

June 22, 2011

### **Town Board**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Randy Leiker, Andy Peters and Dean Culbertson.

### **Public hearing for proposed amendments to ordinance establishing provisions for placement and maintenance of street address signs in Greenville**

The hearing was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Karen Fredericksen feels there is too much government. Randy Leiker stated the request for the signs has come from area emergency personnel. Greg Fredericksen questioned the rationale for making it mandatory. Randy Leiker stated it is a uniform address system throughout the Town. Mr. Fredericksen feels the sign detracts from the curb appeal of the home. He feels it devalues his house. Randy stated there are alternative methods for placement if everyone agrees. Tom Jarona stated they do not have a Home Owner's Association and they would have to go door to door and find out if the neighbors would want something different. Randy stated that the letters placed on the mailbox are not the proper reflectivity. Len Rusch stated he does volunteer driving for the County and they use GPS to find the home and feels emergency personnel could use them also. Randy stated they do not work throughout the entire Town. A number of different types have been tried. The 1<sup>st</sup> Responders are alone in their vehicles and would have to type in the address themselves and that takes time. Time is of the essence in an emergency situation. Ed Bush stated if you type in his address, you will not find it. He lives on a private road. It also takes time to get the new developments into the mapping system. Many may not be in for awhile.

Randy Leiker stated this is being done for safety reasons. Mr. Fredericksen feels it is harder to find his street than his house. His subdivision is well marked and well lit. Their mailboxes are on one side of the road so the alternate methods will not work for them. Sue Jarona is disturbed about the sign. She put new reflective numbers on her mailbox that cost her \$1.68. She feels she should not have to spend \$35 for an ugly sign. Randy stated the numbers for \$1.68 lose their reflectivity and would need to be replaced every year. Ms. Jarona stated she would change hers every year. Randy stated that she may but will everyone do it every year? Randy stated the signs are made of aluminum and the sign and post will not rust.

Dave Tebo stated all these issues were raised a year or so ago and researched. The Board tried to find the best answer and work with the 1<sup>st</sup> Responders and Firemen for their needs. If we had 30 1<sup>st</sup> responders in this room tonight, we would get a different point of view. They have been grappling with this for a year to come up with the best solution. Randy stated we have

had many meetings on this already. We have had a number of drafts to get to what we have now. We listened to citizen input for where we are at now.

Ed bush had a few minor suggestions to change the ordinance in a minor way. Those will be taken into consideration. Dave Cyr questioned if the owners in his subdivision could affix a proprietary sign that meets the intent of the ordinance. Mr. Cyr would like a black background with reflective letters for his subdivision. Dave would have to apply for a alternative method and see if the Board agrees to it.

Randy stated that on a recommendation from a citizen they changed the definition of subdivisions to a continuous definable area such one street. The signs will not be in the middle of the yard. They will be close to the driveway. John Holtz put most of the signs up outside the district and tried to put them in a reasonable place to be the least offensive as possible.

Andy Peters made a motion to close the hearing. Dean Culbertson seconded the motion and it was carried and closed at 6:55 p.m.

Andy Peters stated when we started this process, he also thought it was not necessary and ugly. As he talked with emergency personnel, signs were made smaller and were more flexible. We did everything we possibly could to accomplish this. Most people will not change the numbers on a mailbox when they are needed. If an address sign is down, we have the authority to put another one back up and charge it to the property owner. We looked at GPS and had 1<sup>st</sup> Responders try it out. It did not work. Tom Jarona wants to know the statistics and how many calls are missed because of poor signage. Randy Leiker reiterated that their homes will not be devalued. Mr. Jarona questioned if people were hospitalized because they could not find a home in time? That is what he wants to know. Dean Culbertson stated this is not to beautify the Town it is for safety purposes.

Dean Culbertson made a motion to approve as written with the changes. Andy Peters seconded the motion and it was carried.

Andy Peters made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dean Culbertson seconded the motion and it was carried and adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Deborah Wagner,  
Town Clerk