

Onley Town Council Minutes of February 5, 2015

VIRGINIA: At a Regular Monthly Meeting of the Onley Town Council held at the Onley Fire & Rescue Building on the 5th day of February, A.D., 2015:

Members Present: Jack Pierson, Mayor
Ned Finney, Vice-Mayor
John Dennis
Dawn Dize
Matt Hart
Susan Rillo
Don Strautz

Staff Present: John Spivey, Chief of Police
Jamy Salazar, Treasurer
Cela Burge, Town Attorney

Call to Order

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

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

The invocation was given by Matt Hart and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Susan Rillo. At this time, Mayor Pierson asked Council to agree to move item 7(A) under Old Business to the beginning of the meeting so Mr. McArthur can give his presentation and get back to Salisbury.

Property at 25571 East Main Street

Mr. McArthur presented Council with three drawings of the proposed building with a floor and site plan, as well as an estimated cost sheet. A copy of both will be attached to the minutes.

Adoption of Agenda

At this time, Mayor Pierson stated that roll call votes will now be taken on every motion.

Motion: To adopt the agenda moving item 7(A) under Old Business to the front of the meeting by Ned Finney and seconded by Susan Rillo.

Roll Call Vote: Dize-yes; Rillo-yes; Finney-yes; Strautz-yes; Hart-yes; Dennis-yes. MOTION PASSED

Consideration of Minutes

Motion: To approve the Minutes of the January 8, 2015 Joint Public Hearing with Planning Commission & Regular Monthly Meeting by Ned Finney and seconded by Don Strautz. Roll Call Vote: Dize-yes; Rillo-yes; Finney-yes; Strautz-yes; Hart-yes; Dennis-yes. MOTION PASSED

Motion: To approve the minutes of the January 20, 2015 Recessed Meeting by Ned Finney and seconded by Don Strautz. Roll Call Vote: Dize-yes; Rillo-yes; Finney-yes; Strautz-yes; Hart-yes; Dennis-yes. MOTION PASSED

Department Reports

Police Report & Schedule

Chief Spivey stated that the new officers have completed their field training. He added that all officers are wearing the new uniforms.

Chief Spivey stated that there is a shotgun that is no longer usable and asked for Council's permission to destroy the weapon.

Motion: To allow the Onley Police Department to destroy the shotgun that is no longer usable by Ned Finney and seconded by Susan Rillo. Roll Call Vote: Dize-yes; Rillo-yes; Finney-yes; Strautz-yes; Hart-yes; Dennis-yes. MOTION PASSED

Mr. Dennis asked that Chief Spivey consider 24 hour coverage on the days that three officers are working beginning with the March schedule. Ms. Dize said that she has been asking for 24 hour coverage for years. Chief Spivey stated that he cannot arbitrarily make changes to the schedule – it is not fair to his officers. Mr. Dennis stated that he would like to see the third officer come in four hours later and cover the hours of 4-7 am. Mayor Pierson asked Chief Spivey to present the pros and cons on this matter at next month’s meeting.

Chief Spivey asked what Council wishes to do in terms of the GPS that has been previously discussed. Mr. Finney stated that he would prefer to have good body cameras. After a lengthy discussion, Council decided to table the discussion of this matter until budget workshops begin next month.

Motion: To table the matter of GPS and body cameras until Chief Spivey can present them with a presentation at a budget workshop. Roll Call Vote: Dize-yes; Rillo-yes; Finney-yes; Strautz-yes; Hart-yes; Dennis-yes. MOTION PASSED

Motion: To accept the February 2015 schedule by Dawn Dize and seconded by Don Strautz. Roll Call Vote: Dize-yes; Rillo-yes; Finney-yes; Strautz-yes; Hart-yes; Dennis-yes. MOTION PASSED

Treasurer’s Report

Ms. Salazar stated that there are some additional payables to be considered and the \$150,000.00 has been moved to the money market at Shore Bank as requested last month. She also gave an overview of the budget.

Motion: To Pay the January 2015 Payables by Ned Finney and seconded by Matt Hart.

Roll Call Vote: Dize-yes; Rillo-yes; Finney-yes; Strautz-yes; Hart-yes; Dennis-yes. MOTION PASSED

Ms. Salazar stated that Mr. Pavlik is sick but he did ask her to give his zoning report. She stated that he has sent letters acknowledging Council’s actions to Matt Hart & Tami Serio in the matters of their zoning requests. He met with a resident in the matter of some construction at her house and determined she did not need a permit but advised her to check with the County. He is in the process of reading and familiarizing himself with town ordinances as well as reviewing some zoning files.

Attorney’s Report

Ms. Burge stated that she has only to report on the water easement at the pump house and she will wait until it is reached on the agenda.

Public Works

Ms. Salazar stated that the snowflakes and banners have been removed and put away. Curbs and storm drains along Coastal Blvd and East & West Main Street have been cleaned. She asked that if Council has thoughts on other work that needs to be done they should let her know. Mr. Simpson wants to send Antwone one day per week as contracted but she often does not have enough work to keep him busy. She asked that Council give her guidance on moving the town sign coming into town from Onancock since there is some construction going on over there. Council would like the sign moved.

Ms. Salazar stated that one of the pump houses has been drained and dismantled but she has not had the heat/electric turned off since she is waiting for a decision about the other pump house.

Old Business

The property at 25571 East Main Street was discussed earlier in the night.

Ms. Burge stated that she did a title search to see what she could find relating to the well and pump house. There was an agreement to develop a well in 1953. There was a subsequent agreement about

developing storage. Those agreements expired in 1973. A title examination through January 23, 2015 showed no other recorded land records. There was no easement that she could find.

Motion: To drain and dismantle the second pump house by Ned Finney and seconded by Matt Hart.

Roll Call Vote: Dize-yes; Rillo-yes; Finney-yes; Strautz-yes; Hart-yes; Dennis-yes. MOTION PASSED

New Business

Council discussed moving the regular monthly meeting from the first Monday night of the month to another night since the Town Attorney is no longer able to attend meetings on that night. After some discussion, Council decided to hold the regular meeting on the second Monday of the month beginning in March. Ms. Salazar will advertise this change in both newspapers, the website and around Town.

Motion: To have the Regular Monthly Council meeting on the second Monday night of each month beginning in March by Ned Finney and seconded by Don Strautz. Roll Call Vote: Dize-yes; Rillo-yes; Finney-yes; Strautz-yes; Hart-yes; Dennis-yes. MOTION PASSED

Mr. Finney stated that there have been numerous complaints about the fire company burning railroad ties and various other items in the parking lot across from the fire house. He stated that he, along with several of the police officers, has spoken with Chief Davis about this issue and no one has received a satisfactory response. Mr. Finney stated that we are covered by the County ordinance and he feels there is too much leniency in that ordinance. He wants Council to consider implementing our own ordinance for the town. Mr. Strautz asked if this is an issue that needs to be brought to the attention of the OVFD Board. Mr. Finney stated that he feels implementing our own ordinance is better protection for the town. Council agreed that everyone will look over the County Ordinance and come back with changes at next month's meeting.

Mr. Finney would like Council to consider purchasing the lot across from the town office owned by Matt Hart for fair market value. Mr. Hart stated that he is unsure if he will be able to sell the property since he purchased the property through owner financing. He will need to contact Mr. Cowan for his approval to do so. Ms. Burge stated that a discussion with a Council member to purchase property that he owns is inappropriate at this time. She added that should Council decide to take action on this matter, an appraisal be acquired, a public hearing held, and Mr. Hart would need to abstain from this discussion in his capacity as a Council member.

Public Comments

Laura Belle Gordy stated that she was not in favor of moving the meeting night to accommodate the town attorney. She added that Mayor Pierson seems to be taking the blame for the oversight of some Council members not being notified of the need for the change but she feels that Ms. Burge is at fault. It was up to Ms. Burge to notify the Council that she was planning to accept another position and would no longer be available to meet on the first Monday. She stated that she has received numerous complaints about the Onley Fire Company – some from other fire companies. She stated that there is nothing she can do to address these complaints in her capacity as a County Supervisor. Mayor Pierson stated that the town does not control the fire company and therefore unable to address complaints either.

Billye D. Custis asked if the meeting location is going to change. She added that Council should consider that each Council member ran for their seat with the understanding that they would meet on the first Monday. She feels that since this is no longer the case, Council Members' pay should not be docked if they are unable to attend a meeting.

Council Comments

Ms. Dize thanked everyone. She asked that the Chief look into the 24 hour shifts. She apologized for the misunderstanding about the meeting change but felt it is her duty to speak up when things aren't handled properly.

Ms. Rillo thanked everyone.

Mr. Finney thinks it would be a good idea for the town to distance themselves from the fire department. He agreed with Ms. Gordy that there have been numerous complaints about things going on there. He asked that Council consider moving the meeting location to the VVA building on East Main Street.

Mr. Strautz stated that if the public has issues with the fire company, they need to come to the Board meeting and express their concerns.

Mr. Hart is pleased with the building plans as well as the cost estimate. He is very pleased with the changes in the police department.

Mr. Dennis apologized to Chief Spivey if he was abrupt earlier in the evening.

Motion: To move the meeting location to the VVA building on East Main Street by Ned Finney and seconded by Dawn Dize. Roll Call Vote: Dize-yes; Rillo-yes; Finney-yes; Strautz-yes; Hart-yes; Dennis-yes. MOTION PASSED

Adjourn/Recess

Motion: To recess until February 9, 2015 at 6:30 pm at the town office by Ned Finney and seconded by Don Strautz. Roll Call Vote: Dize-yes; Rillo-yes; Finney-yes; Strautz-yes; Hart-yes; Dennis-yes. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamye Salazar
Clerk/Treasurer

Jack Pierson
Mayor