Commissioners of Barnesville

Minutes from January 22, 2024 Town Meeting

**Agenda.**

Call to Order at 7:33pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Approve past minutes for November 2023

Reports:
Financial Report–Income from state income taxes and county property taxes are coming in as expected. Expenses for grounds maintenance is higher than expected due to snow removal days and additional areas to service. The town auditors have filed the financial reports with the state. The town is working on finalizing the MD&A narrative statement. The estimate for the street light shields has come in and will be greater than predicted. They will be approximately $8300. The lights are now in stock and the contractor is waiting for the additional shield before beginning installation.

Beautification and Sustainable Barnesville have no reports. Committees will resume activities as warm weather approaches. Sustainable Barnesville continues to hold mindful meditation sessions, one Friday per month.

Board of Appeals has no activities to report.

Capital Improvements: Streetlight installation was discussed during the financial report. For the Park, the county has yet to complete the repair and planting of grass along the sidewalk. For Stormwater Management at Town Hall, new bids to work on mitigation should be requested.

Traffic Calming for December held 10 shifts with 84 stops, 85% were speeding, 15% were stop signs. There was an incident in which children waiting for the bus in their driveway on Beallsville Road had to scramble to safety after a speeding car careened into their driveway and smashed recycling bins and scattered debris. They narrowly escaped. Streethawk was posted in the area during the morning afterwards for several shifts. A few traffic cones were placed at the end of the driveway to alert drivers of the area. Streethawk requested camera footage from the speed camera near the area to determine if the driver was captured for a violation during the time as well.

Barnesville does not have permission to place the flashing speed limit signs on state routes yet, the county has given permission, if deployed by Montgomery County Police. Mike Zuckerman is working on obtaining Right of Way Permits from the MD Department of Transportation and Montgomery County Department of Transportation prior to posting on SR109 and Barnesville Road, The state and county requests a traffic study using the gray box collector prior to approval. These permits will allow The Town to self manage the deployment of the radar signs. There was a discussion about continuing exploration of the town having its own speed camera program. The Town attorney suggested using the Gaithersburg Police or the County to sign off on any tickets issued by a town-owned cameras. Feedback from town residents is that the flashing feedback signs are having an impact on slowing drivers.

Planning and Zoning the town is in communication with their attorney regarding the apparent truck repair business.

Community Connections has no events planned at this time.

Town Hall is available for rent.

Communications: Holly has retired from preparing the Tidbit Newsletter. The Commissioners and Town appreciate all that Holly has done to prepare the Tidbit and serve in the role. If anyone is interested in serving as the coordinator/editor of the Tidbit, please contact the town clerk.

New Business

One additional traffic situation occurred the prior week during the snowstorm. A large truck hit a utility pole and broke the pole on Old Hundred Rd. The Fire Dept. was called for the wire down. The wire in the road caused a small fire. Several houses were without power for much of the night. The road was closed and crews worked throughout the night to repair it. The truck did not stop at the scene of the accident and drove away.

As a reminder, the Town Hall does have a generator back-up system. It automatically turns on when there is an outage.

A question was brought up from last month’s meeting. Jane Thompson was asked if there were recommendations from the Rustic Roads committee regarding Sumac along the roadside. Concerns were raised since it is a softwood shrub that had a tendency to break during wind and snow storms.

For the Park, Lauren will be ordering the trees discussed in last month’s meeting and will schedule planting at an appropriate time.

A discussion on the Montgomery County ZTA regarding Hospitality on the Ag Reserve. The consensus was it was not properly prepared and did not have positive feedback. Additional study is needed prior to the county moving forward.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:23pm