

**Onley Town Council
Special Meeting
Minutes of February 10, 2026
Onley Town Office, 25308 Lankford Highway, Onley, VA**

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

Council Members Absent: Brian Corbin

Staff Present: E. J. Long, Chief of Police, OPD
Susan 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 Daniel Bloxom. Councilman Campbell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of Agenda

Motion: To adopt the agenda by Jason Campbell and seconded by Rodney Lang. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- absent; Ferguson- yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Adoption of Proposed 2025-2026 Budget Amendment

Motion: To adopt the proposed 2025-2026 Budget Amendment that was presented at last week’s meeting by Jason Campbell and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- absent; Ferguson- yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Discussion of Purchasing a Vehicle for General Government Use

Mayor Finney asked Chief Long if he has a patrol car that can be used by General Government employees for a town vehicle. Chief Long said he has the 2017 Ford that is not being used at this time. Mayor Finney asked what needs to happen to the vehicle to make it usable. Chief Long said the radios will need to be removed and a new center console will need to be purchased and installed. Mr. Campbell stated that the lights and cameras will also need to be removed. Chief Long agreed. Mayor Finney asked how much the removal will cost. Chief Long said he is unsure but if we remove the equipment with the intention of putting things back, it will cost more than if we remove the equipment permanently. Mr. Campbell asked if the goal (of Council) is to add money to the next budget to purchase a General Government vehicle and then reinstate the police vehicle. Mr. Bloxom asked how many miles our employees drive using their personal vehicles for town business. Ms. Rillo stated that she has driven less than seven miles the entire month of January. Mr. Bloxom said that at .70 per mile, our employees would have to drive almost 15,000 miles per year for purchasing a new vehicle to be cost effective. Mayor Finney said that we have five patrol cars and only two police officers at this time. Mr. Campbell said it might make sense to decommission a police car. Chief Long said that since Council met last week, he has received three additional resumes for the police vacancies and two are viable candidates. Mr.

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Ferguson said he thinks it will be shortsighted of us to decommission a police car. He added that along with the expense of removing the equipment, it sends the wrong message that perhaps we are cutting back on our Police Department. He feels that we need to "bite the bullet" and purchase a nice, marked town vehicle for our employees to use. Mr. Lang said it's not like we are decommissioning a new vehicle – it would be an older one. He also said that we have had some problems with this vehicle already. Chief Long agreed and said that he cannot give an estimate of how much longer this vehicle will last because he does not know how much it will be used. He said his suggestion is that we put the money in the next budget to purchase a new patrol car but only purchase it if we see that we need it. Mr. Lang asked if the equipment from the old vehicle will be able to be used in the new vehicle. Chief Long said probably about 75% of the equipment will be reusable. Mr. Ferguson asked if the lights can be repurposed to amber lights. Chief Long said he doesn't think that is possible. Mr. Lang said he is concerned about the possibility of an employee being involved in an accident while doing town business. Mayor Finney agreed. Mr. Campbell asked what does happen in that situation. Ms. Salazar said she is unsure, but she will get an answer from VRSA tomorrow and report back to Council at the next meeting. Mr. Zember said he thinks that if we are paying them mileage, they will have to go through their own insurance company. Mr. Campbell said he has a problem with that. He added that he personally would be very upset if an employee was doing the town's business, had an accident, and we left it to them and their insurance to handle it. Mr. Ferguson agreed.

Council instructed Chief Long to contact Eric Nottingham and get a price for removing the police equipment from and installing a new console in the 2017 Ford Explorer. They will re-visit this matter at the March meeting.

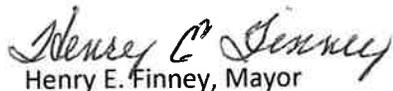
Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn (6:11pm) by Jason Campbell and seconded by Bill Ferguson. Roll Call Vote: Bloxom -yes; Campbell – yes; Corbin- absent; Ferguson- yes; Lang– yes; Zember - yes. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully submitted,



Jamye L. Salazar, Clerk/Treasurer



Henry E. Finney, Mayor