

Town of Independence

Regular Meeting

May 12, 2022

The Independence Town Board met in the Town Hall on May 12, 2022 at 7pm for a Regular Monthly meeting.

Present: Supervisor, Reichman; Council: Meunier, Howe, Bissett, Brubaker; Town Clerk, Bledsoe; Highway Superintendent, Acomb; Code Enforcement Officer, Koehler

Visitors: Rich Buck (Town Attorney), Melissa Ballard (Broadway Group), Brian Grose (Fagan Engineering), 13 area residents plus 7 via zoom

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor called the meeting to order.

A motion was made by Council Meunier, seconded by Council Bissett and carried by all to accept the April 14, 2022 minutes.

Superintendent Acomb gave his Highway report which included ditching Hawks, Spicer and Grantier Rd's, equipment repairs, brooming and putting new bristles on the broom, new sluice pipe on Hawks Rd, built headwall on Harrigan, filled potholes, grading dirt roads, serviced Pete and Kenworth, and more work on the Salt Shed construction. He also informed the board that he was notified of a \$10,000 cut from last year's CHIPS amount.

Supervisor Reichman introduced Melissa Ballard from the Broadway Group (building representative for the Dollar General construction) along with Brian Grose from Fagan Engineering. Melissa began with a brief summary of the project then started taking questions from the neighboring residents and other local residents. Rich Buck and Sam Koehler were present to help answer questions and comments and neighbor, Honoree Cress, presented a two page handout of concerns which were addressed. Resident's concerns consisted of: light pollution and lighting around building (lights go off approx. 1 hour after close and gave examples of light styles), signage height (will be lower profile sign), beer sales (attorney expressed that that is up to the liquor board), driveway entrances (engineer working with DOT on placement and permits), building size (10,640 sq. feet), property values, drainage to neighboring property as well as a possibility of insurance covered by Dollar General as a precaution (Folts residents would like damages to be covered if it ever occurs due to drainage. Attorney and Melissa to look into further), added shrubbery (Melissa to discuss with Broadway group), lawn sprinkler system (many wondering why this is needed), fencing locations and styles (Folts residents submitted a quote for an upgraded vinyl fence along their property, Melissa to take to Broadway Group), dumpster containment (discussed many ideas for Broadway Group to consider, fencing and/or shed styles), building esthetics (siding and tin samples brought for Board to decide on, asked residents for their opinions on colors and styles), horse manure (building code issue if it were to become a problem, possible conversation with Amish community), and plowing directions of the snow.

Discussion was held regarding the proposed "Host Community Benefit Agreement" from the OYA Chenunda Creek 2.4 Megawatt community solar project. This agreement states that the company is to pay the Town each year equal to the sum of two thousand dollars per megawatt with an increase of 2% each year that the agreement remains in operation with an agreement terms of 15 years. A motion to sign agreement was made by Council Howe, seconded by Council Meunier with all members voting "Yes."

Board discussed the Dog Enumeration with a motion made by Council Meunier, seconded by Council Bissett and carried by all the end the enumeration as of 5/31/2022. Clerk will report on the final numbers of that enumeration at the June meeting.

Sam Mullen, owner of The Whitesville House, has requested that the Noise Ordinance be lifted from 10pm to 11pm on Saturday, May 21st. A motion was made by Council Meunier, seconded by Supervisor Reichman and carried by all to lift the ordinance for one extra hour on that day.

Clerk and Police reports were reviewed by the board.

Bills were reviewed with a motion made by Supervisor Reichman, seconded by Council Meunier and carried by all to pay abstracts #5-2022 in the following amounts:

Highway	#62-70	\$15,290.83
General	#67-77	\$5,230.40
Water	#29-36	\$2,291.07

A motion to adjourn was offered by Supervisor Reichman, seconded by Council Howe and carried by all at 9:20pm.

Jasmine Bledsoe, Town Clerk

