

The Richlands Town Council held a regular monthly meeting in the Richlands Council Chambers on January 13, 2015 at 7:30 pm with the following present:

Mayor: Jannis White  
Town Manager: Tim Taylor  
Town Attorney: Brad Ratliff  
Town Clerk: Susan Whitt  
Council Members: Joe McCracken, Larry Johnson, Doug Ratliff,  
Mary Ann Strong, Frances Meadows and Rod Cury

Mayor White called the meeting to order.

Mary Ann Strong gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor White asked if there were any additions or deletions to the Agenda. Mayor White suggested moving the recognition of the RHS Football Team and Coaches to just after approval of the Minutes.

Tim Taylor said that one of the department heads listed needs to be corrected from Jim Taylor to George West, Street and Sanitation Supervisor.

Hearing no other additions or deletions, Mayor White asked for a Motion to approve the Agenda as amended. Rod Cury made the Motion to approve the Agenda as amended, seconded by Larry Johnson. Vote, all in favor, 6/0. Motion carried.

Mayor White asked if there were any corrections, deletions or additions to the minutes. Hearing none, Mayor White asked for a Motion to approve the minutes as presented, made by Mary Ann Strong and seconded by Larry Johnson. Vote, all in favor, 6/0. Motion carried.

#### Scheduled Public Comments:

Recognition of the RHS Football Team and Coaches. Mayor White said they have honored their community and their school and we want to honor them tonight. She said that anytime she heard anyone speak about the team, it was so complimentary. We are thankful for that and we know that is due in part to the parents and to the coaches. We thank you for all you have done for your school and for your community. We would like for each of you to come up and let us shake your hand and get a picture.

Coach Strong handed out a copy of the email from a Gate City parent. Mary Ann Strong had mentioned this complimentary email from the parent of an opposing team's player last month.

Coach Mance thanked Town Council members, especially Mayor Jan White as she was very instrumental in his hiring as a head football coach at Richlands High School. He thanked her for that and said that it has been a blessing and an honor coaching these young men. He mentioned the email that had been passed out. These guys on average spend about 250 hours in the field house throughout the year preparing to play football for ten football games. The time and the energy that they put in is truly amazing. On our state trip this year to Wilson Memorial, we ate out on two different occasions; once in Roanoke, once at Wilson Memorial. On both occasions, the restaurant owner came up to me and praised the behavior of these young men. We had a parent from Gate City talk about the football team and how they conducted themselves and I even had a parent from Wilson Memorial to talk about that even in defeat, how classy our kids were and how clean they played. We always pray, win or lose. You just couldn't be prouder of these young men. They put their heart and soul into it to make you and our community very proud. They are better people than they are football players, and they are pretty good football players. They won 39 football games in four years, you only get to play 40, three district championships and went to state semi-finals one time, state quarters once and one regional championship. We couldn't be prouder of them, they are outstanding students, outstanding football players. It is an honor for us to be here. Council thanked them for coming.

#### Organization Structuring:

Consideration of Adopting Robert's Rules of Order as the Official Rules for Conducting Town Business

Rod Cury made the Motion to Adopt Robert's Rules of Order as the Official Rules for

Conducting Town Business, seconded by Joe McCracken. Vote, all in favor, 6/0.

Election of Vice Mayor

Joe McCracken made the Motion to Elect Rod Cury as Vice-Mayor, seconded by Frances Meadows. Vote, 3 yes, 3 no. Tie vote. Mayor White voted no to break the tie. Motion denied.

