

Minutes of the special-called meeting of the Saltville Town Council held on September 16, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. in the Town Hall

Council: Monica Johnson, Hiram Robinson, Eugene Call, Bryan Morris arrived after the aerial crossing discussion, Gary Call was participating by phone, and Steve Surber was absent

Mayor:C. Todd Young

Staff: Jordan Powers, Acting Town Manager
Erik Puckett, Police Chief
R.B. Henderson, Public Works Director
Steve Johnson, Clerk/Treasurer

Old Business

1. Aerial crossing

Acting Town Manager Jordan Powers said the town could use the Water/Wastewater funds available through the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission to reline the pipe at the aerial crossing over the river if relining is the option the town chooses. Public Works Director R.B. Henderson said that Washington County was sending a camera here next week to try and find the manhole near the wastewater plant. To reline the pipe, there has to be two manholes available to properly gauge the distance for the process. The product would be laid manhole to manhole. If the manhole near the plant cannot be found, then the pipe cannot be lined. Also, if the other manhole is found, Reline America, the contractor doing the work, will determine if the current pipe has the structural integrity to hold their product.

2. Cemetery mowing bids

There were two bids for the cemetery mowing, both from the same contractor. Danny Hanshew bid \$2500 per month to do it using town equipment and \$3500 per month to do it using his own equipment. Clerk/Treasurer Steve Johnson said he also had received an email with a bid of \$10,000 per month to mow all of the town's properties other than the cemetery.

Chief Puckett said the town had received ten applications in response to the ad that was run for part-time workers to do the mowing and weed eating of the town's properties other than the cemetery. If the Council decided to go with the quote of \$10,000 per month for two months for mowing the entire town (minus the cemetery), they would save money over hiring those part-time workers. Chief Puckett then stated he would like to keep the two high school kids currently

mowing and Mr. Casey and have them mow the lift stations and maybe help out with the town crew until mid-November. Councilman Morris asked if the person who sent the email knew all of the town's properties that were to be mowed, and Mr. Johnson replied that he was given the full list yesterday. Councilman Gary Call said he would to see this person mow the entire town, and Councilman Eugene Call agreed.

Councilman Morris said his concern is that the cemetery is what was advertised to be put out to bid, and not the rest of the town, so he didn't know if the town could accept the bid that was emailed. Councilwoman Johnson commented that someone had asked her if the ad in the paper was for the whole town or just the cemetery. Other people may want to bid on the town-wide mowing. Councilman Morris then suggested advertising this on Facebook to expedite the process instead of waiting to advertise in the local paper next week. The Council could continue this meeting next week without adjourning.

Councilman Eugene Call made a motion to accept the bid of \$3500 per month to mow the cemetery with the contractor using his own equipment. Councilman Morris seconded, and all were in favor.

Closed Session

Councilman Morris made a motion to enter Closed Session in accordance with the Code of Virginia, Section 2.2-3711(A)(29) for 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 Eugene Call seconded, and all were in favor.

After exiting Closed Session, Councilman Morris 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 Eugene Call seconded, and the roll call vote was 5-0 in the affirmative.

Councilman Morris made a motion to recess this meeting until September 22, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. Councilwoman Johnson seconded, and all were in favor.

