

WJ Aldermen Honor Deceased Officer

Written by Gary Childers
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The West Jefferson Town Aldermen met on Monday, April 04, 2011 at 7:00 in the Town Office building. Following the approval of last meeting's minutes the next item on the agenda was a presentation to the wife of deceased police officer, Tommy Beamer. Officer Beamer passed away approximately a year ago. In an emotional ceremony Mayor Hudler expressed the appreciation of the town of West Jefferson for the service of Officer Beamer. Following the mayor's comments an equally heart felt presentation was made by Police Chief, Jeff Rose. Chief Rose presented Officer Beamer's service weapon and shield to Mrs. Cynthia Beamer and her children. The service weapon and shield had been mounted and enclosed in a glass covered wooden case. Mrs. Beamer was moved to tears and expressed an emotional thank you which was followed by applause from all attending the meeting. Many of Officer Beamer's family, co-workers, and friends were in attendance. Mayor Hudler called a for a 10 minute recess to allow those present time to speak to Ms. Beamer. Most of those in attendance spoke individually to her, expressing their appreciation for the service of her husband and sadness for her family's loss.

Following the recess Mayor Hudler reconvened the meeting and introduced Mr. Mike Kincaid from BREMCO for a presentation about proposed changes to downtown's street lighting. The proposal outlined the replacement of existing street lighting with newer technology that would result in better lighting and improved appearance for the town. Alderman Shoemaker moved to approve the proposal. Prior to voting on the motion the following two concerns were discussed. First was making sure scheduled street repaving occurred after the change in lighting so the digging required for installation of the new lights would not undo the street repaving improvements. The other concern was that some form of street lighting would remain in place while the new was being installed. Alderman Green felt it would be unsafe to have no street lighting in operation while the new was being installed. It was determined that the installation could be phased so that all the existing lighting would not have to be eliminated while the new was being installed. Following this discussion the Aldermen unanimously approved the project.