**DARLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL & UTILITY BOARD**

**MINUTES**

**August 8, 2017 *(Pending)***

President Justin Sparrow called the meeting to order with all council members present.

Marilyn Cohee made a motion to approve the regular Council meeting minutes of July 11,2017 Kimberley Carpenter seconded. Mrs. Cohee then moved to approve the minutes of June 16, 2017 Theresa Sutherlin seconded. All motions were unanimously approved.

Mrs. Cohee then made a motion to approve the claim docket, Mrs. Carpenter seconded the vote was unanimous.

President Sparrow asked if everyone was okay if we began the meeting with the visitors present and then get to the utility reports after, all members approved.

Jeremy Weliever was recognized with a request to prolong the noise ordinance for a concert being held outside at the American Legion Post 302 August 19th from 8:00-11:00 p.m. Mrs. Carpenter made a motion to grant the legion an extra hour for this event Mrs. Cohee seconded and all approved unanimously.

President Sparrow recognized Trisha Teague (owner of the General Store) who came with a request to use the lot across the street of 205 W. Main St. to be used as a possible parking lot for her customers. Clerk Treasurer Judy Anderson suggested that the town designate that lot as a parking lot with hours of availability being posted and could be used for all local businesses. Mrs. Anderson also brought up that the lot and other parking would not be available during the Fish Fry & Festival for The General Store due to vendors that will be coming in for that event. Mrs. Teague also asked about putting a dumpster on that lot since she is unable to have a dumpster at her location due to the power lines behind the building. Mrs. Sutherlin suggested allowing the dumpster to be set at the back (north) of the lot on a trial basis of three (3) months to see how it goes for Trish and the town. After some discussion Mrs. Sutherlin made a motion for the lot at 208 & 210 West Main Street to be used as a downtown parking lot and on a three (3) month trial basis, allow a locked dumpster to be put at the back of the lot for The General Store use only. Mrs. Cohee seconded it and all approved.

President Sparrow recognized the Fire Dept. representative David Paddack who was asked if he had anything to announce, he did not but said that he was here in case the board had anything for the department. The board did not have anything at this time.

President Sparrow then recognized Kenny Cain, Patsy Hodges, Adam Priddy and Tammy Yount to discuss the flooding issues they have had in the case of several inches of rain in a short period of time. Mr. Cain brought up that there needs to be a solution to how and where the water flows through town. Mrs. Hodges beauty shop (The Hair Mill) has been flooded numerous times over the years. Mrs. Carpenter brought up that she has had meetings with the Montgomery County Drainage Board and were unable to find a solution or one was not presented to them at that time. Mrs. Hodges brought up how they can’t buy flood insurance because they are not in a flood zone and they seem to have no recourse for this issue. After much discussion Mrs. Carpenter said the Drainage Board knows about this issue from the past but she would be willing to meet with them again to try to find a solution to this problem, Mr. Cain and Mrs. Hodges will go as well. The Town Council would also like to find a solution to this problem.

Dan Bever was then recognized and spoke about the flooding in front of his buildings at 234, 300, 302 and 304 West Main Street. This is partially due to the street being higher than the sidewalk and curbs. Brian Mullen is speaking to Milestone about grinding the street down and possibly replacing the curb and or sidewalk.

President Sparrow then recognized Sandra Salazar who came to report that she has a family of raccoons that keep coming into her yard and are living in the storm drain on the corner across from her home and at her neighbor’s (Robert King). She also had a complaint about the overgrown weeds in Mr. King’s yard and his car that is up on blocks by the street. Mr. Sparrow said he would send him an ordinance notice to move the car to cut his lawn and weeds.

Troy McKinney, wastewater operator did not have anything to report.

Clerk Treasurer Judy Anderson presented billing clerk Carolyn Hatley’s report since she had to leave early. President Sparrow asked if there was anything to be on the bill for next week and Kim Carpenter brought up the Fish Fry & Festival September 8th & 9th downtown and Marilyn Cohee mentioned to watch for school buses.

