

Minutes

Camden Town Council

Regular Meeting

October 16, 2007

The regular meeting of the Camden Town Council was called to order by President Peter Wagoner. Present were Members Andy Robison, Michele Everett, Attorney Anne Briggs, Clerk-Treasurer Pat Casserly, and seventeen citizens.

Minutes from the September 11th Council meeting were approved by a motion from Mr. Robison, seconded by Mrs. Everett. The docket was approved as presented and signed also by a motion from Mr. Robison, seconded by Mrs. Everett.

State Board of Accounts Audit Report

The examination report of the Town of Camden for January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006 was received by the town, reviewed and filed in the town office. The report dated October 10, 2007, disclosed no material items that warrant comment. Mr. Wagoner stated everything was found to be in order with no problems. The report is available at the town office for public inspection

Sidewalk Construction Project

Four letters were mailed to contractors asking for bids to replace certain sidewalks throughout Camden. Two contractors returned their cost figures. Baker Construction's bid was detailed by property giving the cost per interested party. Kendall Excavating submitted a blanket bid where it was not broken down by job. Following discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Robison for each property owner to be informed of their estimated costs and allow the homeowner to decide which business will replace their sidewalk. Mrs. Everett seconded the motion and it passed. The Clerk-Treasurer will notify those interested in the program of the two estimates by mail. The homeowners will then notify the Clerk-Treasurer of their choice and the Clerk-Treasurer will notify the contractors. Down payment of \$100 will be required before work begins and a reimbursement plan will be signed. Mr. Wagoner asked if there were any question; none were asked. Per a request from Mr. Wagoner, his sidewalk will be the last one replaced.

Emergency Shelter

The need for a shelter has been evident during power outages over the years. The ice storm in 1991 was very difficult for many residents because of power being off for such an extended time. The snow storm in February, 2007, brought back those memories and feelings of helplessness even though power was only off four hours. To the dismay of many, the town was not as prepared as it should have been to help the citizens. To prevent the situation from reoccurring, the Council started plans last winter to have a program in place for future crisis. The plan of action for better emergency response involved three areas.

First, a meeting was held with Duke Energy to discuss reliability of service and the number of outages. The town could not get answers on how long the power would be out and what progress was being made. The company did not realize their reliability had slipped nor did they realize it was impossible to get accurate information through their phone center. The town now has a list of contact numbers to call for updates. Duke Energy is also working to improve their equipment and service.

Secondly, the Council worked with the township for cooperative action. The trustee is working with the fire department to ensure the trucks will have heat so they will not freeze. The town is taking steps to ensure the Community Building can be used as a safe haven facility, provide a communication center and enable the water/wastewater lab to function. To accomplish this, the town is planning to install a natural gas powered generator and has been working with the Charles Wolf Company. The initial estimate for a generator was about \$30,000. This was more than could be afforded but the Council kept working with the company and now has an estimate of about \$23,000 for a generator, cover, pad and installation. This generator will insure the building always has power. Long range plans include additional restrooms and other upgrades to be addressed later. The contract for the generator was approved by a motion from Mrs. Everett, seconded by Mr. Robison. The generator is expected to be installed before winter.

The third phase of emergency preparedness is to have the Community Building set up as a Red Cross Shelter. Melissa Axley, Red Cross Emergency Services Director, has visited the community twice to discuss the shelter plans and survey the building. The Red Cross will train volunteers in how to operate a shelter in their absence. The Red Cross will be able to use the building as a local shelter or, if needed, as a regional shelter. Ms. Axley was present to take questions. In her comments she mentioned there is no other Red Cross shelter in the county and generally very few are equipped to offer back-up power. Mr. Wagoner stated the location of Camden is central to the county and an ideal location for a shelter. Ms. Axley affirmed the Red Cross is here to help us and will work at our direction. They are a volunteer organization run by donations. When they provide a service, it is at no cost – people will not be expected to pay for their service, rather it be

in meals served or supplies used for clean-up. They will be here to offer service, training and information.

The floor was opened for questions. Mr. Jeff Sieber asked if the building would be under the control of the Red Cross and other organizations would need their permission to use it. Ms. Axley explained the town owns the building and controls who may use it. The facility is not locked into Red Cross use only. Mr. Sieber followed up with the comment the Red Cross responded quickly to a situation he was involved with in Delphi and they were appreciated. Mr. Everett Snoeberger questioned rather the building was the best choice. Would another building be less susceptible to snow/ice/wind damage? Mr. Wagoner explained the Community Building was the only building owned by the town suitable for this service. It may not be perfect but the best we have now. Mr. Snoeberger was asked if he had another option in mind. None were offered. The motion to sign the agreement was made by Mrs. Everett and passed.

