

Minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of the Saltville Town Council held on February 11, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. in the Town Hall

**Council:** Tom Holley, Hiram Robinson, Eugene Call, Bryan Morris, Steve Surber, and Ron Orr. Councilman Surber arrived after the minutes were approved.

**Mayor:** C. Todd Young

**Staff:** Trent Crewe, Town Attorney  
Erik Puckett, Police Chief  
R.B. Henderson, Public Works Director  
Tammy Carter, Front Office Clerk  
Steve Johnson, Clerk/Treasurer

Councilman Holley made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2020 regularly scheduled meeting, and Councilman Morris seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

### **Citizens' Time**

No one signed up to speak.

### **Approval of the Agenda**

Councilman Call made a motion to approve the agenda, and Councilman Morris seconded. All were in favor.

### **New Business**

#### **1. Sale of lawnmowers**

Councilman Surber mentioned that the town had several surplus mowers, both push and riding, that could be sold since they no longer worked. People could bid on them for their spare parts if nothing else.

He made the motion to put the mowers out for bid, and Councilman Morris seconded. All were in favor.

## **2. EMS, Inc. report**

Gary Johnson spoke on the following:

- 1) The DEQ report for January was submitted, and the I & I issue has arisen again due to the major amount of rain the town has received lately resulting in overflows last week. In the past, DEQ has forgiven the town for overflows due to excess rain, and hopefully, they will this time as well.
- 2) The excess rain led to damage to one of the supports crossing the river at Cedar Branch. The engineers will look it over tomorrow, and the contractors who performed the recent sewer project will do the repairs.
- 3) Regarding the gravity sewer line that crosses the river, Schwartz & Associates have performed an inspection on the old bridge and determined that it can handle the load of a new sewer line since the bridge's life span is up to as much as thirty years.
- 4) The VDH report was submitted for January, and the accountability is still on the high side.

## **Committee Reports**

No committees met during January, but the Mayor mentioned that the Mountain Movers will have another meeting on February 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the elementary school. This group is dedicated to alleviating and helping solve the opioid problem.

## **Town Manager's Report**

Clerk/Treasurer Steve Johnson, speaking for absent Town Manager Brian Martin, was going to speak about the bridge report from Schwartz & Associates, but that topic was covered earlier in the meeting.

## **Police Chief's Report**

Chief Puckett spoke on the following:

- 1) The vehicle that struck the bear is repaired and back in service.
- 2) The two other vehicles are in the process of being striped.
- 3) The department took part in the annual Woolly Day, and a large turnout was present. Unfortunately, he predicted six more weeks of bad weather.
- 4) There are three Saltville officers in the contest for officer-of-the-year. This is sponsored by the Marion VFW. Each agency in the county will have a winner.

## **Public Works Director's Report**

R.B. Henderson spoke on the following:

- 1) The town crew spent a lot of time last week cleaning out the ditches and pipes after the excessive rain.
- 2) All of the town's generators are given weekly checks. These generators are at the lift stations and the Town Hall.
- 3) The two-inch meter at the vault pit near the Bank of Saltville needed replacing. One was ordered and will be installed soon. He thinks there is a leak near the Smokey Row tank and monitoring this meter will help detect the leak.
- 4) A bunch of brush in the river that was pressed up against the sewer line closest to Reline America was removed. Councilman Morris asked the line's structural integrity, and Mr. Henderson replied it was fine.
- 5) His report contained flow meter readings and the flow readings from the wastewater plant to show how much excess water the rains produced. The letters sent to DEQ regarding the overflows and photos of the flooded areas were also included.
- 6) All of the town's salt has been placed in the new shed. The town currently has between 800 and 900 tons of road salt on hand.

7) The Mayor asked about the generators at the two well stations, and Darian Musick of Crossroads Engineering said installing these were part of the first phase of the upcoming Rural Development project, but that project has not been funded yet. He estimated that the cost of a generator for the biggest well would be over \$100,000.

8) Councilman Holley asked about the ditch in front of his house. Mr. Henderson replied that over four inches of rain had fallen that day, so it was hard to keep up with the excess water coming off the hills near his house.

### **Board of Supervisors Report**

No Supervisor was present for the meeting.

### **Fire Department Report**

Chief Jimmy Davidson spoke on the following:

1) Last month the department had twenty-one calls with seven being in town and fourteen being in the county.

2) The truck that was in the accident several weeks ago is currently in the shop. An insurance adjuster will look it over before it is repaired.

3) The Mayor asked if a list could be put together that showed the total number of county calls last year and requested it be broken out into Smyth, Washington, Tazewell, and Bland counties. Chief Davidson replied he would put that list together.

### **Rescue Squad Report**

Their representatives said they would put together a year-end report like the fire department will do regarding calls in those counties. Additionally, no first calls were missed last month. The Mayor said he was working with Washington County to establish a mutual aid agreement with the town regarding rescue and fire services.

## **Closed Session**

Councilman Morris made a motion to enter Closed Session in accordance with the Code of Virginia, Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) to discuss personnel in the police department and front office; Section 2.2-3711(A)(7) for consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body; and Section 2.2-3711(A)(3) to discuss the disposition of publicly held real property. Councilman Orr seconded, and all were in favor.

After exiting Closed Session, Councilman Robinson made a 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 6-0 in the affirmative.

Councilman Morris made a motion for the town to pay the medical bills for the employee discussed during Closed Session. Councilman Call seconded, and all were in favor.

Councilman Morris made a motion to have the town contact the MRPDC and request they provide a Town Manager on Tuesdays and Thursdays until the current Town Manager gets back from his military duty. Councilman Surber seconded, and all were in favor.

Councilman Morris made a motion to indefinitely suspend the part-time employee discussed during Closed Session. Councilman Call seconded, and all were in favor.

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