The Town Commissioners of Barnesville

July 19, 2021 – 7:30 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

14 Participants

Past Minutes – June 2021—Approved

Reports:

Financial Report

            In reviewing the June report for the end of the FY2020, several items were reviewed. It was noted that the state income tax line item in the FY 2020 budget was a low estimate due to Covid. The development of the park cost approximately $11,000, under the budgeted $13,000. The Reimbursable item included funds from the park and storm water grants. The expenses for traffic enforcement and consultant expenses were less than predicted. The expense of the audit was more than estimated. Barnesville has been given a waiver for the next fiscal year for the annual audit requirement by the State of Maryland. The town will undergo a formal review for FY2020, at a cost savings from the accountant.

Beautification

            Planters and beds around Barnesville look nice. The planters at Town Hall also include a few vegetable plants for the Plan an Extra Row project.

Sustainable Barnesville

            No meetings until the Fall.  The Plant an Extra Row project is going very well. Townspeople may drop off produce at the WUMCO office at the Poolesville Baptist Church on W. Willard, Monday to Friday 9am to Noon. Or, produce may be delivered to the Locals Market in Poolesville (near the John Poole House) on Saturday and Sunday 9am to 3pm. Produce delivered to Locals will be offered to WUMCO and surplus will be delivered to the UpCounty Consolidation Hub at BlackRock Center for the Arts in Germantown. The committee thanks everyone for participating in the Plant an Extra Row project.

Board of Appeals

            The coffee roasting business is continuing to work with the county to obtain permits from the county to open. The county requested a use and occupancy permit number. Barnesville does not have a formal request or process for this. The attorney for the business worked with the county to resolve the request. The town will follow-up with the business owner on this and the invoice sent.

Capital Improvements

            Sidewalks—The engineer consultant needs land survey coordinates to provide to the county and is in the process to find these. They may be on an older survey in Town Hall. The coordinates will be helpful in completing the land transfer for the sidewalk placement plan.

            Storm water Drainage—Thank you to Holly Larisch for the copy of the plan and letters prepared for Fr. Kevin and the County.  A question was asked if the storm water plan could be placed on the town website.

            Park—Lauren Greenberg and an assistant weeded the beds around the plaza at the park. The wildflower beds along the length of the park are doing well. For the patio area, Redbud trees will be planted in the open spaces in the Fall. Additional mulch is needed to help with weed suppression. Lauren recommends placing newspaper then covering with pine bark mulch.

Traffic Calming—In June, Streethawk issued 68 violations, with six stop sign blow-throughs. Beallsville road was more frequent. Two patrols were on the weekends, as requested, and four patrols were on weekdays. This schedule will be maintained in August and traffic will be monitored to determine if more patrols are needed as traffic flow increases.

The new traffic chief will be Captain Jim Brown. Streethawk (Jason), Mildred, and Barnesville Jim Brown have communicated with Captain Brown to introduce the Town of Barnesville and the unique traffic situation. Captain Brown was informed our the town’s request for additional platforms in order to coordinate the relocation of a rotating camera head. Once Captain Brown is settled into office, the town will contact him for the formula for the speed camera revenue. The MOU described how it was calculated. Barnesville did not meet the threshold in 2020 and will not receive funds. However, it is anticipated that Barnesville camera will exceed the threshold in 2021 and receive revenue in Spring 2022.

Planning and Zoning

            On summer recess. The commissioners continue to review the suggestions in the Master Plan in consultation with the town’s attorney.

The abandoned house on Old Hundred Rd across from the Menke’s has been condemned for several years. The residence may pose a concern for health and safety but the town does not have jurisdiction to enforce the condemnation. The town attorney said the town probably cannot take possession of the property, but can approach the county for further information on how to have the residence demolished as was previously ordered, and the town has already reached out.

The setback at the house at the corner of Barnesville and Old Hundred Road was discussed since the town received a request to permit a HVAC unit beside the home. The Planning and Zoning Committee noted that town zoning ordinance requires that structures or units must be 10ft from the property line. The contractor will work with the town and county to be compliant.

Community Events

            August 28th Community Yard Sale Event. Community members are invited to participate in a community yard sale (at their own homes) on Saturday, August 28 from 9am to 2pm. The town will promote the event to the local community.

            Park Dedication Event will occur later in the year.

Town Hall--currently closed to public

            Re-opening status

                        The Montgomery County Council will begin meetings in person in September, so the Town will resume in person meetings with the Town Meeting on September 20, 2021. Town Hall will be available for rentals again this Fall.

Communications

            The next edition of the Tidbit will be prepared in August. Community members are invited to submit stories or news.

            The committee would like to utilize more social media venues to disseminate information to the community. The current FaceBook page has few followers. The committee will work to develop more community interaction either through FaceBook or email distribution.

New Business

            The 2022 Fiscal Year Budget was approved.

            Benches for the Post Office and Town Hall were discussed. The commissioners are considering ordering durable PVC benches in either a white or wood tone as well as new planters for Town Hall. The bench at the Post Office has a memorial plaque that will be placed on the new bench. The commissioners will check that a new bench would be within the historical trust requirements and investigate options using recycled materials.

            Water Quality Testing. Commissioner Mike Tuckerman had a free water test done at his property (Orbit Energy and Power) and they tested for pH, hardness, and nitrates. If individuals in the town are interested in having their water tested, the information can be passed along.

            ARPA funds process has begun and the town has completed the application.

            Holly Larisch will continue serving with MML and share information with the commissioners and town.

Adjournment at 8:44pm