Jackson Township Fire Department Contract

The contract with Jackson Township was recently updated to better reflect the specific maintenance needs of the town's fire truck. The contract states the expenses to be incurred by the Township and which will be covered by the town. The \$4500 contract fee will cover the normal maintenance cost of the town's truck and provide fire protection to Camden's residents. The town, in turn, provides water free of charge to the fire department for all fire runs. The agreement was signed by a motion by Mrs. Everett, seconded by Mr. Robison.

Ordinance 2007-4

Replacing Ordinance #1992-2

A new nuisance ordinance addressing noise issues was adopted by a motion from Mr. Robison, seconded by Mrs. Everett. Problems with dogs will be addressed after the first of the year. The county will not offer animal control service in 2008 and there is uncertainty in what will develop with the Animal Control Commission. In addition, dilapidated buildings will need further attention in the ordinance. The 2007-4 Ordinance has set stiffer fines for violations and will be enforced. The ordinance will take effect 30 days after being advertised.

The Clerk-Treasurer also spoke on animal control and the efforts being made to have a program in place in 2008. The clerk-treasurer in Flora is working to develop a budget based on what the county expected to spend in 2008, with adjustments made for expenses not in that budget and reduction of expenses expected with part-time help. This figure will be divided proportionately by assessed valuations to determine individual units

expected cost. The local units of government will then determine their interest in maintaining a program. More information will be available by the November meeting.

Miscellaneous Business

1. Sana Booker, Carroll County Chamber Director, was introduced by Mr. Wagoner. Ms. Booker spoke briefly and welcomed citizens to visit with her at the office in the REMC building in Delphi. A few Carroll County pamphlets were left.
2. Troubled properties were again discussed. Deputy Marshall John Chapman prepared a list with updates that was reviewed by the Council.
3. The Council approved the yearly contract with Keystone Software Systems in the amount of \$3700 for the asset, budget, bill and payroll systems.
4. Mr. Ken Smith, Municipal Civil Corp, stated grant results should be known by the November Council meeting for the wastewater improvement plans. IDEM permit limits did go into effect because the town went beyond the 35 month construction period. IDEM is aware the town is attempting to get funding for the improvements required and will take that into consideration. We can not meet the limits due to no plant.
5. Halloween will be celebrated October 31st from 6-8pm. Camden businesses taking part in the activities will be the Camden Grocery, the Library, Town Office, Jackson Twp. Fire Department and Fite's Mobility. The Lion's Club will host their annual Halloween party from 7-8pm in the Community Building.
6. Mr. Stephen Royer visited with Mr. Wagoner on the horse problem. Mr. Royer stated a meeting was going to be held and asked permission to police themselves in an effort to improve the problem. The horses and buggies are using Cemetery Street as a safe passage from Hwy 75 to Hwy 218 where the produce market is located. By using that hill they are avoiding the unsafe hill on Hwy 75. Mr. Wagoner stated he felt this was a reasonable request and agreed to allow time for the situation to improve. If necessary, the issue is addressed in the Nuisance Ordinance.
7. Larry Trapp, Leadership Carroll County, contacted the town office in regards to the Ralph J. Rohrabough Leadership Scholarship. The next round of classes will start in January. Mr. Trapp expects to have a list of people from the Camden area interested in the class ready for the Council. From that list, the Council will choose who to award this year's scholarship. Funding for the award is made possible by last year's Leadership class.

- 8 The county is once again looking into the extension of Hwy 75 north to the HHC and there is a little more hope it will be developed. Mr. Wagoner stated he will support the project only if Camden will benefit. For this reason Mr. Smith was asked to investigate cost for Camden to extend utilities to the area. Camden wants to be pro-active to what the county is doing and be ready for any opportunity for development. One asset of Camden is the first class water and a system that can handle more usage. When the sewer project is complete, it too will be available. The additional customer(s) would help offset cost. Presently, the Council just wants to look at the options and be prepared if any opportunity presents itself.
9. The 175th Celebration banners will be sold to interested persons for \$20.00 each. A few people have already contracted the town office to express their interest. Mr. Robison made the motion to sell the banners for \$20, with the stipulation the people who helped with the 175th would have first option. The banners will be taken down when the Christmas decorations are put up.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 by a motion from Mr. Robison.

Camden Town Council

Peter F. Wagoner, President

Andrew Robison, Member

Michele Everett, Member

ATTEST:

P.A. Casserly
Clerk-Treasurer