

## TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION

January 19, 2010

In Attendance: Vice Mayor Whittle, Council Members Baker, Le Vine, Mauck, Redmon, Ritenour, Terndrup and Vena. Staff: Town Planner Rex and Town Clerk Keller; (Mayor Taylor and Town Manager Fauber both arrived late).

Vice Mayor Whittle welcomed all and reminded Council of the Chamber Banquet to be held on January 23 at the Strasburg Moose and to let Clerk Keller know if they needed tickets.

The minutes of the December 14, 2009 Work Session were approved as presented.

Public Comments:

### **Report: Strasburg Volunteer Rescue Squad**

**John Nixon, representing the Squad**, gave the oral report (copy of report attached here-to). Highlighting the report, Mr. Nixon said the Squad has passed their 90 day probationary mark with Shenandoah County and they will be meeting with the County next week to see if the County agrees they have met the bench marks established in the Memorandum of Understanding; the Squad feels they have met or exceeded all criteria.

It was asked how the Squad and Fire Department were doing on their talks for consolidation and Mr. Nixon said they are talking and working on by-laws of both groups in preparation of the merger.

There was discussion regarding the County's use of the apparatus and if there were any problems associated with this. Mr. Nixon said mileage was being added to the equipment, but there are no fuel costs to the Squad as the County pays for this. It was requested of Mr. Nixon to find out when the equipment would be fully depreciated and when new equipment would need to be purchased. Mr. Nixon said the Squad has always bought and paid for their own equipment through donations of which both the Town and County have donated.

When questioned about "Revenue Recovery", Mr. Nixon said more information would be presented to the County Fire and Rescue Association at a later date.

### **Presentation: Tourism, report given by Doug Miller (slides attached here-to)**

Questions/discussion during and after the presentation pertained to:

- Strasburg "Brand" --- Mr. Miller said the "brand" will be "Cross Road of History and Nature"
- "Regional" tourism --- how to promote the Town regionally, maybe with Warren County/Front Royal or Frederick County
- \$13 million for total revenue for tourism --how was this derived? Mr. Miller said he derived this number from tax figures given to him by the Town.
- County tourism dollars --- could money be spent better within our own tourism committee? Suggested having a County presentation.

- Where the tourists come from and where to concentrate tourism effort
- How to work with the 2-5-0 celebration

### **Discussion Items:**

- A. “Pride of Strasburg” – The form to be used for was included in the packet. It was asked what criteria will be used in recognizing a person/organization. It was decided the Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Town Manager will “screen” nominees before presenting names at the Work Session. The nominees will then be discussed at a Work Session and then a certificate given at the next Council meeting. A list of those receiving the honor will be posted on the Town’s website. Nominations can be made through the website or by filling out an application at the Town Office.
- B. Donation from Shentel for recreation --- Shentel donated \$500 to the Town to be used for recreation activities geared toward children. Staff’s suggestion would be for the money to be used for something at the pool. The concensus of the Council was to follow Staff’s recommendation.
- C. Citizen’s Academy --- Mayor Taylor explained the Police Department has a Senior Citizen Academy and a “Citizen’s Academy” could be modeled after this, but the classes would show how people can get involved in the community or how citizens can give back to the community by volunteering. Ideas were given on how this could be done and one suggestion was to have it in conjunction with the Senior Citizen Academy. It was also suggested inviting Homeowner Associations to this as many of the citizens that live in the subdivisions do not know what is going on within in the Town.

**Council Member Terndrup** said it was his idea to add this to the agenda for the Work Session and his thoughts were to have lessons on Town government. He used the example of people having questions about water bills and just having a class on what is considered when coming up with the figure charged; he also said a “field trip” could be taken showing citizens how water is “made.” Some thought this was going to be covered somewhat in the new format of the Council Forums. **After further discussion, the consensus of Council was to not do this at this time.**

- D. Fire Department Roof --- Town Manager Fauber said it appears there are major issues with the roof and it will probably be a total replacement project. Largent Roofing will give a report on what needs to be done and then an RFP will be written and issued so all will be bidding on the same thing. **Staff will work up an RFP and present it at the Infrastructure meeting.**
- E. Resolution/Proclamation --- When giving resolutions/proclamations to people/organizations/businesses honoring them for various accomplishments, Mayor Taylor does not want discussion to take place during the Council meeting. **The consensus was to present the resolution at the Work Session for discussion and then have this be added to the agenda for the Council meeting as a “Consent Agenda”.** During the February Council meeting, a resolution will be presented to Katlyn Ayers for winning the Cross County State Title (copy of resolution attached here-to).

- F. Bike Helmet --- Council Member Le Vine would like to know if Council is interested in having this item discussed again. He gave the history of this as to the Town's votes in the past. During discussion, reasons were given for not requiring helmets. **Consensus was to not proceed with an ordinance on bike helmets.** In conclusion, Council Member Le Vine said he is in favoring of an ordinance on this.
- G. **Ordinances** --- (Wording read by Council Member Terndrup attached here-to). In response to complaints made at the December Work Session regarding snow removal on Aden Drive, Council Member Terndrup read wording for an ordinance to handle this problem. In discussing this, Town Manager Fauber said the street is treated, but not plowed due to damage that might occur while the street is not in the Town system. Comments centered on who would pay for the treatment and bonding money to complete the streets. **It was discussed putting wording into an ordinance as to completion of streets for future developments and to research what other localities do for this type of problem.**
- Vacation of public right-of-ways** --- Council Member Terndrup said the Ordinance Committee is looking at a process of requiring a public hearing and he read the particulars. **Town Attorney Neal will look at the ordinance.**
- Noise Ordinance** --- **The Ordinance Committee will review this and a vote will be taken at the February Council meeting.**
- Site Plan** --- Discussed site disturbance and when this actually begins. It was felt that any requirements the Town might make for this, the County permit should give deference to the Town. Planner Rex will check with the County on this. Bonding was discussed also and it was decided these need to be in writing and very clear to all. Bonding issues need to be in writing and very clear to all. Getting bond money for roads and streets so streets get completed was also discussed. Having an ordinance for house numbers to be painted on curbs was talked about, but it was decided to have this done by Public Works for uniformity.

The next Work Session will be "budget" Work Session and Mayor Taylor asked that only essential other business be brought forward at this meeting. The goal is to vote on the budget at the May Council meeting.

Being no other business, the Work Session adjourned at 9:25 .m.