Mary Ann thanked Mr. Cury for his service as Vice Mayor. I think it is good to sometimes spread responsibilities and roles around. I hope that Mr. Cury will remain our representative on our Planning Commission, which I know he spends countless hours doing a fabulous job. In the spirit of rotating positions, I would at this time like to nominate Doug Ratliff. Mayor White asks for a second. Rod Cury spoke and said that he agrees with Mary Ann, said he had thought about this a lot, and he thanked Joe and Frances for the nomination and the second and I have noticed that other governing bodies do move their positions around, be it chairman of the school board or whatever. I think it is good to rotate. Sometimes it is based on tenure, sometimes it's not. So I have been thinking about this and I am glad that you mentioned it. He said that Doug had the opportunity to be Vice Mayor and that he had the opportunity to be Vice Mayor. In that vein of that and in true rotation of the honor and the responsibility, I would suggest that Frances Meadows, being the next person in tenure should have that opportunity. So I would like to nominate Frances Meadows.

Mayor White said there is already a Motion on the floor. Joe McCracken seconded the Motion to nominate Frances Meadows. Mayor White said that Mary Ann's Motion was already on the floor. Larry Johnson seconded. Vote, 3 no, 3 yes. Mayor White voted yes to break the tie. Motion carried.

Consideration of Appointing a Town Manager

Mary Ann Strong made the Motion to Appoint Tim Taylor as Town Manager, seconded by Rod Cury. Vote, all in favor, 6/0. Motion carried.

Consideration of Appointing a Town Attorney. Doug Ratliff made the Motion to Appoint Brad Ratliff as the Town Attorney, seconded by Larry Johnson. Vote, all in favor, 6/0.

Consideration of Appointing a Town Clerk

Mayor White suggested going into closed session later in the meeting to discuss the applicants for the Town Clerk. Council agreed.

Scheduled Public Comments:

1-Cecil Ball, 209 Vickey Drive, Richlands-He started out by saying that he had contacted the Bar Association about Brad Ratliff and he can no longer have anything to do with his case. It is conflict of interest. I can't discuss what is going on but it has been filed. He said that if Brad does anything else on his case, he can be heavily fined, partially lose his license, be sentenced to jail time, or all of the above.

He wants to know why they are trying to kick him out of town. He says he is the only one that has been cleaned up, or had inoperable vehicles; I have paid like 12 vehicle tickets. Everybody else has paid like 1, 2 or 3 that I have talked to. I have planted hedges now to surround my property and in a year's time they should be up to 12 foot. You won't even be able to see my house. You have tried everything possible to do whatever you can to me. Now it's an abandoned structure. I have doctor's papers right here, if you want to look at them. I fractured my ankle in May or June of last year and I start rehabilitation services tomorrow. I was on crutches until August 21<sup>st</sup>. The muscles and tendons around my ankle are still torn. I can't walk on hills, but I have went over there and done what I could to weed eat, mow and clean up. I can only do it for a short time before my ankle starts tearing apart again or whatever. I have tore it out twice again since he released me August. It was December 21<sup>st</sup>. Tim has made me promises that he is going to do this clean up to this brush. It was supposed to be on my property. It is not on my property. It is the neighbor's property. When y'all come to do the clean-up, they jumped out and started hacking and chopping away at this brush, it's not mine. It's my property line and the brush is on my neighbor which lives below me. I told Frank Dorton that. Frank assault and battered me. He pushed me with his chest.

Tim Taylor asked if there is a case, should we be doing this. Brad Ratliff interjected that

if there is some legal action or litigation, then this is not the forum. We would have to take this up in Court. Cecil Ball responded to Brad that “you can’t talk to me”. Brad said he could talk to him because he calls his bluff. There is no action, no litigation whatsoever. You have been in violation of every Nuisance Ordinance in this Town and presently you owe \$2,871.97 in tax liens against the property. You were brought before this Council in 2013 as I recall under Section 13.5 for a specific hearing in order to give you an opportunity to clean up the property which you refused to do. At that juncture, then the Town, after giving you ample warning, took it upon itself at its own expense, which was charged back to you, consequently in part of the \$2,871.97 because you failed to do the clean-up and we took care of the clean up in your behalf. Cecil said ok, but who else’s have you cleaned up? And there is worse than mine. Brad said we have a list of those that are going to be cleaned up but the accusations that you have leveled against me are slanderous, and if there is litigation or any other type of legal action, then this is not the forum.

