

Town Meeting, April 21, 2008

The meeting was held at the town hall and was called to order at 7:33 p.m. There were six people present: Mayor Menke, Commissioners Fedders, Clerk Menke, Mayor Emeritus Tolbert, Dalis Davison, and Ann Thompson.

The minutes and financial reports were read and approved.

### **Committee Reports**

- A. Safety** – There were no plans to replace sidewalks at this time. Commander Didone stated that they asked some residents if they could park their car in their driveway and the citizens stated no. Checking into this it was discovered that it was the Lok's residents and Mayor Emeritus would ask them if it would be OK.
- B. Beautification** – Commissioner Fedders stated that the spring flags would be up soon. Mayor Menke stated he would like to have the town put barrels around town with flowers, asking different households first if they would take care of the flowers. Dalis stated she would help do the planting. Dalis Davidson suggested that it would be nice to plant a tree in honor of Donnie Barr, whom passed away recently. She stated that since he was born in Barnesville and lived here all of his life that it would be nice to have the tree in his honor. Commissioner Fedders moved that the town would buy a dog wood tree and plant it at the town hall in Mr. Barr's honor, seconded by Mayor Menke and all agreed.
- C. Planning and Zoning** – The committee meets the next night regarding the cemetery.
- D. Board of Appeals** – Commissioner Fedders stated that they would be holding a public meeting on Friday night regarding the cemetery. Mayor Menke stated he had no opposition regarding the cemetery and St. Mary's.

### **Old Business:**

Commissioner Fedders is still working on finding a trash service for the town.

Mayor Menke spoke about Barnesville being a "Banner City", and that we made all the requirements. He stated that we have gone to all the required meetings and that we stay on top of governing. He has the Municipal Government week flag hanging up at town hall.

Mayor Menke stated that he went to the Engineer site and spoke with FO Day and the engineer on the site regarding their work on Rt. 109. He also spoke to Kim and she stated that they will be covering the roots, best they can, and they are working on stabilizing the banks. They will be seeking final approval from the Commissioners.

Mayor Menke stated that he will send another letter to confirm that the State will move the street signs since they did agree to do that and that they will be fixing the guard rail at the corner of Beallsville Road and Barnesville Road, Mr. Lillard's property.

Anne Thompson stated there was a problem on West Harris Road with the storm drain and that she was told it was the County's problem

### **New Business**

Mayor Menke stated that he was on the Citizen Advisory Board Committee and Captain Didone takes an interest in small towns. He spoke to him regarding the break-ins at the Pavilion.

Mayor Menke passed out notebooks to Commissioner Fedders and Clerk Menke on the Town Charter that Mike Smith had put together with recommendations. He asked that we look them over and then discuss them at another meeting.

Mayor Menke had attended the Maryland Municipal Chapter meeting last Thursday. The County Council was there discussing lack of funds needed and that they didn't want to raise taxes and they were not planning on taking away grants that were already promised. The Maryland National Capital Park and Planning people were there and stated that Municipalities without a park should be taxed because that meant the citizens were using their parks. He thinks we should send a survey out asking our citizens how many of them use the parks. Dalis stated that she did and she doesn't have anyone in school and she gets taxed. Mayor Menke stated that this was just for municipalities and not for citizens not in a municipality.

Barbara Davidson called and spoke to Mayor Menke regarding the water runoff from St. Mary's and how it has been eroding her driveway. She had stated she would pay to have this problem fixed and the Mayor gave her some suggestions and stated that it wasn't the town's jurisdiction.

Mayor Menke suggested we form a committee to check into the town having their own streetlights. Poolesville is doing this and maybe there would be away to work with them regarding the changing of the light bulbs. The town could save money by doing this. Kensington started the legal process giving them the right to purchase their lights.

Mayor Menke asked for dates that the town could hold an open house for the town hall. It was decided to have it the weekend of July 12.

Mayor Menke spoke about the town tax rate. He stated that it has always gone down or has stayed constant. Mayor Menke moved to retain the town rate as last year for one fiscal year, which would be .06, Commissioner Fedders seconded and all agreed.

Mayor Menke said he would like to discuss with Bobby Lillard the possibility of the town requiring ownership of the corner property where the well is. He stated that Mayor Emeritus stated she would donate her half of the town well if Mr. Lillard would let the town buy his part. Mayor Menke stated that he could offer Mr. Lillard the option of renting the property back for \$1.00 a year which would make sure the property stayed the same until he was no longer here in the town or decided otherwise.

Mayor Menke read a letter stating that the Maryland Municipal Clerks Association was hosting a meeting in Annapolis and they were asking for donations to help cover the cost. Commissioner Fedders moved to donate \$50.00 to help with the conference with Mayor Menke seconding and all agreed.

A consultant from Griffith Energy Service contacted Commissioner Fedders and asked if the town would put a notice in the "Tidbit" stating that they would give the town a discounted rate if enough of us came with them. It was decided we would do this.

Dalis Davidson and Anne Thompson stated they thought the town Website needed a new look. Patty Menke thought the look was different and quaint for our small town and thought the lady they had suggested looked the same on all the sites. Commissioner Fedders stated he just bought a new disc, which may help him with different features.

Clerk Menke stated the town needed to hire someone to vacuum out the heating/ac system for there was a lot of dust. Commissioner Fedders moved to hire a company to clean out the system and Mayor Menke seconded with all agreeing.

Commissioner Fedders moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 pm with Mayor Menke seconding and all agreed.

Respectfully submitted, Patricia H. G. Menke Clerk/Treasurer for the Town of Barnesville

