WATER RATE INCREASE ORDINANCE

A motion was made by Mr. Moyer to accept the 2nd and Final Reading of Water Rate Increase Ordinance of the Common Council of the Town of Beverly, WV, increasing rates related to providing municipal water services to all general domestic, commercial, industrial, and sale for re-sale water service to those served within and those served without the corporate limits of the municipality (see attachment #2, dated 6/8/2020). Motion seconded by Matt Lewis. All in favor.

2ND AND FINAL READING OF FLOODPLAIN ORDINANCE

A motion was made by Mrs. Stalnaker to accept an ordinance establishing a Floodplain Ordinance 2020 with the following correction: The word Beverly got deleted on page 28 item b. It should read "Fill shall be used only to the extent to which it does not adversely affect the capacity of Town of Beverly channels or floodways of any tributary to the mainstream, drainage ditch, or any other drainage facility or system." Motion seconded by Mrs. Whittaker with all in favor.

OPEN BIDS FOR TOWN SWEEPER

Two bids were opened for the Town Sweeper. Recorder Smith read the bids, 1st bid – Jim Harmon \$750.00 and the 2nd bid – Howard Harper \$1500.00. A motion was made by Mrs. Whittaker to sale the Town Sweeper to Howard Harper for \$1500.00. Motion seconded by Mrs. Stalnaker, all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

BUSINESS LICENSES APPROVALS – FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

A motion was made by Mr. Lewis to accept the business licenses applied for 2020-2021. Motion seconded by Mr. Moyer, all in favor.

ON TRAC – FUNDS FOR PLANTINGS FOR TOWN / BEVERLY HERITAGE CENTER

Motion was made by Mrs. Whittaker to give \$400 for flowers and plants to the Beverly Heritage Center. Motion seconded by Mrs. Stalnaker with all in favor.

REAPPOINTMENT OF WATER BOARD MEMBERS WEESE AND SIMMONS

A motion was made by Mr. Lewis to reappoint Kenny Weese and Dave Simmons each for a three year term to the Water Board. Motion seconded by Mr. Moyer with all in favor.

INVOICES:

A motion was made by Mr. Moyer to pay the June invoices in the amount of \$5882.45. Motion seconded by Mrs. Stalnaker with all in favor.

UPDATES

The Judge issued order in favor of the town in the Reed case. Town will wait 20 days for his right to appeal, then action will be taken.

The safety door and window have been installed in the town office.

Motion made to adjourn by Mr. Lewis, seconded by Mr. Moyer. Meeting adjourned 8:27 pm.



MAYOR: ANDY BURNS



RECORDER: BARBARA SMITH