Morehouse Town Board Meeting

December 12Th 2023

The December Town Board Meeting was called to order at 7pm By Supervisor William Farber on December 12th, 2023. Supervisor Farber opened the meeting by leading the Town Board and Guests in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Town Board members present include:

Bill Uebele

Brian Taylor

Sonya DeVuyst

Mary Ann Mosher

Town Supervisor: William Farber

Town Clerk: Stephanie Tichenor

Deputy Town Clerk: Deborah Passero

Guests include:

Dan Key, Ed & Linda Sherman, Wayne & Sheryl Fleming, Steve Babcock, Christopher Babcock, Julia Russo, Anthony & Karen Fernendez

Dan Key Brought up the subject on having a speed limit on French Road. As the vehicles that drive through there, drive very fast. Its very dangerous. Supervisor Farber stated that French Road is a county road and that the town will have to take this issue up to the County.

Anthony Fernendez who was appointed as the Towns new Supervisor for 2024 & 2025, Brought up the subject on the Town of Morehouse's yearly AUD not being done since 2012. He said that he has done a lot of research on this, and that the Town will have to get this all fixed. Anthony stated that it's going to take a lot of resources and time and man power to get this done. The Town will have to bring in accountants. Anthony asked the Town Board if they were all on board with him, to get the Town into shape. The Town Board all agreed.

Supervisor Farber's reply was "I sincerely apologize, I should have been firmer with the Town Board. The Town brought in an accountant to get some of them straightened out, then the Town wanted to keep the money local. So, they gave the Town Clerk more hours to help me work on getting the AUD's in order, Then Covid hit and the Town Clerk was no longer in the Office, I just got in way over my head. Please support Anthony in trying to get the Town's Yearly AUD's back in order."

Brian Taylor made a motion to accept the November minutes, Bill Uebele seconded it. Motion carried

Ayes:

Bill Uebele Sonya DeVuyst

Mary Ann Mosher Brian Taylor

Bill Farber

Nays: None

Bill Uebele made a motion to accept the Officers reports. Brian Taylor seconded it. Motion carried

Ayes:

Bill Uebele Sonya DeVuyst

Mary Ann Mosher Brian Taylor

Bill Farber

Nays: None

Bill Uebele made a motion to pay the General fund bills on abstract #12.1 vouchers 23/223-23/243 totaling \$15,544.89. and the Highway funds bills in abstract #12.1, vouchers 23/87-23/96 totaling \$16,441.7, Mary Ann Mosher seconded it. Motion carried.

Ayes:

Bill Uebele Sonya DeVuyst

Mary Ann Mosher Brian Taylor

Bill Farber

Nays: None

Old Business

- <u>Tower update-</u> Supervisor Farber stated the applications to the APA will go in within the next 2 weeks for all 3 sites, (Morehouse, Arietta and Hope). Farber also talked to the County about the County helping Morehouse to tear down the Old Fire Tower on the Beattie property after the cell tower is erected and operational.
- Snowmobile trails and grooming updatesupervisor Farber stated the weather has not been on our side in respects to the snowmobile trail. We have some trees down on the trails. JR is going on Thursday the 14th of December, to Mosquito Hill to look at the Dam situation. Jr has a colleague that is going to go with him to Mosquito Hill one day the week of the 24th to remedy the dam situation. The Highway workers have serviced all the sleds and they are ready for use. Supervisor Farber stated now that we have the UTV we should drop down to 2 snowmobiles and sell the 3rd Skandik.
- Clerk Update- Supervisor Farber stated "Thursday Stephanie Tichenor will be taking the training for tax collector, with the County. Farber Stated that he set Stephanie Tichenor up with Lisa Johnson (Hamilton County DPW) in regards to the CHIPS (Consolidated Highway Improvement Program) claiming for the Town, there are CHIPS balance to be able to use it to buy a loader or a tandem truck. I will be working with her so that she understands it."
- **Board of Elections** Supervisor Farber stated The Board of Elections mailed the Town a list of voters and their addresses, Stephanie Tichenor has been working on getting all the addresses corrected.
- MVP- Supervisor Farber stated "In looking back over the last years MVP renewals and with the increases in premiums, The last Town Clerk did not notify the retirees about the increases. So unfortunately, Stephanie and I wrote letters to Sharon Galcher and Raymond Darvoe about last year's increase along with this year's increase". Supervisor Farber stated that the Town Board is going to have to update the threshold for non-fulltime employees, as the times are changing with the cost of living.
- Ed Sherman asked, "how many part time employees does the Town employ"? Supervisor Farber stated that we don't have any part-time employees right now, that's why it's a good time to look into updating the threshold for MVP.

- Rec. Center Lease/Deposits/Process- Supervisor Farber asked" with the agreements for leasing the Rec Center, we have had a process where the deposit would come in and we would directly deposit them right away, then once the Rec Center was inspected and in good shape, reimburse the deposit. A couple of years ago The Town Board modified It, to where the Town Board would vote on giving the deposit back with a voucher. Stephanie Tichenor said she was comfortable with taking in the rent, and holding the deposit and once the Rec. Center has been inspected and in good shape, that Stephanie will reimburse the deposit. Is that OK with the Town Board?

