

Minutes of a Special Called Meeting and a combined Budget Committee Meeting of the Town of Saltville Town Council, held on Tuesday, May 5, 2009 at 6:00 P.M., at the Town Hall.

PRESENT: Jeffrey L. Campbell, Mayor
Steven W. Johnson, Town Manager
Edward T. Asbury, Jr., Assistant Town Manager
Christen W. Burkholder, Town Attorney

ABSENT: Dickie Dye and Todd Young

Mayor Campbell called the meeting to order, saying this meeting is scheduled for Closed Session and will continue into the budget meeting to discuss the 2009-2010 budget.

Councilman Johnson made a motion to add the Smyth County Court House to the agenda. Councilman Cahill seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Campbell brought the Town Attorney up to date on this issue, and the reason why this was added to the agenda by the motion of the Council. Mayor stated, there is a proposed resolution that has been sent to all Town's in Smyth County on this matter. Mayor said this resolution is for the Governing bodies to show support for an alternative solution for the Court House renovation.

Councilman Johnson said the Town has received a letter from Tom Burkett and Roy Evans, basically the want our support to fight off the vultures that want to spend 21 million dollars on the Court House renovation. Councilman Johnson said the people that he has been talking to are strongly against this unnecessary spending.

Steven Johnson said he would go ahead and type up a resolution if the Council wishes to officially proceed with this next Tuesday. Mr. Johnson asked if you can pre-approve a resolution that hasn't been written?

Christen Burkholder said he did not recommend this.

Councilman Johnson said Mr. Burkett's concern was, the publicity isn't out there, most of the people don't know what's coming down.

Mr. Burkholder asked., are they talking about building an entirely new Court House?

Councilman Johnson said they are talking about possibly building two (2) more buildings for offices as needed. This includes the demolishing of the old Marion School for a proposed parking garage.

Councilman Cahill said they want to take the Commonwealths Attorney out of the Court House.

Mr. Burkholder said this didn't work very well in Bristol, and they are still in the Court House at all times.

Councilman Johnson said the downtown merchants in Marion are very concerned about this issue; because most of their business comes from the Court House.

Councilman Maiden said this is an absolute waste of taxpayers money.

Councilman Cahill said I do agree with Councilman Maiden's remarks. Councilman Cahill stated that if we go on record stating an opposition to this, we don't have to do the resolution tonight,

which we will do at the regularly scheduled meeting and I put this in the form of a motion. Councilman Maiden seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Johnson authorized the Town Manager to forward the letter stating the Saltville Town Council is officially against the renovation of the Court House and the resolution will follow next week.

Mayor Campbell said he would entertain a motion to go into Closed Session at this time, for discuss on property rights issues since Buddy Mitchell is present representing the Porterfield's.

Councilman Johnson made a motion to go into Closed Session at 6:35 P.M., the Code of Virginia, Section 2.2-3711(A)(7) to consult with legal counsel regarding property rights issues on the Salt Trail. Councilman Maiden seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Upon returning to open session at 7:20 P.M., Mayor Campbell took a role called vote to certify that only matters identified in the motion to go into closed session were discussed during the closed session. Accordingly, each member present certified by responding "YES."

Councilman Johnson made a motion to approve the offer from Jay Porterfield and Mary Dudley Porterfield subject to the conclusion of the settlement agreement and a mutual waiver of any and all claims for past acts. Councilman Holley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Campbell said we will move on to the next item; which is the discussion on the 2009-2010

Jeff Smith discussed the budget worksheet that was presented to Council representing the 10, 20, and 21 funds. Mr. Smith told Council, currently we are \$80,000 plus in the red, this needs to be gone throughly for any mistakes that would not be a true representation; in regards if corrections are needed. Mr. Smith said he had spoken with Ron Orr after the worksheet was sent out, the amount to be transferred to the Town from the SIDA. It will probably be \$25,000 more than anticipated.

Councilman Maiden asked Mr. Smith how many requests are in this proposed budget?

Mr. Smith said no request is currently in it, the only new items are the new employees and employee raise adjustments that were suggest by council at the previous meeting.

Mayor, Council, and staff went through and discussed revenues and expenditures throughout the worksheet. Some corrections were present, items were adjusted accordingly that would balance items to a more reasonable representation.

Councilman Cahill asked this item may raise an issue, line item 10-510-0208, is this comp-time dollars?

Mr. Smith said this was compensation as the same as salaries per-employees.

Mr. Smith gave Council dollar amounts closer to a balanced tally when an item was lower on the expenditure side or a gain in revenues. Mr. Smith told Council we are within \$2,000 of balancing the budget.

Councilman Johnson said the insurances are the biggest expense within the budget and needs to be looked into for better quotes.

Steven Johnson said he had checked with Marion and Chilhowie and currently all employees are paying 20%.

Mayor Campbell said this would be a big hit and does not recommend this be put on the employees. Mayor told Mr. Johnson to bring back , quotes from other carriers for discussion next Tuesday.

Councilman Maiden said amount we are spending servicing vehicles are outrageous and asked Mr. Asbury is to check on buying oil by bulk for our vehicles and equipment.

Steve Surber said he would like to say the Streets and Roads and the Sewer Departments hired two employees each and the positions in the Police Department were eliminated. Mr. Surber said all the overtime the department is having to work will wear the officers down.

Councilman Cahill said as far as the treatment plant, we are licenced through the Department of Environmental and Air Quality (DEQ). We have now the staff that is required by this agency, if we had not these employees the Town could get fined up to \$10,000 per-day until this requirement is met.

Mr. Surber the Police Department works 24-7, and are working 12 hour shifts we will ware the officers down, and they have benefit time to take like other employees.

Councilman Maiden said we paid County taxes, why aren't we getting sufficient patrol from them.

Councilman Cahill told Mr. Surber to check his reports to see a possible graph from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M., to see what the shift would show. Councilman Cahill said we are putting on Auxiliary Police to help the situation.

Mr. Surber said, yesterday, I was at the Post Office and a gentleman came up an asked, they have hired for the treatment plant and public works so why don't they want to hire for the Police Department. Mr. Surber said, let me ask you this, doesn't public safety mean anything and all the Special Events we have to work.

Mayor Campbell if possible, in order to balance the budget, we may have to start the Council meeting for next Tuesday at :00 P.M. to balance the upcoming budget.

Steven Johnson said he would get with all the Department Heads tomorrow to check to see what can be eliminated.

After a motion, duly seconded, the meeting adjourned at 9:08 P.M.