

A Town Meeting of the Thurmont Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, April 18, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. The following were present: Mayor Burns; Commissioner Blakeslee, Hooper, Terpko and Muth; Clerk Rick May; Jim Rada (Dispatch); Randy Cubbedge; Brian Lynch; Electric Superintendent Jim Greever and John Kinnaird,

Mayor Burns welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Commissioner Terpko led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The first item on the agenda is a discussion on I/I contract. Mayor Burns stated, "I did talk to Commissioner Terpko on the phone and informed him of what transpired last week and that I voted to continue or voted against the motion, so that we could continue this out of respect who we had wished for him to be here. The thing that we have before us is we have the second phase of the I&I to complete, there is another \$40,000.00 in this years' budget to identify or finish the work of some of the areas that we identified that could be problematic and to continue further engineering work for a second phase. There was a question amongst the Board of Commissioners many times before about ARRO and they were here and defended their position and their rationale behind the first bid. Before I just let the contract which I guess I was technically entitled to do because their still our engineering firm for the Town, I thought I'd bring it before the Board of Commissioners to make sure everybody was okay with that. The vote was 2-1, last week Commissioner Terpko; I voted to make the tie so that you could be here for discussions. If anybody would like to open up the floor and discuss it, feel free." Commissioner Muth replied, "I'll start, I'm not against spending the money I just don't think it's an emergency, I don't think we need to spend it this year. Given that, whatever the results are we're not going to do anything with it for at least a year I suspect, we've got to get through phase 1 before we start on phase 2 and that's really my only issue. Why do it if we don't need to? Spend it next year." Commissioner Hooper asked, "What's the timetable on this? Do you know what their plans are? I know we have to have the engineering in at a certain time before; I'm not exactly sure what the timetable is. When do we, dropped dead need to do this; to get the second phase going?" Mayor Burns replied, "I don't like to react. I like to be proactive so because we know there potentially could be other areas we have not explored. Commissioner Muth is right; do we have to do this today? No! But we budgeted for this to make sure, if we wait to after this first phase is complete, tested and then find out it's not good enough then we have to wait that much longer to be prepared to initiate another contract to get it fixed up to par. I would rather put it up front like we have, we already know there are other areas that we're going to find that have problem areas and then after the analysis with the flow meters and the fall during the rain time, we can make that determination whether to go forward with the money but then engineering is still going to be the engineering, its not going to change drastically, I don't believe." Commissioner Blakeslee replied, "I think if we learned anything from the last time, it drives me crazy but it took us over two years to get the thing done and if we wait until after this next ones done; it'll be two years from that point to get it done. I think we do the engineering and find out what we're looking at. We do the study and budget it, we've done it every year whether we knew we had a problem or not; we've always budgeted money for I&I and done some more work. I think, this way

at least we can have a logical progression and this way we know what we're looking at for the next phase. It may not be as much money; they might not find as many problems, hopefully." Commissioner Muth replied, "From the first phase, there was a phase two already planned that at the time was estimated to be a million dollars and that's what I believe was already in the budget, stuff that we already know about and we know it's going to end up being more than a million bucks because that estimate is two years old now and Gary has told me there is more stuff that he knows about that he'd like to put in so I'm just not sure that we need to investigate anything." Mayor Burns replied, "Mr. May, let me ask you a question if you recall and it's to clarify what Mr. Muth just said. You may not be the person to ask, if you know I ask your opinion, of the \$40,000.00 we spent we identified areas that needed fixed but we didn't fix all those areas on that first analysis? Is that correct?" Mr. May replied, "No, that study presented these areas that we are fixing now as part of the I&I project." Mayor Burns replied, "Right but did that fix every area that we identified as potential problem area, in other words is this \$40,000.00 that we have in this current year budget which I think is where Commissioner Muth is going with, is that for a third phase or is this still part of the second phase?" Mr. May replied, "I'm assuming, I haven't seen the contract but I'm assuming it's the portion that that you budgeted for this year which would be the second portion of it to identify other areas. Not everything was televised." Commissioner Muth replied, "My recollection was; and maybe I'm wrong but my recollection was there was a bunch of areas that we knew about that weren't included in phase one because we said, we kind of artificially said around one million dollars is what we'd spend on the first phase, be that as it may so we tried to split it up 50-50 kind of, that's what my recollection was." Mr. May replied, "My recollection was that there was, I think that was just an arbitrary number the additional one million. I don't know where that ever came from." Mayor Burns replied, "I think my recollection is that we did the study and out of that study came areas that had high flow rates and so we said okay, we're going to televise those sections. There were other areas that may have had lukewarm, semi-high rates but we didn't do anything more with that. If this \$40,000.00 is for a third phase, I agree with you we don't need to do it even in this fiscal year, we can wait one fiscal year and apply the money next year." Commissioner Muth replied, "That's what I assumed it was." Mayor Burns replied, "If it's not than I agree with what Mr. Blakeslee is saying and I want to stay on top of the game and make sure that we're all ready to go. Commissioner Blakeslee replied, "I think we're also mixing the time period, we did the televising before we did the flow meters. We televised the lines and then we put flow meters in to see if we could find the smoking gun, it wasn't the other way around." Commissioner Muth replied, "I think that's right." Commissioner Blakeslee continued, "We did the televising, identified areas and then when we couldn't find the smoking gun; we said let's put our money first and go where the biggest problems are with the flow meters and didn't find a smoking gun." Commissioner Terpkko added, "From what I can recall also with this, we did do televising and we also had areas where we already knew there were problems and then we did the flow meters and then we were going to target out of what they gave us, this portion was what we were going to take care of now but then there was still another section out of that whole initial pie that wasn't being touched. I think that's what you're referring to as phase two so that's why I think what we're seeing in our minds as phase three, because of that. I'm under the impression that what we're doing right now is not fixing the whole

