

Onley Town Council Minutes of January 17, 2017 (Postponed from January 5, 2017)

VIRGINIA: At the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Onley Town Council held at the Onley Baptist Church, 25501 West Main Street, on the 17th day of January 2017:

Council Members Present: Jack Pierson, Mayor  
Ted Bliss  
Dawn Dize  
Ned Finney, Vice-Mayor  
Matt Hart  
Susan Rillo  
Woody Zember

Staff Present: Rachel Kellam, Town Attorney  
Jamy Salazar, Clerk/Treasurer  
John Spivey, Chief, Onley Police Dept.

**Call to Order**

Mayor Pierson called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

**Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance**

The invocation was given by Woody Zember and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ted Bliss.

**Adoption of Agenda**

Mr. Finney asked to add a presentation from Donnie Hasty/Cornerstone Financial just before the Department Reports.

**Motion: To adopt the agenda with the addition by Ned Finney and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll**

**Call Vote:** Hart-yes; Rillo-yes; Dize-yes; Bliss-yes; Zember-yes; Finney-yes. MOTION PASSED

At this time, Mayor Pierson asked Mr. Hasty to proceed with his presentation. Mr. Hasty stated that he offers a fixed annuity as an alternative to the safe CD's that the town currently invests in and can assure a greater return on investment. A copy of his proposal will be attached to the minutes. Mr. Bliss asked about tax issues with the annuity since Mr. Hasty suggested that it will need to be opened in an individual's name-not the towns. Mr. Hasty said that taxes are deferred so there is no issue. Ms. Salazar asked Mr. Hasty if he has any other municipalities that have invested public funds this way. Mr. Hasty said that he does not. Mr. Zember stated that he believes there are only certain investments that are appropriate for public funds so he asked Ms. Kellam to look into that.

**Consideration of Minutes**

**Motion: To accept the minutes of the December 5, 2016 Regular Monthly Meeting by Matt Hart and seconded by Ted Bliss. Roll Call Vote:** Hart-yes; Rillo-yes; Dize-yes; Bliss-yes; Zember-yes; Finney-yes.

MOTION PASSED

**Department Reports**

**Police Report & Schedule**

Chief Spivey said that the Ford Explorer is in service and looks very nice. He said that it has been a good month and things are going well. He added that they were busy during the snow storm but other than that it has been a quiet month. Mr. Hart stated that he has noticed some of our officers have facial hair

and he is concerned it may be a problem when using crowd control equipment. Chief Spivey stated that we do not have that type of equipment so it is not an issue.

**Motion: To approve the February 2017 schedule by Ted Bliss and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll**

**Call Vote:** Hart-yes; Rillo-yes; Dize-yes; Bliss-yes; Zember-yes; Finney-yes. MOTION PASSED

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Ms. Salazar gave the Treasurer's Report pointing out that we are at almost 100% taxes collected. She added that delinquent tax letters went out last week. She asked that when approving the monthly payables, Council consider the additional payables. Mr. Zember asked how many employees are covered by the town health insurance and what plan the town carries. Ms. Salazar stated that the plan covers all six full-time employees as well as two dependents adding that the dependent cost is not picked up by the town. In the matter of which plan the town has, she asked that Mr. Zember stop by the office and she will provide that information to him.

**Motion: To Pay the December 2016 Payables by Ned Finney and seconded by Ted Bliss. Roll Call Vote:**

Hart-yes; Rillo-yes; Dize-yes; Bliss-yes; Zember-yes; Finney-yes. MOTION PASSED

#### **Zoning Administrator's Report**

In the absence of Mr. Pavlik, Ms. Salazar gave the report. A copy of the report will be attached to the minutes.

#### **Attorney's Report**

Mayor Pierson stated that Council needs to make a decision about the clean-up of the Nicolls property. Ms. Kellam added that she is going to send another notice to Ms. Nicolls giving her ten days to clean the property or the town will clean it up. She asked Council if they are willing to spend the money to clean the property if Ms. Nicolls does not comply. She added that the town will put a lien against the property for the cost of the clean-up but she wants Council to know that the upfront cost could be as much as \$2,000.00. Mr. Bliss asked what Ms. Nicolls response has been to previous notices sent to her. Mayor Pierson stated that Ms. Nicolls says that she has sold the trailer and it is not her property any more. Mr. Bliss feels that if we as a town say we are going to do something then we should do it. Mr. Finney said someone may want to remove the trailer for the metal. He will check with someone he knows that may be interested. Council agreed to re-visit this matter at the February meeting and that the letters will be mailed after that time.

Ms. Kellam stated that the change in the charter has been submitted to Senator Lewis and he emailed her last Thursday and said it has been submitted to the General Assembly. He will let us know when the change has been made.

#### **Public Works**

Ms. Salazar stated that the holiday lights and banners are down and have been put away. She thanked Bennie Tatum for making some suggestions about how to better prepare for next year. Weekly clean-up of the storm drains and litter continues as well as the pick-up of grass and debris on the side of the East & West Main St. and Coastal Blvd. They were also very helpful with the snow removal at the town office during the snow storm. Mr. Finney asked that she send someone down to Forest Drive to clean the ditches there. He asked if anything was ever clarified about edging the sidewalks. Ms. Salazar stated that we have discussed it but never got any concrete answers. She asked Ms. Kellam for her thoughts since there seems to be some question as to who owns the property. She added that she has mentioned this to Mr. Simpson and he is happy to do it for us once grass cutting begins. Ms. Rillo does not want the

chemicals blown into her yard again. Ms. Salazar agreed and stated that spraying was done by VDOT but she has asked them to not do it again after several complaints from residents.