Cecil went on to say that he was seeking a lawyer; he had a lawyer but he dropped it. Brad interrupted and told the Mayor that Cecil was finished speaking. She told Cecil that they appreciated him coming. Cecil said he needs to know what to do about the abandoned property, to get that straightened out or whatever till I can do whatever. I can do a little bit at a time; I can’t jump in and do everything. Brad addressed Mayor White and said he would like to speak to this. He told Mr. Ball, I have documents on my desk that have been prepared for a tax sale of your property. They have not been filed but they are going to be filed. There is a lien against your property for \$2,871.97, if you want to take care of that and you want to take care of that property and you want to meet the Code Sections within the Ordinances of this Town, you have no problems. Cecil responded ok, I will file the charges on you on the conflict.

Johnny Honaker, 130 Veterans Drive, Richlands, VA. He is here to talk about the water spill-over problem at this location from Rimmer Street and the hill above it that spills over onto our property. Our property is flat and any water that comes from there comes to the low area. The yard is wet, it is wet around the house, the water puddles up in the yard and we have been here once before and you all said no, you could not put a ditch along Rimmer Street and because of people growing grass there. This past fall, I went under the house to check some vents and there was water in the block of the house and the floor joists were starting to turn black, so we think it is a need. We need this ditch done. I have some maps to show the Council where the property is and where the existing drain-lines are and there is no drain-line on this particular road. The drain-lines that are existing are highlighted in yellow. The ditch that we are requesting to relieve the surface water from coming over onto 130 Veteran Drive is a red line. It’s 193 feet long. This goes back to a carport, which is actually in the street of 1814 Rimmer Street. This yard stays wet. I took some pictures the other day and there were actually frozen spots all through the back yard where it had puddled and frozen up along the fence. I have seen water run through the fence and along the lower edge where the Twin Enterprises (Jefferson Place Apartments) property is. I have seen water puddle up along the fence line and if you walk through the yard, we have little blocks along the way as you come off the back porch to get to the driveway, which is in rock. In the front of our house is the main, big drain line where they come in off of Elkins Trailer Park, they come off Rimmer Street on the north side, the other side of Farmer Street, this all comes in and joins in this one area. He showed council the lines as described on the maps he brought with him. So we are getting all of the run-off. If Gordon Russ’ water pipes are leaking back there, we get it.

Joe McCracken asked if it was on private property. Tim Taylor asked about a street going through there. He was always told that this street didn’t exist. We have never done anything to that. Tim said it was a County map that Mr. Honaker had presented. Mr. Honaker said that one time the street went through there. Tim said there is a house and carport building in there now. Mr. Honaker said that the line he had drawn 193 feet goes back to this carport. If you could run a ditch line from this carport down. Mr. Taylor said he thought the best thing to do first before deciding what to do, is have Brad look to see if it is ours. Then we have these folks that are treating this as their driveway, so we have to deal with them too if we have to put in a ditch. He asked Mr. Honaker if he would be amiable to having a ditch right on the inside of his fence line, it would probably catch more water. Mr. Honaker said he doubted that he would. Mr. Taylor said it would be easier to clean out the ditch at the base of hill rather than the top of it. He also said they

couldn't put a ditch over on the other side because then these people would have to cross it. They won't agree to that. A pipe won't work because you can't get the water to it. I have looked at it. I will need Brad's help in determining if this is actually a street there or if it was abandoned. We never have done anything on this. It could still be a public street there. It is just a gravel road. According to this, part of that house and all of the carport sits in the street in question. We have never maintained that, but if it is ours and it appears to be on the map an undeveloped road, at least that gives us an option not to go on private property. Whether it will solve Mr. Honaker's problem, I don't know. If it is strictly private property, we might help facilitate that. Mr. Honaker said it is a 30 ft right of way the same as it is on Rimmer Street. Tim said it looks like it was at one time, but I don't know what happened. I don't know how that house got there with the carport unless they just did it. Then once we find out, then we can talk about a solution to help you. Unfortunately there is no guarantee; that area is built on swamp land as you know. Council reviewed the maps and discussed further. They thanked Mr. Honaker for coming and said they would let him know their findings.

