Commissioners of Barnesville

October 21, 2024

Town Meeting Minutes

Call to order at 7:32pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of September 2024 minutes.

Reports

Financial Report: The first bill was received for electricity for street lights in over four years as the surplus balance from the long-term overpayment (charged for lights that were not there) was exhausted. Still waiting on the publication for utility tariff from the state prior to the new LED bulbs and shields can be installed. The number of poles in place is based on negotiations which took place two years ago and delay for installation for shields on lamps and lower wattage LED bulbs than what was standard at the time.

Beautification and Sustainable Barnesville: Meditation sessions continue monthly and are well attended.

Board of Appeals: no report.

Capital Improvements:

 Park: Lauren spoke to the county about additional plantings along the sidewalk. A replacement tree will be planted near the bench in the park for the one which fell down over the summer.

 Sidewalks: Town is still waiting for the stop sign to be relocated to before the crosswalk and not after it at the corner near the park.

 Traffic: Stop sign blow throughs continue to be a problem with 11 violations over two Saturday nights. Other weekday patrols noted multiple dump trucks speeding, not stopping at signs, or safety violations. A total of 79 tickets were issued in September. There will be a patrol posted on Halloween Night 5:30-8:30pm

Payment for the Speed Cameras Issued tickets goes towards the Town contracting the traffic patrol officer shifts, but it does not completely cover the costs for the year. The fund distribution from the County for FY2023 or FY 2024 has not yet been received at this point. The last distribution was received in October 2022 for FY 2022.

Planning and Zoning: The Solar Array planned outside of town limits was discussed at a forum. The array is outside of town limits and is in the county zoning regulations. At the forum, points raised included if the substation could handle the capacity, uncertainty if the array will be visible from the road, and if the agricultural use of the area is being protected. The MCA/SCA is holding public information forums. Steve Findlay suggested a Q&A with MCA/SCA/Barnesville.

Community Events: Halloween, Oct. 31st 5:30-8:30pm. Lions Club at St. Mary’s 6pm.

Town Hall: Maintenance Issues-The new water heater and treatment system are working to provide potable water to the building. The refrigerator was replaced over the summer as well. The HVAC will be serviced for seasonal check-up. Infestation Control was contacted for a pest management plan, if needed. The cleaning company was asked to clean the coffee area when they are cleaning the main hall. Commissioner Shaina looked into hiring a professional organizer for the office. She found the average rate is $75 per hour. Any town records will need a records management plan in accordance with the State Archives department. Holly had been coordinating with them in the past. There is a fireproof cabinet in the office for town documents. The town hall does not have a sprinkler system because it was not required for the historical building at that time.

Events: Holiday party will be Dec. 8th at 5:30pm. Preparation will be on the evening before. There will be a bin to collect toys for WUMCO at the event.

New Business: Ground Water Survey with MCA, a basic survey about water availability and usage. Town previously contracted with a company for a reduced rate for interested residents for water testing. Kits were distributed at town hall and logged back in and stored prior to pick up from the contractor. Approximately 20 households participated at that time. MCA is looking for a group discount from vendors. Concerns over PFAS levels initiated the water testing for households recently. A reverse osmosis system in sinks in individual homes could remove materials.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:32pm

11 residents and 3 commissioners and clerk were present, 1 resident connected via zoom