

# Minutes

## CAMDEN TOWN COUNCIL

### PUBLIC MEETING

**MARCH 13, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Camden Town Council was called to order by President Peter Wagoner at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Members Andy Kelly, Richard Fite, Clerk-Treasurer Pat Casserly, attorney Anne Briggs and ten citizens.

Minutes from the February 14th regular council meeting and the Wastewater Public Hearing held the same evening were approved by motions from Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Fite. The docket was accepted as presented by a motion from Mr. Fite, seconded by Mr. Kelly.

#### **Red Cross Training**

Mr. Thomas Cooper, Committee Member Disaster Services for the American Red Cross, informed the Clerk-Treasurer the Lafayette Chapter will have a training session on April 5<sup>th</sup> and will come to Camden that afternoon for a disaster drill. He requested twelve to twenty local volunteers in addition to the shelter trained volunteers be present for the exercise.

No new information was available on having a Red Cross portable trailer stationed in the garage at the Community Building.

#### **Grant Updates**

Star Development was in town March 11th working on the housing write-ups in preparation of putting the work out to bid. Lead base paint testing will start on March 13<sup>th</sup>. It was announced that one person dropped out of the program and a replacement is being sought. Star Development contacted the Clerk-Treasurer for names of people who are on the waiting list and those persons will be contacted. The grant requires Star Development to first search for recipients who are in the same income level; if there are none found, the award can go to others who meet the general grant guidelines.

Mr. Wagoner stated Ken Smith, Municipal Civil Corp, had visited with him earlier in the evening and the wastewater grant will be submitted on March 14<sup>th</sup>. The grant was significantly re-worked in an effort to score higher. Not as many applications are expected this round so that should improve the town's probability of being awarded the grant.

## **Local Ordinance Issues**

1. Mr. Fite will speak with Jerry Markovich, Signs by Jerry, to have “No Engine Brake” signs made so the ordinance passed in regards to engine brakes can be enforced. If signs are not posted, the marshals can enforce the ordinance. Mr. Wagoner asked for these signs to be made as soon as possible. Mr. Markovich will also be asked to make new entrance signs for the town.

2. On March 10<sup>th</sup>, Mrs. Briggs sent a letter to the owners of the property at 546 East Main Street, Lucas, informing them of ordinance violations due to the condition of the property. The property has been a problem and past letters from Mrs. Briggs have resulted in minimal improvement efforts. Deputy John Chapman informed Mrs. Briggs the property has at least two violations of the nuisance ordinance. A concerned citizen stated shingles blew off the garage and struck the side of his garage resulting in two holes. He went on to state there have been no signs of improvement since the last council meeting. Mr. Fite will work with Deputy Marshal Chapman and Mrs. Briggs in preparing a stronger letter and to follow through with possible small claims action. Mrs. Briggs sent the prior letter with just a “mailer” but will use certified mail with the next letter. Mrs. Briggs asked the marshal to take current pictures for inclusion with her letter which will spell out the minimum requirements for improvement and a time line. If the certified letter is refused by the property owner, the letter can then be delivered by the marshal. If there is no response from the owner, the town can go to small claims for enforcement. The question was asked if the property could be condemned. Mrs. Briggs said the local ordinance did not provide for that mechanism. If damage is done to other’s property, that person can sue in small claims – the injured party would have to take action. Mrs. Briggs said the town’s ordinance states the owner needs to clean up the property and if not a fine will be levied. The name and address of the property owner can be obtained from the county tax roles by any interested or damaged party. Mr. Wagoner and the Council expressed sympathy with the neighbors who have tolerated the property and stated they will do what they can to abate the problem though ordinance enforcement. Mr. Wagoner declared the town will go to court if that is required to improve the home. Such action would be a benefit to the community, force the clean-up and help protect property values.

## **Miscellaneous Business**

- (1) Mr. Kelly reported there have been no meetings on animal control.
- (2) The Town and Jackson Township will hold a joint meeting on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm at the Fireman’s Lounge.
- (3) Dan Casserly and Jeff Sieber, 175<sup>th</sup> Committee Officers, were present to give their final financial report on the event. The Celebration was organized as a 501-3-C so any remaining funds, after expenses were paid, would need to be distributed to not-for-profit organizations. Lion’s Club representative Bill Dittman was presented with a check for \$1,500 to be used for the horse pull

scheduled for July 26<sup>th</sup>. The money given was part of what was collected for the 2007 horse pull, blanket collection and other donations. Also given a check for \$1,500 was the Camden Preservation Society which was accepted by Jeff Sieber, Vice President. The Society may use the funds as they see best for improvements to Camden. Mr. Casserly concluded by stating the first meeting for the 175<sup>th</sup> Celebration was held in March, 2006, under the direction of Ralph Rohrbaugh. The job is now complete and funds are distributed. He thanked all who helped in planning, funding, and carrying out of the activities.

- (4) Mr. Wagoner noted that one of Mr. Rohrbaugh's last accomplishments was the purchase of two defriborators with grant funds. This past week, a life was saved because they were on hand and available for use. Linda Red Elk and Deputy Marshal John Chapman were thanked for their help in assisting Dorothy Garman during her time of distress.
- (5) Mr. Fite asked that Jerry Snavelly check alleys for to see which may need gravel. Mr. Snavelly stated he has a list started for alley repair but some will need graded before stone is added. One spot was filled at the Senior Citizen Complex and a call of thanks was immediately received.
- (6) Bill Dittman, Jackson Township Trustee, reported the fire station is now wired to accept portable generators.
- (7) Ken Smith, Municipal Civil Corp, is assisting Mr. Dittman to secure grant funds for new playground equipment at the township park. He is also working with Mr. Fite for funding additional restrooms for the community building.

Meeting adjourned by a motion from Mr. Fite at 7:40.

Camden Town Council

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Peter F. Wagoner, President

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Richard Fite, Vice-President

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Andrew Kelly, Member

ATTEST:

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P.A. Casserly  
Clerk-Treasurer

