



Town of Blades
OFFICE OF MAYOR & COUNCIL
20 W Fourth Street
Blades, Delaware 19973-4122
(P) 302.629.7366 (F) 302.629.0199

December 9th, 2013

***Public Hearing
Hardin Hall
7PM***

Agenda

Community Development Block Grant Public Hearing

Brad Whaley from Sussex County opened the Public Hearing at 7PM and read the public hearing notice.

Discussion regarding block grant; 2.2 million available for Kent & Sussex Counties; benefits low to median income households for housing repairs; has to be owner occupied properties only; insured or insurable; demo and housing rehabilitation projects; Blades has 13 properties currently on the waiting list.

Question from the audience regarding funding for public safety; Mr. Whaley stated that these funds can't be used for public safety projects.

New Castle County has their own allotment; Kent and Sussex County share an allotment.

The town has received over \$384,000 over the past years from CDBG to help rehab homes and demo unsafe structures.

Closed Public Hearing at 7:10PM

***Town Council Meeting
Hardin Hall
7:10PM***

Present: Mayor Michael J. Smith, Vice-Mayor Russell Joseph, Councilman Robert Atkinson, Councilman Earl Chaffinch, Sr., Councilman John Reiss, Councilman David Ruff, Town Administrator Vikki Prettyman

Meeting Opened at 7:10pm with the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes from November 11th, 2013 Council Meeting; Workshop Minutes from October 29th, 2013, November 26th, 2013, and December 3rd, 2013; motion to accept in written form by Councilman Reiss; seconded by Councilman Joseph; motion passed.

Police Report - submitted by Chief Cooke read by Commissioner Chaffinch.

Town Council Meeting Minutes



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BEDCO – No minutes available at the time of this meeting...

P&Z – No minutes were available at the time of this meeting...

Committee Reports:

- Housing/Code – Code Report Submitted & Attached in the minutes.
- Water report - submitted by Brandon Slater; read by Commissioner Atkinson.
 - Mrs. Maharty interrupted the Commissioner asking what the backhoe was being used for.
- Streets – Report not in writing. Still waiting on approval from the state to move forward on the ditch work.
- Parks & Cemetery – Report submitted in writing and read by Commissioner Ruff. The flag poles appear to be damaged.
- Police Report – No further information to report. Still reviewing the background of a potential police officer.
- Mayor's Report – No report this month.

❖ New Business:

- Blades Back Up Well Recommendation
 - **Synopsis:** recommendation on the bid for the construction for the back up well
 - Aaron Goller with Davis, Bowen, & Friedel; present to make the recommendations for the back up well project. The bids came in over budget and over the available funding. The town has been working with DBF and with the contractor that did come in lower than the other bidder to reduce the cost of the project. Discussion in detail regarding the cost savings and it is detailed line item by line item and is attached with these minutes and in further detail in the recorded minutes. Motion to approve AC Shultes Back-Up Well bid at \$381,479 with condition of amendments and change orders as reads to reduce bid to \$264,913; motion by Councilman Reiss; seconded by Councilman Atkinson; passed unanimously.
- 2014 Administrative Processing Fee 2013.12.9 R01
 - **Synopsis:** resolution approving the 2014 Administrative Processing Fee
 - Resolution read by Town Administrator; motion to approve by Councilman Chaffinch; seconded by Councilman Reiss; motion passed unanimously.
- 2014 Water Rates 2013.12.9 R02
 - **Synopsis:** setting the water rates for 2014
 - Resolution read by Town Administrator; discussion regarding increase of the cost to maintain the water plant; insurance premiums; motion to approve by Councilman Atkinson with the agreement that the council will review in 6 months; seconded by Councilman Chaffinch; motion passed unanimously.



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- 2014 Budget 2013.12.9 R03
 - **Synopsis:** resolution adopting the fiscal year 2014 Budget
 - Resolution read by Town Administrator; motion to accept by Councilman Reiss; seconded by Councilman Ruff; motion passed unanimously.
- Community Development Block Grant Resolution
 - Resolutions read by Town Administrator; motion to accept by Councilman Ruff; seconded by Councilman Chaffinch; motion passed unanimously.

Mayor would like to recognize an employee who smoked turkeys overnight and the employees that delivered them on Thanksgiving Day. This wasn't announced and the employees didn't ask for credit but the Mayor felt that it should be shared so that it shows that our employees care about the community!

❖ Good of the Community:

- Stand By Me – Free one on one financial coaching; program has been in Sussex County for over a year and a half. Beth Pritchett made a brief presentation on how the program works. She handed out brochures.
- Patsy Maharty West, she grew up in Blades, her mother, father, and brother are buried in the cemetery and when she called town hall to question the graves, after some research she was told that there is only one plot left. She became very irate. She discussed her displeasure of this situation and told us that the 2 people in the graves will be dug up even if council has to do it themselves. How would we feel if strangers were buried next to our family? After verbalizing her displeasure, Parks & Cemetery Commission Ruff stated that he will look into the situation and get back with her. (Note for the record: Mrs. West has been very hostile and verbally abusive to the town staff and interrupted the council meeting several times)
- Ron Dejewski: questioned if the councilman notes regarding the meetings could be elaborated on; what the different meetings are for; what was the purpose of the meetings; why were you attending; please give detail.

Request for an Executive Session by Councilman Chaffinch at 8:39pm.

Council meeting paused at 8:42pm till 8:48pm.

Council meeting reopened at 8:48pm.

Mayor closed the meeting at 8:48pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vikki Prettyman
Town Administrator

Town Council Meeting Minutes