

The Pearisburg Town Council met in Regular Session on Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in the Pearisburg Town Council Chambers. Present for the meeting was Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Eaton, Clark, Journell, Harrell, Ballard and Williams; Town Attorney Hartley; Town Manager Meredith; Town Clerk Harless; Building Official Wilson; Police Chief Martin; and Treasurer Hope Harrell. Also, present were citizens Nick Clark, Natalie Thwaites, and Colin Munsey; and Amelia Whittaker with the Virginian Leader.

Williams made a motion to approve the November 13, 2019 Regular Council Meeting minutes. Ballard seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Eaton, Williams, Journell, Harrell, Ballard and Clark. The motion carried by a vote of 7 to 0.

Nick Clark addressed Council concerning the Parks and Rec Revitalization Project and asked questions about Council's overall plans. Clark asked Council about a projected start date for construction. He understands that a contractor is waiting to get the go ahead from the Town to begin grading the fields. He understands there are funds available to begin the project and that a plan was approved by Council.

Meredith stated that Part 1 Phase 1 of the project is to add an additional ball field. Staff had worked with Mr. Henderson to make plans for grading. At that time there was no survey on the property. He wanted to clarify that Virginia Tech had provided the town with a conceptual plan that was not to be used as a blue print for construction. Council moved forward and had assistance getting the ball field areas surveyed. Under the two-field model the largest field would be 250 sq. ft. While this would serve younger children who play baseball, it would hinder the Town's ability to supply a suitable field for older adolescents and adults. He stated that adding an additional field would also reduce the Town's ability to provide space for other sports such as football, soccer, etc. and other activities such as the Town Festival. Meredith stated that the Town had an obligation to make improvements that accommodated all residents. He stated that improvements should, at a minimum, make things better without making any other stakeholder groups any worse off. Meredith addressed some other concerns which included the hillside where the walking trail is located. It may require a retaining wall which an engineering firm would need to design. There is a sewer line next to the walking trail. Should it be needed, moving the walking trail and sewer lines would have a significant cost. The Town will also need an Erosion and Sediment control plan that will cost thousands of dollars. He stated that the Town needs to obtain a study on the cave system in the area to ensure that it is feasible to expand the

site onto new ground. He stated that fundamentally the town wants to serve all ages and interests. The project can't be built exactly like the conceptual designs. Meredith stated that he has doubts that the \$30,000 that have been raised would cover the costs associated with adding another field. He stated that the Town must be responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars and public resources.

Nick Clark would like to know an amount that needs to be raised so construction can begin. He would like to know when a decision will be made on the starting the project. He has spoken with several donors that are becoming frustrated. Clark stated that this affects the credibility of the Town. He inquired when an answer on the project can be provided so the project can move forward. He would like to get a go button from Council.

Meredith stated that Council and staff are continuously working on the project and the assessing the items that will be included in the final product. He stated Council is working towards a decision and citizens will be presented with a plan and path forward soon.

Natalie Thwaites addressed Council and inquired about the upcoming retreat scheduled in January. Meredith stated that Council desires to make their decision in January. Thwaites stated she would like to know if we are fundraising for two fields or not. She felt if the project scope changed fundraising should be put on hold until a decision is made. She feels two fields would be utilized and the space is available. Eaton stated that when fundraising was first mentioned, Council was instructed by Ms. Thwaites that a larger amount would be raised for the project. Thwaites stated that she realized afterwards that it was not possible to raise enough for the entire project.

Wilson asked if Henderson was aware of the sewer line near the walking trail when he first agreed to work on the project. He stated the main line runs along the walking trail and moving it would be difficult. Williams stated that the tax payers would be upset if we start the project without enough funds and had to raise fees to finance the completion of the project. He felt that Council should decide at the retreat how to proceed on the project. Harrell stated that in the beginning the plan was what was displayed, but more information and new concerns have emerged since Council first approved Phase 1. Williams felt the town should upgrade the current facilities. Harrell agrees with Williams.

