

Minutes of the special-called meeting of the Saltville Town Council held on December 27, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. in the Town Hall

Council: Tom Holley, Sandra Wyatt, Eugene Call, Steve Surber, and Ron Orr
Councilman Surber arrived during the discussion of the VFW
Councilman David Smith was not present for the meeting

Mayor: C. Todd Young

Staff: Brian Martin, Town Manager
Chris Wilcox, Police Chief
R.B. Henderson, Public Works Director
Steve Johnson, Clerk/Treasurer

Councilman Holley made a motion to add a discussion of the police department and the local VFW to the agenda. Councilwoman Wyatt seconded, and all were in favor.

New Business

1. Smyth County Library Board

Councilman Orr reminded the Council that the town provides the building and any maintenance for the building, the salary for the workers, the insurance, and the water and electric bills for Saltville's branch of the Smyth County Library. But the Smyth County Board of Supervisors is looking to disband the current Board of the library and run it themselves. If this happens, then the town would have no vote concerning anything with the library. Councilman Orr suggested voicing these concerns with the Board of Supervisors. Additionally, Saltville's representative on the Board of Supervisors, Roscoe Call, has not provided much insight into this matter, and if the Supervisors do take over the library, Councilman Orr was concerned might they also try and take over the Tourism Board or other Boards.

Councilman Orr made a motion to have a meeting involving the Mayors and Town Managers of Saltville, Chilhowie, and Marion to see how this issue can be jointly approached with the Board of Supervisors. Councilman Call seconded, and all were in favor.

2. Police Department

Chief Wilcox told the Council that Investigator Nicole Cline would be taking a job with the Smyth County Sheriff's Department in January. He asked the Council if they wanted to wait and fill the position. He suggested not filling it, yet, since the department was fully staffed in the patrol

division. Officer Olinger will complete his training on March 28, 2018 and will be good to go. A couple of years ago, the Council approved a scholarship for an applicant to go to the Academy and get paid a minimum wage while doing so. A recent graduate of Northwood High School, Adam Boardwine, has expressed interest in doing this. If approved, he would start at the Academy on January 11, 2018 for orientation. If a vacancy then became available at some point afterwards, Mr. Boardwine could step in place if he passes his classes.

Councilman Call made a motion to send Mr. Boardwine to the Academy as part of the scholarship, and Councilwoman Wyatt seconded. All were in favor.

3. Hardy Roberts VFW

Town Manager Brian Martin informed the Council that the local VFW, named after Hardy Roberts, has been officially disbanded by the district and the state by having its charter pulled. It had been on probation for several months, but frankly, it's not a viable Post anymore due to the town's population and the age of the members.

Mr. Martin said he was a member of the Post in Marion and had spoken to Turk Johnson, another member of the Marion Post, who offered the Town of Saltville assistance in maintaining the Veterans Wall and the Veterans Park. Councilman Call made a motion to allow the Marion Post to help the town with maintaining the Wall and Park. Councilman Orr seconded, and the motion carried 4-0-1 with Councilman Holley abstaining since he was a member of the Hardy Roberts VFW.

Closed Session

Councilwoman Wyatt made a motion to enter Closed Session in accordance with the Code of Virginia, Section 2.2-3711(A)(29) for the discussion of the award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds, including interviews of bidders or offerors, and discussion of the terms or scope of such contract, where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body. Councilman Call seconded, and all were in favor.

After exiting Closed Session, Councilwoman Wyatt made the motion to certify that the Closed Session was conducted in conformity with Virginia law regarding those matters that are exempted from open meeting requirements and nothing was discussed other than what was mentioned in the motion to convene Closed Session. Councilman Holley seconded, and the roll call vote was 5 - 0.

Councilman Orr made a motion to advertise the RFP for water and wastewater operations for the town, and Councilman Call seconded. All were in favor.

Councilman Orr made a motion to advertise for applicants for Class II operators for water and wastewater. Councilwoman Wyatt seconded, and all were in favor.

Lastly, Councilman Holley made the motion to adjourn, and Councilman Call seconded. All were in favor.