#### Council Member Reports:

Rod Cury-Planning Commission Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30. We do have some business to take up and Tim and I talked briefly about it. He asked Tim if would get the packet out to the commission, he said he would and to Council also. Tim said it's the Hess property that we discussed last month, Brad is working on it with Mr. Hess also. There has not been a push to hurry, so we will get it to both the Planning Commission and the Council Members at the same time. Rod said he was asked if as well as Richard Smith sending out the notice to the Planning Commission, if Town could also send out notice to the members.

He has had some positive comments about the way the Town is accepting payments, which is a good thing for the utilities. Another suggestion was made that the Town should look into utility bills being paid through debiting checking accounts. Larry Worrell asked me to bring that up to be considered. He asked that management look into that and give a report next month. Tim said it was an option that they had looked into, Wells Fargo is the bank that we are dealing with and it's the next step to move toward but we really need the computer piece on it also to go across with on-line payments but it doesn't have to be. If you get the electronic piece set up, the Bank then could do an electronic transfer. Rod said so that if you set it up with your Bank, they could automatically withdraw at a certain time every month. Tim said they had discussed that and that will probably be our next step, it would probably be easier than the on-line payment. Tim said it is doable.

Rod asked for an update on the Codification. Tim said they are waiting on us. Brad may have more, but I don't have anything. Brad said he had a report ready to send in or give to Tim so we can get that finalized. As far as my changes or recommendations, they do a good job. We have a CD that we have been reviewing. Rod asked how close we might be. Tim said they are ready and just waiting on us to submit any changes and we need to get that done. Brad said he would put it at the top of his list.

Joe McCracken-wanted to check to see where we are on some projects that have been brought up such as the trees and the brush in the river over around Brooklyn. It's getting close to flooding season and if we can get those trees out and let the water flow, I think it would help that neighborhood over there and Frances Meadows added the Dalton Addition. I noticed there right behind the chiropractic office, there is a big tree right behind that building now. There still are the same trees that have been there that I have mentioned several times in the past. If we can get those trees out of the water and let the water flow more freely, I think we would have a better chance of maybe not flooding so bad in that area of Town. I am all about trying to prevent things. Tim said we have talked to some vendors and he asked George West if he had anything he could add. George said they had not heard anything back from CJ Horn. Tim said CJ wants to use a big excavator; we are trying to figure out how to do that. I would rather see something drag it out; the safety concerns me because we have to help with it. He asked George if he had talked to Mr. Altizer and he said he had not. Tim said it is in a little bit of high water. Joe said we have been trying to get something done for two years now and I think it would help the river flow tremendously if we had the big trees out of the river that is blocking the water. So if we can continue trying to get something done to get obstructions

out of the water and let the water flow more freely, I think those people over in there would be better off.

Joe wanted to follow up on things that were brought up at the last meeting we had to see where we are on those things. The junk around Sayers Street, I know we had a resident lady come and speak to you about getting that mess cleaned up over there. I have seen no action. Tim said the property owner said would have the trailer moved by the end this month, the one that he is collecting stuff in so he can clean up and put that wall up. It has only been a few weeks since that happened and I haven't talked to him since then. Tim said he would follow up. Joe said the thing is, we are talking about stuff in their yard, junk, eyesores. There is no difference in this person and the person that just left here highly upset. So if we are going to try to force someone else to clean up, then we need to do it all around, not just one or two. Tim asked how much liberty they had with that being industrial in nature and that being an industrial zone. Brad said it is not the same as residential. Joe said but there is a housing street going by there so what is the difference between having junk right in front of people's houses? Just because it is zoned industrial, doesn't mean that it doesn't matter that they still have junk piled up in front of the resident's home. Brad agreed. Joe said if we are going to have clean-up, it should be for everywhere, not just certain streets. Brad said the majority of these things are designed in such a way, these ordinances; they are driven by complaints by the constituents. Joe added they do have complaints on it. Brad said they would look at it and see what can be done. Joe said we want to be right with everyone, not just pick and choose, you know. If it is wrong for this person, it is wrong for that person too. Brad asked for the property address and Joe replied that is McClure Concrete on Sayers and the resident there on Sayers is complaining about the junk yard that he has. I am sorry, but that is what it is. Brad and Tim are going to view the property. Joe said the people that live in the apartments over there have to go right by it and they spent several million dollars on building, so you have to look at this junk as you go by there. It makes sense to me that it needs to be cleaned up or a shield or whatever it takes.

