

The regular meeting of the Beverly Town Council was held Monday, September 13, 2021, at 6:30 pm in council chambers of Beverly Town Hall. Mayor Burns called the meeting to order in the presence of recorder Connie Pingley, members Debbie Stalnaker, Matt Lewis, and Katie Whittaker. Visitors present: Town Clerk Robin Wilson, Mark Scott, and Chris Mielke. Mayor Burns led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer.

With all members having received copies of the minutes, Katie Whittaker made a motion to forego the oral reading of the September 13, 2021 minutes and to accept the minutes as submitted. Motion seconded by Mrs. Stalnaker. All in favor.

Mark Scott County Commissioner stated that the hotel motel tax of \$40,000 to the Beverly CVB and the Depo CVB to help with advertising. Chris Mielke of the Beverly Heritage said the opening date for the Beverly Library is December 4, 2021. The town recorder asked what was used to clean the old jail and Mr. Mielke said it was Lime wash. The annual walking night tours will be held twice October 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> along with October 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM, weather permitting.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **SUDDENLINK FRANCHISE RENEWAL**

The council joined a zoom meeting with John McGee & Robert Rodecker from Kay Casto & Chaney PLLC, discussing the Suddenlink franchise renewal ordinance. This ordinance concerns cable tv, internet, and telephone. Mr. Rodecker advised us not to enter a 10-year contract. Mark Scott said there must be something in this 10-year contract to benefit the customer and have customer service employees who speak fluent English. The council discussed what could be done to stop Suddenlink from raising rates. The PSC states that we cannot keep them from raising rates, that is a federal code. The Franchise Ordinance only covers cable service not internet or telephone service.

The members on the zoom call stressed again, "do not enter into a contract until PSC makes a decision." Suddenlink does not follow any rules. Erin Jones, from Suddenlink will be notified on the franchise agreement.

The town of Beverly is paid once a year, supposedly getting 5% payment on profit of Beverly residents with cable. The town does not get a statement showing what the total income of the 5% that the town is receiving from Suddenlink. Mark Scott said a rough estimate of how much is collected a year is 28,800 a year to Suddenlink. We have never received 5% of this figure or a figure close to this in all the years we have done business with them.

#### **BUSINESS LICENSES**

Motion was made by Mrs. Stalnaker to approve business licenses presented. Second by Matt Lewis. All in favor.

#### **ZONING BOARD**

Council members are to ask a few town residents about serving on the zoning board and come to the next meeting with names of those who are interested in serving on the board. They discussed those residents who have been residents for 10 or more years.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **RANDOLPH CO. FAIR DONATION**

Motion made by Matt Lewis to let the Randolph County Fair keep the donation made in August. Mrs. Stalnaker second the motion. All in favor.

##### **DEBIT CARD**

Discussion about a debit card to be provided for purchases out of the ordinary that can't be made locally or with normal charge accounts we use. It would be used by all departments and all purchases would need prior

approval by the mayor. Motion made by Mrs. Stalnaker to provide the debit card, and second by Mr. Lewis. All in favor.

#### PAYMENT WINDOW

Discussion on a payment window at the door in the office for the Police Clerk. Mrs. Whittaker made a motion for this window to be installed and Mrs. Stalnaker second. All in favor.

#### BACKHOE TIRES

The employees made a request to purchase tires for the backhoe. Debbie Stalnaker made the motion to pay 1/3 on the purchase of these tires and Matt Lewis second. All in favor.

#### STATE AUDITOR TRAINING

It was presented to the town that Robin Wilson should attend the State Auditor Training on October 5, 2021 in Bridgeport. Debbie Stalnaker made the motion for the town to provide funds for this training. Katie Whittaker seconded. All in favor.

#### TRICK OR TREAT HOURS

Discussion on Trick or Treat night and the hours. We have always had our Trick or Treat the same night as Elkins. A motion was made by Mr. Lewis to continue this. Second by Katie Whittaker. All in favor.

#### **FINANCIALS AND INVOICES:**

A motion was made by Debbie Stalnaker to pay the invoices for September 2021. Seconded by Matt Lewis. All in favor.

## UPDATES & INFORMATION

Town residents are calling the mayor with complaints that need directed to the new full-time officer. They need to call the office and speak with the new police clerk and call 911 for any major emergencies.


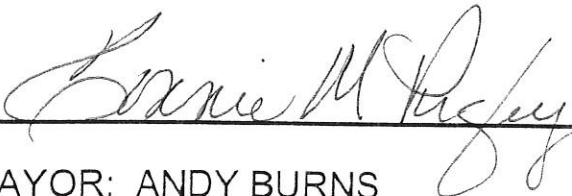
Water & Sewer Boar Meeting Minutes

Plant Operators Reports

Beverly Heritage Center Reports July & Aug 2021

## ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Debra Stalnaker, seconded by Mrs. Whittaker. Meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm. All in favor.



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MAYOR: ANDY BURNS      RECORDER: CONNIE PINGLEY