

COMMITTEE: INFRASTRUCTURE
DATE: FEBRUARY 1, 2010
TIME: 10 A.M.

In attendance: Council Members Baker (Chair), Committee Members Whittle and Vena (alternate); Council Member Mauck, Town Manager Fauber, Director of Public Works Rhodes, Town Planner Rex, Town Clerk Keller, Carla and Mil Wallen, James Gibbons and James Gibbons, Jr.

Action Item:

The minutes of the January 4, 2010 meeting were approved as presented.

It was decided the meetings scheduled for May 31, July 5, and September 6 would be changed to June 1, July 6, and September 7 due to holiday closings for the Town Office.

Discussion Items:

➤ Street Lights proposed for the Downtown Enhancement Project

Planner Rex explained the Town does not maintain streetlights except for on the Town Lot parking lot and the Town Park; the Town relies on Allegheny Power to maintain all other streetlights in Town. In working on the Downtown Enhancement Project, Hometown Strasburg, Inc. has been working with an independent contractor, Halophane Corporation, in choosing lights for King Street. If these lights are chosen, the Town would be responsible for the maintenance of the lights of which there would be between 75 and 80; this would be a new policy for the Town. **Carla Wallen**, representing Hometown, presented pictures of the proposed lights and said they are not the same lights as are in the Pocket Park as those do not meet VDOT regulations. She said the proposed lights are “full cut-off,” meaning the emitted light would only shine downward. She explained how the lights are sealed, preventing water and bugs from causing damage. The lights would have all the “trim accents” as the lights in the Pocket Park and every third light would have an extension for a banner.

Council Member Mauck discussed solar lights that are used in New York, suggesting this might be an idea for Hometown to consider. She also asked about the “colonial” style lights in Stony Pointe and if they were maintained by the Town; **Town Manager Fauber** said those lights are maintained by Allegheny Power and the total bill for the Town was about \$70,000 per year for all streetlights.

Council Member Vena said she would want to be competitive in the cost of the lights and have this go out to bid. She also questioned using the Town Staff to repair the lights.

Director of Public Works Rhodes said his crew would be able to change the bulbs, but anything more than that would have to be contracted out to a certified electrician. In discussing the cost, **Mrs. Wallen** said Halophane has supplied the lights in Woodstock, Edinburg, and Mt. Jackson and **Town Manager Fauber** said this would need to go out to bid. **Mrs. Wallen** said when the design process is complete, then the entire project will need to go out to bid.

Council Member Baker asked if we really want to go the route of using/maintaining these lights or if it would be better to have Allegheny Power supply the lights. In further discussion, **Town Manager Fauber** said he knew the choices from Allegheny Power are not as extensive, but it had been several years since he had looked and so more might be available.

Council Member Mauck asked about the franchise money Allegheny Power pays the Town for being the only supplier of electricity and if it would be a “wash” as far as maintenance, but Town Manager Fauber said he does not think it would be.

Planner Rex said figures can be gotten on cost comparisons of buying and maintaining these lights or continuing with Allegheny Power. It was reiterated that if lights are bought independently, then any damage done would be the responsibility of the Town.

In conclusion, Mrs. Wallen said she is not sure if the engineering firm has decided on how construction will proceed, but she hopes the north side of King Street will be done at the same time.

Consensus: It was decided to get more figures together on costs by the next meeting.

➤ Sewer Charges for Gibbees

Town Manager Fauber said Mr. Gibbons had approached him about sewer rates at his car wash. A study was done by Penn State and the report was presented (attached here-to). The concerns raised by Mr. Gibbons are similar to those who water their lawns during the summer months and do not want to be charged for sewer service on that water.

Mr. Gibbons said he does recycle some of his water and he explained the process. He believes ~40% of his water does not enter the sewer system and he explained about his holding tanks and the leftover “debris” that he has pumped out and transported off site several times a year. **Council Member Baker** asked if Mr. Gibbons would be willing to pay for a sewer meter to see how much is actually put back into the sewer system. The Town currently does not have any of these and the cost could be high; Staff will get a cost for a “flow meter” on a sewer line of this size. It was stressed that this idea was only being “thrown” out as it would be a Town-wide policy and not just a policy for Gibbees. Also discussed were the problems of storm water run-off and the consequence of this in the future.

Council Member Whittle said this is an entire change of policy for the Town and if revenue is lost, it must be picked-up somewhere.

When asked if any other businesses in Town have a sewer meter, **Town Manager Fauber** said Valley Milk does have a flow meter and that is the only company that is like this. Valley Milk paid for the sampling station and also pays for the maintenance of the meter. **Mr. Gibbons** said he would have to look at the cost of the meters, etc., and weigh the costs.

He and Director of Public Works Rhodes will work together to price a flow meter and all the associated costs. Discussion was also held on the difference between commercial and residential and if it this option would have to be offered to all.

Consensus: This will be re-discussed at the next meeting after Mr. Gibbons and Director of Public Works Rhodes have had a chance to meet.

➤ Strasburg Fire Department roof update

Town Manager Fauber said he has received the report from Largent Roofing; the recommendation is a total replacement. This report has given him a scope of work so all bidders will be bidding on the same project. He would like to have an RFP written and changes and comments back to him by the next meeting. He said it would be nice to have the RFP out and prices back by then, but is not sure this would be possible.

It was asked if this is the best roof for the building and **Town Manager Fauber** thinks it is at this time.

Consensus: Have the RFP written and reviewed for comments and changes and posted by the next meeting.

➤ Inventory

Town Manager Fauber said the Town has a list of all properties maintained by the Town. Most of the buildings in the Water and Wastewater Department will be addressed with the new construction or upgrades. He has asked Bradley Polk to submit a list of needed projects at the Fire Department. The expansion of the Wastewater Plant will impact the Town Shop and the space required for this department; this will need to be studied further. Wiley and Wilson will be coming to the next Work Session to discuss the improvements to the Town Hall and the Brill property. It was asked why the fire department roof got to the point it has and most of the reason is a “funding” issue. It was asked why donations are given when the Town properties are in need of repair.

Consensus: This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

➤ Trash Collection Contract update

Mayor Taylor and Town Manager Fauber met with Woodstock Town Manager Bradford recently. Currently, Woodstock handles their own trash collection and Town Manager Fauber feels they are trying to get out of this “business.” It takes Woodstock four days to collect trash so it would not be possible to “share” Woodstock’s truck. At the meeting, it was discussed entering into a joint contract for trash collection.

It was asked if collecting our own trash was even remotely viable for the Town of Strasburg. **Director of Public Works Rhodes** had contacted a company on the cost of trucks and he said for the number of houses, etc., the cost of the size truck needed would be about \$150,000. Added to this would be personnel, estimated at three persons, and then the maintenance on the truck. Another consideration would be what to do when the truck would be down for service or repairs. One suggestion for this would be to buy Woodstock’s old truck as a “back-up.” More discussion centered on possibly buying used trucks for the collection. It was noted there is a “cost” to the Town to even come up with figures for doing trash collection as man-hours are put into finding out the costs. It was said there could be some savings to the Town if a joint contract with Woodstock is worked out. It was noted the current contract with Long Enterprises expires in October, 2010 and the recycling contract ends in March, 2011. A short-term contract was discussed in trying to have both contracts ending together.

At the meeting with Mr. Bradford, Town Manager Fauber said recreation programs and cooperative purchasing was discussed.

Consensus: Staff will have an estimated cost of doing our own trash collection at the next meeting.

Being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 11:11 a.m.