Joe then brought up the Sagewood property. He asked if Tim knows whether or not the sewer/septic is still leaking into the creek over on Sagewood? Tim said they have a plan to help them fix that. Joe said but it is still running in the creek as of now. Hobert Lester said he had trouble getting the guy to come over to Town Hall. Joe said this is directly, directly, against all rules and regulations that septic be running in the creek. It was brought up last month and here it is another month and there is still septic running in the creek coming towards Richlands. I mean, what is it going to take to stop this? Tim said they are going to have to tell him if he doesn't fix the sewer then we will have to cut his water off. Joe asked how much longer are we going to allow the septic to run in the creek. Hobert Lester said he already had everything drawn up and prices to do it; the guy just can't get over here.

Joe said we need to take some type of action to stop this septic from running in the creek. It's been more than a month, it's been, from what I gather from the person that contacted me, it's been happening several months before it was brought to me and now it's another month and today there is still septic running in the creek. We cannot let that happen. It's against all of the rules and regulations that we stand for and we need to take action in some way, whatever the action may be, to correct this. Hobert Lester asked if he wanted the taxpayers to pick up the tab. Joe said, no sir. I am not saying a thing about the taxpayers picking up the tab. Tim said probably the only choice they had to get immediate action to stop it would be to cut the water off. They will have to move.

Doug asked if Tim thought the man would comply if he (Tim) talked to him. Hobert said they bought the sewer tap. They have 3 kids and the wife said they planned on getting a doublewide over across the road there. They own around 27 acres of land but even at that I don't know where they could get everything passed or not for the doublewide. I have talked to him several times. It is my understanding that last year, there were some people going to do that for him, help him with it and for some reason, he balked on it. Joe said from what he heard the neighborhood was going to pay for the hook-up and for some reason another he backed out on them helping him. He has to comply. We cannot let him dump raw sewer in our creeks. Hobert agreed. Tim said they just need to cut their water off since it is a quality of life issue for them too. We have a legal right to do it and if we

do and that is what Council chooses to do, we can do that.

Doug said that since he has 3 small kids, we can give him a certain amount of time. Tim said we have already given him time, it was Christmas; we tried to work with him. Joe said this has been happening for some time, Doug, this is not the first month. We are not trying to hurt the family or anything but we cannot have raw sewage running in our streams and creeks. Tim asked Hobert to confirm that he had done some work to help with the problem. Hobert said he has a pipe that goes out to the creek and I'm sure it catches some of the liquid drainage. Tim said we gave him time because it was Christmas; we even elected to do it for him if he would pay us back just to help him out and get it done. We even offered to let him pay payments, then we found out he may not even own the land. So it gets a little complicated, we have tried to do this, it's not like we have turned our heads and walked away, we have tried to be kind and I know you all want us to. If it is that important to the neighborhood, and it should be, it is not near an intake and there are no wells, we have looked at the whole picture as far as the impact but it still breaks the law. So if we have a right to cut the water off and Brad gives us that right, then that will be our next approach. Joe said he would love to work with them but we just cannot let this go on. Tim agreed and said they have exhausted the leniency. It is time to act.

