**DARLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL & UTILITY BOARD**

**MINUTES**

**JULY 11, 2017**

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

President Sparrow then stated the electricity went out about 12:15-12:20 pm; so this meeting is without electricity, Duke Energy is telling us it should be back on around 7 or 8; Greg Gayler will address this during the meeting

Teresa Sutherlin made a motioned to approve the regular Council meeting minutes of June 8,2017 and also the Special Session meeting minutes of June 16, 2017; Kimberley Carpenter seconded. The motion to approve was unanimous.

Mrs. Sutherlin then made a motion to accept the APV claim register, Mrs. Carpenter seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

Ron Hatley moved to approve the 2nd quarter payroll docket, Mrs. Sutherlin seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Carolyn Hatley, the new billing clerk, presented the council with her report. She asked if anyone had anything to be added to the bills or to the website Back to school was on the 9th of August. Mr. Hatley asked about post office not paying their bill. Clerk-Treasurer Judy Anderson stated she sent a letter to the head of our location. There was then a short discussion of the sewer liens we have against properties in Darlington. Ms. Anderson said that overall we are in pretty good shape in ref to the liens.

Mike McKinney, wastewater operator then reported there was one violation for June caused by so much rain at once. Mrs. Carpenter asked about the toll house and he said that the only thing to be worked on was the AC, the pumps were working too hard in the extreme hot and humid conditions, waiting on getting that completed.

Utility Superintendent Greg Gayler reported they have installed 6 new poles at the sub-station and ISC has installed 3. The outage at Shelby Frey’s caused us to change out the transformer to increase their voltage. It was agreed to put the meters back in at Elks Lodge so they can show the property, even though they still have a balance, per agreement between Mrs. Anderson and Davis/Morrison Realty that the bill will be paid at sale closing. Have trimmed trees away from lines and set a new pole on School St by the recycle bin. Today we had high winds and Duke Energy lost 5 transmission poles which is why the electricity is out but electricity should be back on around 7:00 PM. Normally we would get power from the back up lines but those are being repaired also.

Apprentice Lineman Brian Mullen reported there is a water runoff issue at the Park parking lot creating a problem for the residence at 4 Academy Place. He is getting estimates to make a waterway that would fix this issue from Jason Douglas and Brad Conner. Mr. Mullen then brought up the riding mower having major issues with the carburetor or coils or both and the repair for both would be about a $1000 to fix. Mrs. Carpenter asked how old the mower was and it was brought up that it is about 15 years old.

Council member Marilyn Cohee arrived at this time.

Mr. Mullen continued with his report and was asked by Judy how much it would be for a new mower and he said if it’s a Dixie Chopper it will about $7000.00 and John Deere will probably be about the same so spending money on a new one would be more worth our while in the long run than repairing the one we have and continuously spending on the old one. He then brought up that the Congregational Christian Church was going to have a friends and family day the last Sunday of July and asked to close the street on Academy from the alley way to Madison in the front of the church. Mr. Gayler then brought up that we are in need of a generator for our town office so we will not have to bring one from the Community Center to hook up. It should be around $4000-$5000 and then Mr. McKinney brought up that there is a need for one at the #3 Lift Station as well. Mrs. Carpenter moved that we order them first but wanting it to be coordinated so we might get a break in price. Mrs. Cohee seconded the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Anderson said for Mr. McKinney to get with herself or Mr. Gayler in reference to that. Brian brought up that Darlington Forever is purchasing new lighting for the Darlington Community Center Gym but they want us to install them and Greg said that they probably could in the late fall when we are not as busy.

Marshal David Long reported they have had a lot of complaints of burning in an alley and the fire department has been called on it but it’s too late to do anything when they get there. Juvenile complaints have come up and false complaints from a rental tenant which the property owner is aware of. Officer Long watched the area of this tenant on the night of the complaints and there was nothing going on that the tenant called about. They have helped the county with a couple of accidents but other than that it has been quiet.

Ms. Anderson presented council with the fund report and has a copy of the appropriation report if anyone would like to look at it. She then presented the amended wastewater ordinance that attorney David Peebles drew up for them to look over, if you approve this tonight we can move forward with advertising this. This is Ordinance 07-11-2017 amending the charge for vacant homes to be $20/month after one full billing cycle month. Mrs. Cohee moved to pass this amendment to the Wastewater Ordinance and dispense with the second and

President Sparrow then recognized Tim Budd, who is here to request money from our sidewalk fund as he is replacing the sidewalk on both sides of his residence on the corner of Adams Street and Franklin Street.

There was then a discussion of the billing clerk’s wages.

Pres. Sparrow reported on the Covered Bridge project. He said that the engineer’s report is still not ready so his question is how long are we to wait for this report knowing that we do not know how much this project is going to cost. The Council is not wanting to put this project on hold any longer. The approximate cost is $130,000 for actual bridge work/labor, Mr. Cating of BLN Engineering says that the engineer, abutments and other costs should be under $100,000 which equals $230,000 total for this project. What we don’t know is if the cost of the abutments is good enough or not. Mrs. Carpenter brought up about putting information in the library newsletter that Butch Dale mails out so that we can put it out to the public that we are in need of funds but that we have to wait for the engineer report so we can find out how much we need to raise. There was much discussion at this time.

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