




Town of Middletown
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MIDDLETOWN TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
February 5, 2008

The Middletown Town Council met on Tuesday, February 5, 2008. Council President Jim Mundell, council members Jake Smith, Dan Fountain, Lisa Hicks-Smith and Tim Mundell were all present. In the absence of Clerk-Treasurer Jim Hanson, Deputy Penny Lohrey clerked the meeting. Joel Harvey was present as council attorney. After the pledge to the flag, the president approved the minutes. The claims were signed as presented.

1. Dave Wagner was present to present a financial overview of the utility departments. After a detailed presentation, Dave recommended to leave the sewage rate as is, banking the cash against balloon payments, but he favored increases of 8% in both the water and electric rates.
2. At the last meeting, copies of a proposal from REMC concerning emergency assistance to our electric department were presented to council. The council voted to accept the contract noting that the town was under no obligation to use REMC if we choose not to.
3. Next, a proposal concerning the automatic shut off of utility users who become more than two months behind on their bills was considered. It was decided to hold this item until next meeting of the council. The matter of contracts for persons who are falling behind on payments was also discussed. This will also be discussed later.
4. Tim Mundell made a motion to re-hire Tony Robbins. This was seconded by Jim Mundell. After discussion, the voting was: Lisa Hicks-Smith, Jake Smith and Dan Fountain--No and Jim Mundell and Tim Mundell--Yes.
5. Jake Smith made a motion that the council start making a plan for the future of the town. This was seconded by Lisa Hicks-Smith. After discussion, the motion was approved by all members.
6. In an update from Kyle Metcalf, the issue of how documented violations of the property codes would be processed. The procedure was discussed at length.
7. Fire Chief Brian Rednour informed council that the new tanker truck would be delivered within the week. He explained how FEMA would direct the funds to pay the town for it. Also he noted some areas that need additional fire hydrants. Council will see if these can be added to the project that is currently being considered.
8. Superintendent David Real reported that the new grinder had been ordered for the sewage disposal plant.
9. Ron Koons had a complaint call from a cable customer who had not had satisfactory service on an outage. Ron was able to get a resolution in a couple of hours instead of several days as was the case with dealing with the cable company. He urged customers who are not getting prompt service to call him.
10. Penny Lohrey gave a presentation on final bills for the utility departments. These were bills that the time for collection has expired for any of several reasons. As requested by the State Board Of Accounts, the utility department requests the town council allow these accounts be written off as uncollectible. The total dollar amount to be written off was \$33,661.70. A motion was made and seconded. The vote was four in favor and one opposed. Motion carried. The matter of using a collection agency to collect on delinquent bills was discussed. Lisa Hicks-Smith will look in to this and make a recommendation at a future time.
11. Council member Lisa Hicks-Smith made a motion to temporarily move the recycling bins to the back of the lot between the Civic Center and the Historical Society Building until the permanent site can be readied. The motion also allowed permission for Three Rivers and Henry County to prepare the site behind the Town Hall for the placement of the bins when the weather permits. Those voting for were: Lisa Hicks-Smith, Jim Mundell and Tim Mundell. Those voting against were: Dan Fountain and Jake Smith. The motion carried.
12. There being no further business to come before council, the meeting was adjourned by the president.



James E. Hanson / C.S.



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