Brad asked if Tim had ever notified the VA Department of Health? Tim said they won't really help us a lot because they expect us to clean up our own stuff and we know that it is in farm country a little bit. If it were above our water intake, we would already cut the water off. Tim said he thought either they don't have the money or just not taking it seriously enough. They have 3 children and that does bother everyone but we also don't want to have raw sewer running into the river either. I think from the DEQ's perspective that would be more than the health department. I think there is administrative code for the Code of Virginia that would allow us to do that. We have some Town Codes that tells you that you can't do that but you would have to go through the Court process, it says you can discontinue the water service. I think we can use the State Code. Brad said he would look into it.

Frances Meadows-Asked if the Code Enforcement Officer has started on Tackett's Mobile Home Park yet. Lt. Richard Brown confirmed that he has.

Rec Park Roof-wondering about the status of getting the new roof. Originally, the plan was to let our staff fix it. Tim said it is just not an option now. It is going to be part of our budget to work on cost estimates, I have talked to George about it, I haven't talked to Fred yet, but the only logical solution is if you are going to put \$100,000.00 floor in is to replace the roof. It is old; it has reached its life expectancy. We have even talked a little about that if we can be creative and if the Rec Commission would help us, maybe get some help from some other Council members and other committees to help us, then we may be able to apply for a grant to put some solar panels up, maybe to help off-set some of the energy costs and be real aggressive with that. We could bring the Electrical Committee in to help with some of that, to help write grants for the Rec Commission to try to make it happen quicker. We really have a hard time doing all of that work staff-wise but the Commission needs to be part of the solution. Frances said that Fred had been talking with people (that are licensed) about doing some labor. He was very excited about the prospect of getting that done because we knew that our employees are limited. She will discuss with Fred and ask him to pass on his information to Tim. Councilman Johnson and I were just discussing having a meeting next week with the Rec Commission and he was kind enough to ask to come to the meeting and talk with the commission about thinking of some ways to raise money to help with the budget. She said she really appreciated that.

Tim said the first thing would be to get some quotes and Fred has already started that process. Doug interjected that Councilman Strong had a great suggestion at one of our meetings that maybe the Rec Commission or Council could meet with the County Supervisors, maybe John Absher and Seth White because 75% of the people who use the Rec Center are county residents so maybe they would help us. Council agreed that it would be a good idea.

Larry Johnson said that there must have been some miscommunication because he had

someone wanting to make a large donation toward the roof and Frances said they already had the money for the roof. Frances said no that Fred had people willing to donate labor for it. Mary Ann asked if they would do it all and Frances said pretty much. Doug asked if we could request Mr. White or Mr. Absher to meet with Council and the Rec could explain the situation. Tim suggested sending a letter to them. Doug said he thought it would be better if both Council and the Rec Commission met with the Supervisors.

Council discussed possible days and times to meet with the Supervisors.

Frances requested a copy of the itemized list of the cost of the Freedom Festival, they had requested it back in September and she had not seen it. She thanked public safety, streets, electric, water and everyone for a job well done.

Doug Ratliff-Mr. Taylor is going to get an appointment with AEP and try to pursue the lines in Hidden Valley because "Old Town" has 15% cheaper electric rate than Hidden Valley because we have our own electric system in "Old Town". If we could manage to work with AEP and get those lines in Hidden Valley, they too could have a 15% cheaper electric bill. That is one of the things that we are working on.

Larry Johnson-noticed that someone was complaining about Critterville having trash and litter. I know it's that time of the year, you can't be over there all of the time. If they can get someone over there once every two or three days. Scott said they have three community service workers and they are supposed to go over there every day and empty trash bags and check on everything. The problem is, if anything is left in the trashcan, the crows are going to look for food and they are ripping it apart. Only one of us works on Saturday and Sunday; there is no way to go over to Critterville and leave the Rec Park unattended.