piece that we found. It's fixing a good portion of that but then there is still another part plus some other areas that we already knew were problems." Mayor Burns replied, "I certainly understand both sides of the equation. If the \$40,000.00 is for a third phase, then I personally do not have a problem waiting until after the second phase but if this is a continuation of the second phase than I'm for spending the money to get that second phase ready to go to bid." Commissioner Blakeslee added, "I'm for doing it because I don't want to look somebody in the eye when they're having sewage pumped out of their house and said well we could've, it's the logical progression." Commissioner Hooper added, "That's my feeling also." Commissioner Terpko replied, "If we do the engineering study now, at what point in time, how long do you think it's going to take before we get to that to fix it?" Mayor Burns asked, "It certainly wouldn't be fiscal year...if this one is a third phase; you mean Commissioner?" Commissioner Terpko replied, "Yeah, like right now if we go out and spend \$40,000.00 to have an engineering study done and it comes back to us, that work that's coming back to us when will we break ground to do that or start doing that?" Mayor Burns replied, "Well, what did it take us 8 months or longer." Mr. May replied, "Longer." Mayor Burns replied, "To get it ready..." Commissioner Blakeslee added, "It was two years." Commissioner Muth replied, "Exactly." Mayor Burns replied, "It could be next fiscal year, could be but I highly, highly doubt it. That would probably be a third phase." Mr. May added, "It might be a third investigative phase but it might coincide with, not 07 but 08 for the actual work." Commissioner Muth replied, "It seems to me that we don't really understand what the \$40,000.00 was meant for; from the discussion tonight, at least on the Board were not in agreement as to what it was really meant for." Commissioner Blakeslee added, "See, I'm thinking it's for the second phase and that's the way I understand it from talking to Gary, unless I misunderstood him." Mayor Burns replied, "I guess, I'll ask the question again which I'm trying to get direction from the Board, if this is the second phase I'm looking for a motion to; I'm going to execute the \$40,000.00 which is already in the budget which I really don't need, I guess technical permission unless the Board's going to reverse that. If this is a third phase than I think we have something that we could think about not having to spend that money. I'd hate to spend money this year, knowing that we're not going to break ground for another year and half which could alter the severity of the areas that we had engineered. If this is the second phase, I'm all for it; we go for it." Commissioner Blakeslee added, "To be quite honest, it doesn't matter to me I'm assuming; I think it's the second phase but it doesn't matter if it's the third phase; it took us two years to even come close to groundbreaking on the first one and if we wait now for a third phase it's going to be..." Commissioner Muth added, "Two years..." Commissioner Blakeslee replied, "No, it'll be three or four because we're going to wait, we're not talking about doing it this year. It's going to be way out there. This is logical progression of how Dingle wants to do it." Commissioner Terpko replied, "And we're going to contract ARRO to continue?" Mayor Burns replied, "Well, that was the main thrust of the argument. It's already in the budget, really the only argument that's really supposed to be before us is the Board isn't reversing and saying we're going with another engineering firm because it's already been approved in the budget for this second engineering work. The vote last week, the majority would have been to stay with ARRO because they've already started because they already have all the corporate knowledge and if it was a new project, brand new the Board would consider looking at other engineering firms. Is that