Utility Superintendent Greg Gayler reported they replaced poles #383 by the covered bridge, #2731 on S. Meridian Street, #350 on N. Mill Street and have been trimming trees. CONICE, LLC on SR 32 had some bad poles we are changing out and have installed 4 new security lights. We are working with Tipmont REMC to get substation project finished soon. Justin Riggens (JTR-auto mechanic) bought property on SR 32 which has some poles and electrical lines that will need re-routed. We are waiting on some transformer prices for The Dollar General Store project, they will be closing on the property soon. Brian Mullen has officially finished his schooling for lineman! Congratulations Brian!! Phil Good of CEL&P, IMPA and I (Mr. Gayler) has talked about setting up an Inter connection between CEL&P and Darlington Utilities to feed SR 32. It will be expensive but since Banjo has had several outages due to Duke Energy lines going down and not being able to keep up with needed voltage we need to do something. Banjo has already stated an interest in helping paying for this project and we will also be talking with Pilot about helping out with the costs of this also. Mr. Gayler asked if the Council was okay with him proceeding, the Council unanimously agreed.

Welcome back Park Superintendent Dick Ames! He reported that we need to replace one of the swing sets at the Park because it is unsafe. Mr. Ames said that we could get a set for about $2800.00 but would still need to get concrete for setting that swing set. Clerk Treasurer Judy Anderson stated that we don’t have the funds in the park budget but we could use money from the Riverboat Fund or the Rainy Day Fund. Kim Carpenter made a motion to use the funds from the River Boat for buying the swing set/concrete and Mrs. Sutherlin seconded and the vote was unanimous. Mr. Ames also brought up that we need to have a more solid estimate for the renovations to the covered bridge; as of right now we have around $250,000 in donations and are in need of $150k-200k more to pay for the abutments, concrete and miscellaneous items that will come up. Mr. Ames asked about the town getting a bond ahead of time and then pay it as funds are donated, Mrs. Anderson stated that a bond like that is not possible. Mrs. Carpenter brought up about getting a ‘Go Fund Me’ account; Mr. Sparrow said a percentage of those funds goes to Facebook so we will be looking into that.

Lineman Brian Mullen reported that he talked to Jason Douglas Excavating about the drainage at the park (making a waterway) the cost will be $2500 which includes seed, straw and rock. Mr. Mullen told him to go ahead with it since he hadn’t received any other estimates that were requested. Mrs. Carpenter said that a resident came to her and said that there used to be a sign on Academy Place saying ‘Slow, children playing’ and for whatever reason it is no longer there and she would like to see it back up there. Mr. Mullen will look into it. He then reported we will get the mower that was approved last month in the next few days. Ms. Anderson brought up about paving streets, the N. Madison Street cost will be around $33k which we have in the MVH budget. We have more funds for street paving but should wait to designate what streets until we know the cost of grinding down a portion of Main Street. Mrs. Carpenter motioned to go ahead and begin this work on N. Madison Mrs. Cohee seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Marshal David Long nor any other representative for the police department was present at this meeting to report.

Mrs. Anderson reported we have received $10,050 in park restricted donations for the covered bridge, $9,250 of that was money from the state and the rest was mostly from In Memory of Tom Thompson donations. There is $1850 from the state every year for our covered bridge that Montgomery County receives all we have to do is submit a claim for it, which she did this year. In October there will be a decrease in our tracking factor rates from $0.038420 per Kwh to $0.033113 per Kwh. Mrs. Carpenter made a motion to honor this decrease and Mrs. Cohee seconded the vote was unanimous.

Michelle Cash was recognized and reported that the County Council met today to discuss the changes to the Local Income Tax (LIT) allocations. The next meeting about this will be Monday August 21st at 9:00am. You can call the county auditor’s office to see how the different allocations will really affect your property taxes. You may also go online and enter your property address or location to find that same information.

Mrs. Anderson stated she and Mrs. Cash has the 2018 budget ready to submit to Department of Local Government and Finance. Our 2018 budget public hearing will be September 12th at the regular meeting and then it will be adopted at the regular October 10th meeting.

Marilyn Cohee said that the A/C was leaking in the Community Center gym, she had Dan Maxwell of DFI have Al Stelk check it. It was not a leak but condensation dripping from the unit. He recommended that we keep it set at 78 degrees so the unit did not have to work so hard at keeping the temperature. Mr. Stelk also said that we should keep the doors to the outside closed at all times, even if we are hauling stuff in and out which will also cause the unit to over work itself. Mr. Stelk informed Mr. Maxwell that he would not be servicing the HVAC systems at the Community Center including doing filter changes due to health reasons. Mrs. Carpenter suggested getting with Ron Hatley of Comfort Mechanical to service them.

Mr. Sparrow asked if anyone had anything else and there was not.

Meeting Adjourned.

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Justin Sparrow, Council President Ron Hatley, Council Member

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Kimberley Carpenter, Council Member Teresa Sutherlin, Council Member

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Marilyn Cohee, Council Member

Attest:

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Judy D Anderson, Clerk-Treasurer