Journell reported on the Public Safety Committee. Eaton was concerned about the expired fireman turnout gear that has not been replaced since 2004. She asked how many

firemen normally respond to a call. Chief Martin stated, around four to five firemen. Eaton asked if the turnout gear was interchangeable. Chief Martin replied that only the helmets were interchangeable. He stated that the current turnout gear was purchased years ago through a grant. He stated that in past years the department replaced two or three per year. Clark doesn't recall any requests during budget time. Meredith stated he planned to try and find a grant to assist with replacement of turnout gear. Meredith will develop a feasible plan to present to Council for the replacement of the gear. Williams and Harrell thought it was a good idea for them to fund raise for their equipment.

Harrell asked about the equipment line item in the current fire department budget and what was being purchased with the funds. Meredith stated that the Fire Department has numerous line items available to purchase equipment. He will need to research and gather more information to outline the specifics of the department's purchases.

Ballard reported on the Property and Recreation Committee. The Committee discussed remodeling at the Library to be completed in January and renovations at the Police Department are nearing completion once the signage is in place.

Eaton reported on the Finance Committee. The Committee discussed sponsorship for the Regional Small Business Development Center and the Town plans to place a full-page ad in the County Visitors Guide.

Williams reported on the Public Works Committee. The Committee was informed that the Public Works crew has repaired numerous potholes and replaced several water service lines. Eaton commented that the Public Works crew did an excellent job clearing the roads during the recent snowstorm, as did the Police Officers.

Clark reported on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Council. She stated the Council discussed the gym floors being slick and wondered if they could be mopped more often. They also discussed the need for a volunteer coach form, online class for coaches, and background check. Chief Martin stated he could do the forms for background checks and send them off. He doesn't think there will be a charge for the background check. He thinks that it would be a good idea.

Meredith stated he was working with a gentleman who thinks our chances are good for an MLB Grant. He stated the organization would prefer the town have their plans flushed out. Once Council has their plan in place, he will have the grant submitted. The gentleman feels it

will make a strong application. Clark asked about the stipulations. Meredith stated that the grant could be used to assist with making the facility more ADA compliant.

Eaton asked Wilson if he had looked at KJ floors. Wilson has seen them and stated it had been screened within the last five years. Ballard asked if he knew of the spongy place in the corner. Wilson answered that he was aware. As time allows, he has custodial staff run a damp mop on the gym floor. He indicated the dust mop or broom didn't help as much as he would like. Clark stated that Collins does try to damp mop when she has time. Meredith asked about the cost of refinishing the floors. Wilson will look at getting quotes on screening and refinishing. Wilson stated that several years ago there were two tack boards which consisted of a tacky substance shoes could be run across. This could help some for a minimal amount of time. Clark asked that staff investigate obtaining them for a short-term solution. Wilson will get price quotes for tack boards.

Meredith updated Council on the Virginia Department of Health Office of Drinking Water (VDHODW) grant to provide the Town with a PER on our Waterworks System. The PER would assist the Town in monitoring minimum night flow data. The idea being we can identify and repair water leaks more quickly. The grant will provide \$35,000 for the project to help the Town pay for the PER. Meredith recommends that in addition to the grant the Town be proactive in replacing water lines annually. Hartley stated the grant was designed for places not in compliance. He stated that as the grant is designed, we are not eligible for the grant because we are in compliance. He asked Kevin Belcher to make this change on the grant that Pearisburg is in compliance. They fund ones not in compliance then go down the list to localities in compliance. Meredith stated that it would cost the Town \$1500 to apply for the grant. The PSA is willing to fund the other required \$1,500. Hartley stated that it was important for the Town and PSA work together on obtaining the grant. He felt that \$1500 cost was worth the risk on collaboration.

Clark made a motion that Council adopt and approve the Resolution with Virginia Department of Health Office of Drinking Water (VDHODW) Planning and Design Grant. Eaton seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Eaton, Williams, Journell, Harrell, Ballard and Clark. The motion carried by a vote of 7 to 0.