the desire of the Board?" Commissioner Blakeslee added, "My position is same as last time. If we change in midstream with ARRO, the \$40,000.00 would be spent for investigative work of a non conclusive nature by a new engineering firm or a good portion of it whereas this, they know the job and they know what they've got to do." Commissioner Terpko added, "See I kind of see it as whoever comes in to actually do it, televising, flow meters, looking at lines I don't really see much of a difference there. Just get a new company come in and say to them; where do you want us to start, pick up from right here and this is the whole section that we're going to do because ARRO is going to be doing the same thing. If the majority of the Board wishes to continue with ARRO, I am not pleased about that but I will concur. I don't want too but I will if that's the majority." Commissioner Muth added, "My argument was never about ARRO... (unintelligible)." Mayor Burns asked, "Do I have a motion? Or any more discussion? I'll entertain a motion?" Commissioner Blakeslee replied, "I make a motion we contract ARRO for the \$40,000.00 worth of investigative work as budgeted this year." Commissioner Hooper replied, "Second." Mayor Burns asked, "Any discussion?" Commissioner Muth replied, "I can't vote for that because, we don't know whether it's for a second phase..." Commissioner Blakeslee replied, "Then vote yes or no." Commissioner Muth replied, "But this is a discussion." Commissioner Blakeslee replied, "Then vote yes or no." Mayor Burns asked, "Any other discussion?" No response. Mayor Burns asked, "All in favor? Vote 3- for (Commissioner Blakeslee, Commissioner Hooper and Commissioner Terpko), 1-against (Commissioner Muth); motion carried.

The next item on the agenda is the Fiscal Year 2006-07 Budget discussions. There was general discussion amongst the Board of Commissioners regarding Program Open Space funding. There was general discussion amongst the Board regarding the Fiscal Year 2006 Budget. The consensus of the Board is to invite Department Heads to the Town Meeting on April 25, 2006 to discuss and review budget requests.

Commissioner Muth mentioned the Medic Commission meeting will be held on April 20, 2006. Commissioner Muth mentioned the Catoctin High School Safe and Sane Basket Bingo will be held on April 21, 2006 at the Thurmont Carnival Grounds Activity Building, the Golf Tournament will be held on April 28, 2006 at Maple Run Golf Course and there are tickets left on the Harley Raffle.

Commissioner Hooper mentioned there were no names submitted to serve on the Park Commission. There was a discussion amongst the Board regarding vacancies on the Park Commission. Commissioner Hooper stated if anyone is interested in serving on the Park Commission; please contact the Thurmont Town Office. The next Park Commission meeting will be held on May 10, 2006. Commissioner Hooper mentioned the 50-60's Night Committee is selling raffle tickets for a 10-piece patio set at the Thurmont Business Expo; the drawing will be held on May 2, 2006.

Commissioner Terpko mentioned the next Recycling Commission meeting will be held on May 15, 2006. Commissioner Terpko voiced concerns regarding yard waste pickup. Commissioner Terpko stated grass clippings will be picked up on Monday mornings by Town Staff; please do not put grass clippings out on trash days.

Commissioner Terpko voiced concerns regarding large items being placed in apartment dumpsters throughout town. Commissioner Terpko commented on removing trash service from town taxes. There was a discussion regarding electric memos from Jim Greever.

Commissioner Blakeslee stated he will host a Roundtable discussion on Friday, April 21, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Thurmont Town Office. Commissioner Blakeslee also thanked State Highway Administration for erecting signs throughout town for the Main Street Program.

Mayor Burns commented on the annexation meeting he hosted on Wednesday, April 19, 2006. Mayor Burns stated MML scholarship information will be distributed this week. Mayor Burns mentioned the Town has saved \$2500.00 a year on their Nextel contract. Mayor Burns mentioned the Town of Thurmont appeared in the Fredericksburg, Virginia newspaper regarding the annexation.

Without further discussion the public meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy L. Schur  
Recording Secretary