

**Onley Town Council
Special Meeting
Minutes of May 8, 2023
Onley Town Office, 25308 Lankford Highway, Onley, VA**

Council Members Present: Ned Finney, Mayor
Bill Ferguson, Vice-Mayor
Daniel Bloxom
Brian Corbin
Rodney Lang
Woody Zember

Council Members Absent: Kate Hill

Staff Present: Carl Bundick, Town Attorney
E. Jesse Long, Chief of Police, OPD
Susan M. Rillo, Town Manager
Jamye Salazar, Clerk/Treasurer

Call to Order

Mayor Finney called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

The invocation was given by Councilman Corbin. In the absence of Councilwoman Hill, the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Bloxom.

Adoption of Agenda

Mayor Finney stated that Chief Long wants to add (as item #10) Removal of Exterior Lights & Install of new Lights on 2017 Ford Explorer. At this time, Chief Long presented Council with a proposal for such from Nottingham & Sons in the amount of \$2,185.00.

Motion: To adopt the agenda with the addition by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Daniel Bloxom. Roll

Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – absent; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Adoption of Proposed 2023-2024 Budget

Motion: To adopt the Proposed 2023-2024 Budget by Brian Corbin and seconded by Rodney Lang. Roll

Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – absent; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Adoption of ARPA Funds Budget

Ms. Rillo asked to speak before the ARPA Budget is adopted. She said that she has been researching the use of ARPA funds and she does not believe that we need to have a separate budget for ARPA funds. She asked Council to consider making the ARPA funds part of the regular operating budget (that was just adopted). She added that we will need to amend that budget after July 1st to incorporate those (ARPA) funds. She expressed concern about the amount of the donation to Onancock Fire Company due to the amount, adding that anything over \$50,000.00 is subject to stricter guidelines and reporting. She also reported some other findings about ARPA funds that she has learned. Several Council Members expressed their disappointment about the Onancock Fire Company donation amount. There was a discussion about other ways to make up the difference. Mr. Bundick advised Council against “looking for

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loopholes to make it work". Mayor Finney polled Council and the consensus is to add ARPA funds to the general fund.

Motion: To amend the 2023-2024 Budget adding the ARPA Funds into the General Fund via public hearing by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Daniel Bloxom. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- no; Ferguson- yes; Hill – absent; Lang– yes; Zember - abstain. MOTION PASSED

Fencing Town-Owned Property on Front Street

Ms. Salazar presented Council with warranty information and project start dates to go along with the three estimates presented at last week's meeting for fencing on town-owned property. She added that since last week's meeting, Mr. Corbin has requested that we research 4' or 5' white vinyl fencing so she also has that information available. A copy of the bid info is available upon request. Mayor Finney asked Council to decide what type of fence they want to install.

Motion: To install the 6' chain-link fence by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- no; Ferguson- yes; Hill – absent; Lang– abstain; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Motion: To accept the bid from Accomack Fence in the amount of \$7,060.00 by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -no; Corbin- no; Ferguson- yes; Hill – absent; Lang– abstain; Zember - yes. Mayor Finney broke the tie by voting "no". MOTION FAILED

Motion: To accept the bid from Anderson Fence in the amount of \$9,595.00 by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -no; Corbin- no; Ferguson- yes; Hill – absent; Lang– abstain; Zember - yes. Mayor Finney broke the tie by voting "no". MOTION FAILED

Motion: To accept the bid from Chesapeake Fence in the amount of \$8,495.00 by Daniel Bloxom and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- no; Ferguson- yes; Hill – absent; Lang– abstain; Zember - no. Mayor Finney broke the tie by voting "yes". MOTION PASSED

Purchase of Truck & Dump Trailer for Public Works

Council had a lengthy discussion about the size and specifics of a dump trailer. Mayor Finney said that Ms. Rillo has priced new trucks at more than \$40,000.00. He feels that we can find a good used truck at Blankenship Auto for about \$20,000.00. Council agreed to purchase a used truck. Mr. Lang suggested checking other places – not just Blankenship. Mr. Finney said he does not have time to do that but agreed to allow Mr. Lang to do so if he would like. Mr. Lang said he would check around Pocomoke tomorrow.

At this time, Mr. Corbin stated that we haven't actually adopted the ARPA budget and he questioned whether we should be spending the funds. Ms. Salazar agreed, adding that she has expressed concern about that for quite some time and it's the reason she has pushed Council to advertise the ARPA expenditures. Ms. Salazar suggested that we adopt the ARPA Budget from earlier in the night and we re-appropriate the remaining balance into the operating budget for July 1st. Ms. Rillo agreed.

Motion: To adopt the ARPA Budget (that was advertised and discussed at the May 1, 2023 Public Hearing) by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Woody Zember. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – absent; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Purchase of Playground Equipment for McMath Park

Mr. Finney said that before we purchase anything for the park, measurements need to be taken to make sure there is room for the equipment as well as some green space left over. Council asked Mr. Bloxom to install flags at the park to give everyone a better idea of the size and location of the equipment.

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Motion: To authorize Mayor Finney to spend up to \$30,000.00 for the purchase of a truck and dump trailer by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Daniel Bloxom. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – absent; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Mr. Bloxom presented Council with an estimate for the purchase of new playground equipment in the amount of \$60,804.21. He also stated that the representative suggested wood mulch which will be an additional cost. After much discussion and a poll of Council, they decided to go with the rubber mulch and asked Mr. Bloxom to get pricing for the additional cost. Mr. Bloxom called the representative and reported that the wood mulch is \$7,400.00 and rubber will be double that amount. Ms. Custis expressed concern about the potential area, stating that is where the park floods when we have rain.

Motion: To spend no more than \$70,000.00 on the new playground equipment and installation by Brian Corbin and seconded by Rodney Lang. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – absent; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Remove & Re-Install Exterior Lights 2017 Ford Explorer

Motion: To remove the exterior lights and install new ones on the 2017 Ford Explorer at a cost of \$2,185.00 by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Brian Corbin. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – absent; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn (7:51pm) by Bill Ferguson and seconded by Brian Corbin. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom - yes; Corbin- yes; Ferguson- yes; Hill – absent; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted,



Janye Salazar, Clerk/Treasurer



Henry E. Finney, Mayor