R E S O L U T I O N

A RESOLUTION TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE MITIGATION OF WATER LOSS

WHEREAS, The Town of Pearisburg has experienced significant levels of water loss; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Pearisburg has established reducing water loss as a priority; and

WHEREAS, further evaluation and analysis of the Town's waterworks system would aid in the mitigation of water loss; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PEARISBURG, VIRGINIA, 7 OF ITS MEMBERS CONCURRING:

THAT, the Town of Pearisburg Town Council seeks additional funding from the Virginia Department of Health-Office of Drinking Water for the following project:

Giles County PSA/Town of Pearisburg's Water System Accountability Study (PER) in the amount of \$35,000.

THAT, the Town Manager in cooperation with the Giles County Public Service Authority is authorized to execute the application for the Grant on behalf of the Town and to execute additional documents pertinent and necessary to applying for and accepting the Grant funding contingent upon review of the Town Manager and legal counsel.

This 8th day of December 2018.

APPROVED:


Robert L. Dickerson, Mayor

ATTEST:


Regina H. Harless, Town Clerk

Meredith briefed Council on Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Planning Grant. Council went through this process last year with the County. They are coming up with an improved plan and resubmitting the grant application. This grant work would need to be completed by 2019. Clark asked if the project would go to bid and will the same firm get the bid again. She was not pleased with the last design team. Clark asked if anyone looked at the credentials for Hill Studios. Meredith stated that he was not sure the town could be involved in the decision making of which architect would complete the design work. Hartley suggested running it by DHCD.

Clark wants Meredith to investigate DHCD concerning Shelton Place. Hartley stated that the Town was only involved as a rental subsidy. Clark asked if DHCD had a responsibility to live up to the terms of their agreement. She stated that the current tenant was not happy. She was distressed that the entity was not communicating with potential renters. She indicated that nobody would return phone calls. Hartley stated that the solution might be to involve members of the state legislature. He suggested documenting the problems and forwarding them to Delegate Hurst and Senator Edwards. Meredith will draft a letter to be sent to both members.

Journell made a motion that Council approve the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Planning Grant Agreement. Ballard seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Eaton, Williams, Journell, Harrell, Ballard and Clark. The motion carried by a vote of 7 to 0.

Williams made a motion to amend a portion of the minutes from July 10, 2018 to state the following *“Williams made a motion to approve the amendments to Town Code Sections 72-221; 74-281; and 74-285 by adopting ordinances 18-03; 18-04; and 18-05. Ballard seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Williams, Ballard, Journell, Harrell, Clark and Eaton.”* Clark seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Eaton, Williams, Journell, Harrell, Ballard and Clark. The motion carried by a vote of 7 to 0.

Council set Saturday, February 2, 2019 from 10 am to 2 pm to hold a retreat and set Saturday, February 9, 2019 as an alternate date due to inclement weather.

On a motion by Williams, seconded by Ballard, passed by the following recorded vote, Council Members, Dickerson, yes, Williams, yes; Eaton, yes; Ballard, yes; Journell, yes; Clark, yes; and Harrell, yes; Council went into Executive Session as permitted by Virginia Code § 2.2-

3711(A) (1), for discussion, consideration or interviews of candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of the Town of Pearisburg.

On a motion by Eaton, seconded by Ballard, passed by the following recorded vote, Council Members Dickerson, yes, Williams, yes; Eaton, yes; Ballard, yes; Journell, yes; Clark yes; and Harrell, yes; Council returned to regular session.

On a motion by Journell seconded by Ballard, and passed by the following recorded vote, Council Members Dickerson, yes, Williams, yes; Eaton, yes; Ballard, yes; Journell, yes; Clark yes; and Harrell, yes; Council certified that the subject discussed in this Executive Session was the subject identified in the motion to go into Executive Session and only that subject, and that Council discussed no other subject while in Executive Session.

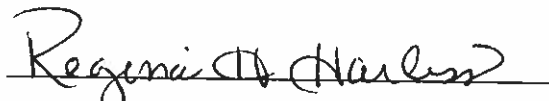
There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:



Robert L. Dickerson, Mayor



Regina H. Harless, Town Clerk