Mary Ann Mosher Made a motion to give Stephanie Tichenor (Town Clerk) the ability to reimburse the deposit for the Rec. Center after it has been inspected. Brian Taylor seconded it. Motion carried

Ayes:

Bill Uebele Sonya DeVuyst

Mary Ann Mosher Brian Taylor

Bill Farber

Nays: None

Sonya asked about the rec Center rent pricing being the same for residents and nonresidents. Supervisor Farber Stated the Rec. Center resolution states that only Town residents can rent the Rec. Center. A person has to own property in town to rent the Rec. Center. If there is a nonresident that wants to rent the Rec. Center, it has to be taken up with the Town Board, and they have to approve it and decide on the price of the rental.

New Business

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National grid update- Supervisor Farber has emailed National Grid about getting the Street light outages fixed. National Grid has not been very responsive. Sonya DeVuyst stated we have had a list of street light outages since March, 2023. It was given to the last Town Clerk, but nothing has been done. Sonya DeVuyst gave Stephanie Tichenor (Town Clerk) the list. And Stephanie Tichenor and Bill Farber will get it to National grid.

There was a discussion on the National Grid bill.

- AATV resolution- AATV developed a resolution for Cellular Coverage with the importance of Cell service.

Bill Uebele made a motion to accept the AATV Resolution on Cellular Coverage. Brian Tayler seconded it. Motion carried.

Ayes:

Bill Uebele Sonya DeVuyst

Mary Ann Mosher Brian Taylor

Bill Farber

Nays: None

- <u>Ice & Snow Contracts-</u> Supervisor Farber stated it was that time of year again when the ice & snow contracts have to be signed.

Bill Uebele made a motion to sign the Ice & Snow Contracts for the 2023-2024 season. Brian Taylor seconded it. Motion carried

Ayes:

Bill Uebele Sonya DeVuyst

Mary Ann Mosher

Brian Taylor

Bill Farber

Nays: None

<u>-Feb Fest-</u> Supervisor Farber explained the Feb Fest should be on February 10th 2024, with a rain date of February 11th 2024.

Brian made a motion to have Feb Fest on February 10th 2024 with a rain date of February 11th 2024. Brian seconded it. Motion carried.

Ayes:

Bill Uebele Sonya DeVuyst

Mary Ann Mosher Brian Taylor

Bill Farber

Nays: None

- <u>Annual Meeting schedule-</u> Supervisor Farber asked which day would be better for everyone, December 27th or December 28th for Annual Meeting? Sonya Stated that Thursday December 28th would be better for her because she works nights on Wednesdays.

Sonya made a motion to schedule the Annual December Meeting on Thursday December 28th 2024 at 7pm. Mary Ann Mosher seconded it Motion carried.

Ayes:

Bill Uebele Sonya DeVuyst

Mary Ann Mosher Brian Taylor

Bill Farber

Nays: None

Organizational Meeting – Supervisor Farber stated that the organizational meeting needs to be scheduled within 5 days of the New Year, He suggested having the Meeting on Thursday January 4th 2024.

Brian Taylor made a motion to have the Organizational Meeting of 2024, on Thursday January 4th at 7pm. Mary Ann Mosher seconded it. Motion carried.

Ayes:

Bill Uebele Sonya DeVuyst

Mary Ann Mosher Brian Taylor

Bill Farber

Nays: None

Supervisor Farber stated ABC Fire Extinguisher would like the Town to think about ABC providing First aid kits for the Highway Dept, The Rec Center and the Town Hall. They provided information on how much and what they would consist of. ABC would Service them when they serviced the Fire Extinguishers. Farber asked for the Town Board to look at it and Farber will bring it up in a future meeting.

Mary Ann Mosher asked if there was any update about the conversation of last months meeting where Sheryl Fleming brought up the possibility about getting a small roof over the Rec Center door. Supervisor Farber Stated He has tried to get in contact with Wendell about it, Wendell hasn't gotten back to him. Farber said he would reach out to Wendell again.

Supervisor Farber reminded the Town Board that in the January '24 Annual meeting to please appoint Stephanie Tichenor as the Town Registrar for her term of 2 years.

Supervisor Farber stated that Stephanie Tichenor was notified by Nancy Marone (Cardiaclife.net Account manager) that the 2 AED's that we have, have been on recall since 2018. Stephanie Tichenor was just notified of this. Full replacement is no longer available. Stephanie brought all the information on purchasing a new one for everyone to look at and bring up at the annual meeting. Also, the AED that was in the Town Hall is no where to be found.

Anthony Fernendez Suggested for the Town to look into Poland getting the Town Prices for new AED's as they may be able to get them at a cheaper price.

Ed Sherman asked how many Local Laws the Town has on the books? Supervisor Farber stated that every year starts a new law Number. Like if there was a new law that we drafted for 2024. The law would be called Local Law #1 of 2024. And it was Farber's recollection that Mike Korpon made a binder of all the Towns Local Laws. And filed them in the Justice's office. Michelle Freidman (Justice Clerk) and Joe Rathbun (Town Justice) are looking for them. Stephanie Tichenor did find one Local Law that was not on the State website. So, she is working with John Whalen, the director of State Records to get the Law put on the State file.

Sonya DeVuyst was asking if anyone knew where the antique cookstove went that she donated to the Town? She stated that it was in the Post Office for the longest time. It was supposed to go into the Museum. Supervisor Farber Stated that he will ask around and find out exactly where it is. And make sure it gets into the Museum.

Sheryl Fleming asked if there was any update on buying the commercial lawn mower? Supervisor Farber Stated that there was no update on that subject.

Mary Ann Mosher made a motion to adjourn the December Town Board Meeting, Sonya DeVuyst seconded it. Motion carried.

Ayes:

Bill Uebele Sonya DeVuyst

Mary Ann Mosher Brian Taylor

Bill Farber

Nays: None