

Minutes of the special-called meeting of the Saltville Town Council held on August 5, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall

Council: **Monica Johnson, Hiram Robinson, Eugene Call, and Bryan Morris**
 Steve Surber and Gary Call were absent

Mayor: C. Todd Young

Staff: **Jordan Powers, Acting Town Manager**
 Erik Puckett, Police Chief
 Steve Johnson, Clerk/Treasurer

The Mayor asked for a motion to add a discussion of the invoice received for grading and flattening the area on Battleground Avenue where the proposed new town shop will be. Councilman Morris made that motion, and Councilman Eugene Call seconded. All were in favor.

New Business

1. Grading invoice

The invoice is \$8300. Councilman Morris made a motion for the town to pay the bill, and Councilman Eugene Call seconded. All were in favor.

Councilman Morris then made a motion to send a request to the SIDA to have that body reimburse the town for the \$8300. Councilman Eugene Call seconded, and the motion carried 3-1 with Councilman Robinson voting no.

2. CARES Act funding

The Mayor said the town has received \$332,030 via Smyth County in CARES Act funding to spend how the town wishes as long as the expenses fall under approved guidelines. This money has to be spent by December 31, 2020. Among the items for the Council to consider include four vehicles, flooring for the Town Hall, iPads for the Council, and money to complete the Barbrow Trail on the other side of Lake Drive. There's an invoice for \$5921.20 from ServPro that will be paid from this money as well. This was for cleaning the Town Hall after a possible COVID exposure in July.

The vehicle wish list consists of two trucks for the town crew, an administrative car for official purposes for the town staff or the Council, and a new police vehicle. Police Chief Erik Puckett said he was going to request another vehicle in next year's budget, but since this money came along, it makes more sense to do it now. One of the department's oldest vehicles will now be used by the town crew.

Regarding the flooring, Town Manager Brian Martin received a quote several months ago for re-doing the entire Town Hall, but the town did not have the funds to do it. The current tiles and carper are old and stained and need to be replaced so they can be easier to keep clean. This total cost, including labor, will be almost \$26,000.

In reference to a question from Councilwoman Johnson, The Mayor said he had to be responsible for putting some of these numbers together since these funds have to be spent by the end of December. Councilman Morris asked if the town could be reimbursed for employee salaries incurred when everything was closed for the possible exposure. Clerk/Treasurer Steve Johnson said yes since the town has already been reimbursed by Washington County for the salaries of the high school kids doing the mowing.

Councilman Robinson asked about the estimation of \$49,250 to complete the Barbrow Trail, and the Mayor said this was for the portion of the trail on the other side of Lake Drive starting near the gun range, and he had gotten this estimate from W-L. Councilman Robinson stated that he had also gotten an estimate from W-L that was \$15,200 with the town buying the gravel and the fabric. The Mayor said Travis Lewis sent in three estimates today with one including paving the trail, but it was a little expensive. However, the town is going to have send out a Request for Proposal (RFP) anyway, so there may be other prices that are conceivably cheaper.

Councilman Robinson asked about being able to purchase vehicles with this money, and the Mayor told him extra vehicles enable there to only be one person inside each vehicle, thereby, keeping socially distancing policies. Councilman Morris, who works for the Town of Marion, said they were going to purchase several vehicles for this reason. Councilwoman Johnson mentioned that the Council members could also use the car in line for the administrative offices when they go to meetings where they represent the town, such as her meetings for Keeping Southwest Virginia Beautiful. Councilman Morris also mentioned that the accessories and equipment make the police vehicle ready for the road cost around \$8000, so this money will be used for that as well.

Regarding the iPads, Clerk/Treasurer Steve Johnson said those were for the Council to have for things like receiving the meeting agendas digitally or if the Council meetings had to be done virtually if the Town Hall had to be closed. Councilwoman Johnson asked about extra iPads for the town's staff or one for the Council room itself so people can call in virtually with questions. She said that due to COVID, this was now allowed for meetings and suggested that the town's main staff should have one too, including the police and public works, since this money won't always be around to spend. That way everyone is covered if the town has to have a virtual meeting.

The Mayor said he would like to clarify that the purpose of this meeting is to put together a list to present to Smyth County to make sure these proposed purchases are allowed for this money. Nothing has been purchased as of yet and won't be until the town gets the go-ahead. The Council can add things later since the spending deadline is the end of December, but there needs to be a motion tonight to send this first wish-list to the county to have them approve it.

Councilman Eugene Call made that motion, and Councilman Morris seconded. During the discussion, Councilwoman Johnson asked if more bids would be obtained for items such as the flooring, and the Mayor replied yes. This motion is just for the county to approve the list. The prices quoted tonight are so the town will have a good approximate amount set aside should the county approve these items. The vote for the motion was unanimously in favor.

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