### **Planning Commission Report**

Rose Pierson presented Council with the proposed changes to the current zoning ordinance. Mr. Finney asked if the ordinances apply to the town since the banners we put up are for a period of more than 14 days. Mr. Zember said that we may want to put up some signs at the entrances to town and we don't want to restrict ourselves from doing that. Mrs. Pierson made some notes and stated that she will bring these concerns up at the next Planning Commission meeting and get back to Council at next month's meeting.

### **Old Business**

Mr. Hart stated that he and Mr. Zember have met with Don Imhoff from Eastern Shore Communications and Mr. Imhoff was very informative about the possibility of high speed internet coming to town. Mr. Imhoff's proposal consists of erecting a 70' pole on town property at a cost of \$12,000.00 to the town. They will then offer the service to our residents at a cost of \$50.00 per month with the town receiving free service. Mr. Hart said that Mr. Imhoff is willing to come to a meeting and do an entire presentation. Bennie Tatum asked to speak at this time. Mr. Tatum said that he has done some research and he feels that Eastern Shore Communications offers the best package, the best rates and they have said that they run their business like a utility which is very important. He concluded by saying he is in favor of the town acquiring high speed internet for the town and its residents. Mr. Zember would like Mr. Imhoff to put together a proposal and have Ms. Kellam look at it before the Council makes a decision. Mayor Pierson said that he would like to have the residents input before any decisions are made. He suggested putting something in the newsletter asking for our resident's opinions. Ms. Kellam cautioned that we make it clear that the town is only interested in their opinion on internet service and not a particular company. Mr. Hart stated that when broadband was offered to the town in 2011, it was at a cost of \$100,000.00 so we are looking at a cost of only about 12% of that amount. Chief Spivey expressed concern about the \$12,000.00 costs adding that he feels that is a little more than he anticipated.

Mayor Pierson said that he met with C. Ray Pruitt from Accomack Public Safety and Mr. Pruitt stated that the OVFD's activity numbers are as good as any other fire department on the shore. Mayor Pierson does not believe they are providing part-time or sub-par service to the town so we should give them the grant money. Mr. Finney agreed adding that we really don't have a choice.

**Motion: To give the \$11,000.00 ATL grant to the OVFD by Susan Rillo and seconded by Matt Hart.**

**Roll Call Vote:** Hart-yes; Rillo-yes; Dize-yes; Bliss-yes; Zember-yes; Finney-yes. MOTION PASSED

Mayor Pierson said that he and Mr. Zember are going to be working with a local contractor to get the survey and the blue prints down to a workable size so that we can start the process of getting the building constructed. Mr. Zember said that the wheels are now turning on the building process.

### **New Business**

Mr. Finney said that he and Ms. Rillo met with the OVFD about the matter of the pagers and they are only in possession of two of our pagers. The agreement that was made when we purchased the pagers was that they would always know where the pagers are and who was in possession of them. He added that John Roache, President of the OVFD, offered to write a check for the missing pagers but he (Mr. Finney) wanted to see what Council thoughts are on the matter. Council agreed to ask them to reimburse the town for the 18 missing pagers.

Ms. Salazar stated that H.B. Rew came by the office and asked her to make Council aware that he has had several complaints from Onley residents about the drainage and ditch issues in town. He was specifically concerned about the road that runs behind his house. There has also been a complaint

about the new ditches that are going in on Pennsylvania Avenue. Ms. Salazar said that she referred those people to VDOT adding that the road is still under construction. Mayor Pierson said that he thought the county was going to help us with the drainage issue. Ms. Salazar stated that at one time, she was told that it needed to go through Laura Belle Gordy's office. She asked for permission to contact Ms. Gordy. Mr. Finney stated that about four years ago, he went on a ride along with John Morgan and was told that we are on a list. Billye D. Custis stated that she went on a ride along with Chris Isdell and Lance Eller and they both said that you can't make water run uphill which is the problem with the road behind Mr. Rew's property. Mayor Pierson said that we will contact Laura Belle and see what happens. Billye D. Custis said she thinks that it's time to do the railroad ditch as well. Ms. Salazar said there are also some issues with Lakewood Development.

#### **Public Comments**

Billye D. Custis said that Laura Belle Gordy would be here but she had the Accomack County Planning Commission tonight.

Bennie Tatum signed up to speak but did so earlier in the night.

#### **Council Comments**

Mr. Hart said that he looks forward to getting some things done this year. He is pleased that we gave the grant money to the OVFD. He is excited about the possibility of the internet and hopes that we can make progress with that.

Ms. Rillo thanked everyone for coming. She would like to look really well at the proposal from Mr. Hasty. She thinks a fixed annuity is very safe and we should consider it.

Ms. Dize agreed that the proposal from Mr. Hasty looks good and she likes the idea of getting almost three percent. She is pleased about the internet service as well as the possibility of getting the new town office built.

Mr. Bliss agreed that the possibility of high speed internet is a good one and he hopes that we can make some progress on that issue.

Mr. Zember thanked everyone for coming. He is looking forward to the possibility of high speed internet. He likes the idea of purchasing an annuity and the 2.60%. He commended the police department for being out in the blizzard and being so helpful to everyone in need.

Mr. Finney thanked everybody for their input and said that he wishes we could get even more from our residents. He thanked the employees for all that they do.

#### **Adjourn**

**Motion: To adjourn at 8:02pm by Susan Rillo and seconded by Matt Hart. Roll Call Vote:** Hart-yes; Rillo-yes; Dize-yes; Bliss-yes; Zember-yes; Finney-yes. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted by,

Jamye Salazar  
Clerk/Treasurer

Jack Pierson  
Mayor