Larry was asked to mention that Tazewell County has a Humane Society now. We have tried to spread it out so you have board members from all parts of the County. Right now, I was asked to be President. Angie is the Secretary, Lisa from the Commonwealth Attorney's office is the Treasurer. We had a Vice-President but she had to bow out, hopefully we will have one soon. Frances asked how to get involved with that. Larry said they keep everything updated on the Face book page. It has only been active for 2-3 weeks. They work with the shelter. We had a high kill rate in Tazewell County, so what we are doing is going and working with rescues out in the area, pulling dogs out, fostering them until the rescues can take them.

Mary Ann Strong-congratulated Larry on being President of the Humane Society. She passed around a flyer on the Strategic Planning meeting next Monday night, the 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the Incubator. It's with the Chamber of Commerce and the past Chamber presidents. At a meeting we had about three months ago, we actually chose this date and we chose the time so we really need to have excellent attendance. The Chamber is reaching out to us so that we can be a team. I can't encourage you strongly enough to come. Ginger has found an excellent facilitator, Doug Jackson. That is a holiday, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, but he has agreed to come. It really is critical to our future and also our partnership with the Chamber. Even if you have to come late, it's not going to be that formal, so don't let that stop you from coming. Rod added that Ginger had sent a follow-up email and she also added to the list of invited people, the Richlands Planning Commission in addition to the Town Manager, Mayor, Office Manager, IDA Members and then she invited the Assistant Town Manager and Office Clerk. Tim said we don't have an Assistant Town Manager but I do plan on bringing Kevin with me. Rod also mentioned that Doug Jackson is very involved in the Clinch River Valley Initiative as well as other things. He is a great facilitator.

Mary Ann was wondering about the status of the house on Burnett Street that Mr. Sturgess purchased, if there had been any progression? Tim said he has the deed and is working on the inside first with it being winter, etc. He is working on it.

She is excited that the credit card people were here with Sue on Monday. She is glad we are moving on that. She feels it will be a great success for the Town. Sue said one credit card machine had been installed and the other one will be available. Mary Ann suggested putting that on the access channel to let people know. Tim said that one of the units didn't

work correctly and we had to have it replaced. We should have both of them up and running by the end of the week. Mary Ann said she really appreciated it and knew that it has been a lot of work getting to this point.

Mayor White asked if anyone had any questions regarding the Department reports that were included in the Council packs. Rod Cury said that he appreciated them putting those out every month and he does look at them.

Mayor White gave an update on the Veteran Center. She met with the lady from the Vet Center last Friday at the Incubator and they will be setting up there on the first and the third Friday of each month. Probably from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. If you know any vets that need counseling; they don't do claims but they will point them in the right direction.

Committee Appointments-Selected by the Mayor  
Fire and Safety-Larry Johnson, Chairman and Rod Cury, Member  
Water and Wastewater-Joe McCracken, Chairman and Frances Meadows  
Streets and Road-Mary Ann Strong, Chair and Joe McCracken, Member  
Electrical-Doug Ratliff, Chairman and Mary Ann Strong, Member

#### Attorney's Comments

In addition to his report, Brad said that he and Richard Brown had met with Connie Komer in General District Court earlier this week to discuss a new process for community service for folks who are unable to pay fines. We will have a different process, we will have more community service workers within the Town, especially these cases we are prosecuting we feel like those folks should be doing their community service here within the boundaries of Richlands. Richard will be supervising and I am creating forms now to submit the hours and those types of things to the Court. We will have more control and can certainly better direct those folks to where they are needed.

#### Appointments of Council:

1-Housing Board- Doug Ratliff nominated the current Members of Mayor White and Joe McCracken, seconded by Larry Johnson. Vote, all in favor, 6/0. Motion carried.

2-Planning Commission Council Representative-current member is Rod Cury. Joe McCracken made the Motion to Reappoint Rod Cury, seconded by Larry Johnson. Vote, all in favor, 6/0. Motion carried.

3-Tazewell County Airport Authority – 3 year term. Greg Smith is currently serving. He seemed to be enjoying this, he is a pilot and is doing a good job on the board. Joe McCracken made the Motion to nominate Mr. