

Onley Town Council Minutes of November 4, 2013

VIRGINIA: At a Regular Monthly Meeting of the Onley Town Council held at the Onley Fire & Rescue Building on the 4th day of November, A.D., 2013:

Members Present: Jack Pierson, Mayor  
Billy Chance  
Dawn Dize  
Ned Finney, Vice-Mayor  
Fred Gardner  
Susan Rillo  
Don Strautz

Staff Present: Walter Marks, OPD Chief of Police  
Jamye Salazar, Treasurer  
Cela Burge, Town Attorney (arrived 6:34pm)  
Cindy McKeever, Zoning Administrator

**Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance**

The invocation was given by Dawn Dize and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Fred Gardner.

**Call to Order**

The Regular Monthly Town Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Pierson at 6:26pm.

**Adoption of Agenda**

Mr. Strautz asked to add (E) Planning Commission Dates under New Business.

**Motion: To adopt the agenda with the change by Ned Finney and seconded by Don Strautz.**

**Vote:** Chance-yes; Dize-yes; Finney-yes; Gardner-yes; Rillo-yes; Strautz-yes. MOTION PASSED

**Consideration of Minutes**

**Motion: To approve the minutes of the October 7, 2013 Regular Monthly Council Meeting by Ned Finney and seconded by Susan Rillo. Vote:** Chance-yes; Dize-yes; Finney-yes; Gardner-yes; Rillo-yes; Strautz-yes. MOTION PASSED

**Department Reports**

**Police Report & Schedule**

Chief Marks stated that Officer Jess Long will begin work on November 11<sup>th</sup> and the December schedule should reflect the addition of a fifth officer. Chief Marks read a letter of appreciation from the Onley Volunteer Fire Company for help received with a fire call at the local Dollar General. A copy of that letter will be attached to the minutes. Chief Marks stated that the new police car has been ordered and should be delivered in December. Mr. Finney asked why citations were so low for Officers Bennett & Spivey. The Chief responded that Officer Bennett has been on vacation for a portion of the month and Officer Spivey has been working on some administrative issues in the office and has been unable to be out on the road.

**Motion: To approve the December 2013 Police Schedule by Don Strautz and seconded by Dawn Dize.**

**Vote:** Chance-yes; Dize-yes; Finney-yes; Gardner-yes; Rillo-yes; Strautz-yes. MOTION PASSED

Chief Marks asked that Council open discussion about the possibility of acquiring LEOS. He stated that Ms. Salazar provided them with some information about LEOS in their monthly packets. At this time, Ms.

Burge arrived and apologized for being late. Mayor Pierson stated that he feels LEOS is something that needs to be discussed at budget time since this program would be a large expense to the Town. He added that he feels a lot more research needs to be done on this topic and he would like to see some sort of cost analysis. Ms. Burge stated she has reviewed the material that Ms. Salazar provided and a study would need to be done at a cost of about \$1,500.00. She stated that while it is a possible enticement for qualified officers, it also could possibly attract officers that are relatively close to retirement which would not necessarily be beneficial to the Town. Mr. Finney expressed concern about the additional cost to the Town and Mr. Strautz stated that he is worried that it will attract officers from other departments looking to retire sooner. Chief Marks stated that he would be fine with Council tabling this issue until a later date. Council agreed to table this matter until they get a little closer to discussing next year's budget.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Ms. Salazar gave a verbal overview of the budget pointing out that the ATL Grant for the Fire Department was deposited and passed on to the Fire Company. She asked once again that Council consider moving some money from the regular checking account to the money market at PNC Bank. Mr. Strautz asked if there was a certain dollar amount that we normally kept in regular checking. Ms. Salazar stated that when she first took over this position, she thought it was about \$100,000.00. Ms. Dize expressed concern that we have too much money with Shore Bank and PNC both. Ms. Salazar stated that because it is classified as public funds, it is safe. She added that's also the reason that some banks don't want our money because it needs to be handled differently. Billye D. Custis stated that there are some upcoming seminars on investing public funds money. Ms. Salazar stated that she is aware of this seminar but was hoping there will be one closer to the Eastern Shore. After much discussion, it was decided that Ms. Salazar will attend the LGIP seminar to be held later in the month at the nearest location and Council will re-visit this issue next month.

**Motion: To pay the Payables by Don Strautz and seconded by Dawn Dize. Vote:** Chance-yes; Dize-yes; Finney-yes; Gardner-yes; Rillo-yes; Strautz-yes. MOTION PASSED

### **Zoning**

Ms. McKeever introduced herself thanking Council for the opportunity to be a part of the Town of Onley. She stated that she did attend the Planning Commission meeting for the month and it was very informative. She added that there were four permits issued to Four Corners LLC— two restaurants, a bakery and a gift shop.

### **Attorney's Report**

Ms. Burge stated that she will speak about several items as they are reached on the agenda. She did look into a question regarding a paper street in Town this month but other than that, she has no new business to discuss.

### **Old Business**

Mr. Finney stated that the building committee has received several responses to the RFP for Contractor. The committee now needs to meet to set a date for the pre-bid meeting. Mr. Finney asked that Ms. McKeever take Mr. Engelhart's place on the building committee. She agreed.

There was no grant coordinator's report but Ms. Salazar stated that nothing has changed since last month.

Ms. Salazar asked Council if they are satisfied with the height of the new Welcome to Onley signs. There was some concern that the signs are low to the ground but Council did not feel it was a major problem.

Mr. Finney stated that he would like to purchase some solar lights to put out by the signs. Council agreed.

Ms. Salazar stated that she only has one proposal for the clean-up of the Nicolls property adding that she has had some trouble finding interested bidders. The bid was from F. M. Morgan Construction, LLC in the amount of \$7,500.00. Council wanted clarification that the tractor will not be removed, the building will not be removed and the vegetation growth will be addressed.

**Motion: To accept the proposal from F.M. Morgan Construction, LLC in the amount of \$7,500.00 to clean-up the Nicolls property with clarification by Ned Finney and seconded by Susan Rillo. Vote:**

Chance-yes; Dize-yes; Finney-yes; Gardner-yes; Rillo-yes; Strautz-yes. MOTION PASSED

Mayor Pierson stated that someone will need to contact Mr. Nicolls and Susan Rillo stated that she would like to make sure that Mr. Morgan understands that this needs to be done in a timely manner.

### **New Business**

Ms. Salazar stated that she will present Council with some comparison rates for VLDP at the December meeting. She and Ms. Burge have discussed it and feel that it will be an approximate cost of about \$1,000.00 a year to the Town. Ms. Burge stated that she has taken the time to look over the information that was received late today and feels that the numbers are pretty accurate since they are based on actual information provided by our town. She added that they even made some recommendations about our current leave policy and she feels that there may be a little work required if Council does decide to change the leave program.

Ms. Salazar stated that things are shaping up nicely for the Veterans Day Celebration but several helpers have dropped out so anyone interested in helping should contact her.

Ms. Salazar stated that SPOTS has acquired the \$5,000.00 bond per Council's request at last month's meeting.

**Motion: To adopt the SPOTS Pump & Haul Agreement by Ned Finney and seconded by Don Strautz.**

**Voice Vote:** Chance-yes; Dize-yes; Finney-yes; Gardner-yes; Rillo-abstain; Strautz-yes. MOTION PASSED

Ms. Salazar stated that it has been Council's practice in the past to write-off tax bills with a combined total of \$2.00 or less. She currently has 43 tax bills totaling \$48.52 for 2013.

**Motion: To write-off the 2013 tax bills under \$2.00 by Dawn Dize and seconded by Susan Rillo. Vote:**

Chance-yes; Dize-yes; Finney-yes; Gardner-yes; Rillo-yes; Strautz-yes. MOTION PASSED

Mr. Strautz stated that the November & December Planning Commission meetings fall pretty close to the holidays so there was a need to change those dates. The November meeting will be on the 20<sup>th</sup> and the December meeting will be on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Burge reminded the Planning Commission to post a notice of the meeting date changes.

### **Public Comments**

Mayor Pierson stated that two people signed up but crossed their names off. They explained that was just precautionary in case they wanted to speak.

### **Council Comments**

Ms. Rillo stated that she hopes that the clean-up of the Nicolls property will soon come to fruition now that someone will be contracted.

Mr. Gardner stated that his home phone number has changed to 787-2510 and his cell is 387-0462. He thanked everyone for coming and reminded everyone to vote.

Ms. Dize thanked everyone for coming. She thanked the employees as well.

Mr. Finney thanked everyone for coming adding that he thought this was a good meeting.

Onley Town Council Minutes of November 4, 2013

Mr. Strautz thanked the Mayor and the Town employees for doing a good job. He thanked the citizens and stated that he does like the idea that everyone can speak regardless of whether or not they have signed up to do so.

Mr. Chance welcomed Ms. McKeever and thanked the employees for a good job.

**Adjourn/Recess**

**Motion: To adjourn at 7:31pm by Ned Finney and seconded by Susan Rillo. Vote:** Chance-yes; Dize-yes; Finney-yes; Gardner-yes; Rillo-yes; Strautz-yes MOTION PASSED

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Jamye Salazar, Treasurer

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Jack Pierson, Mayor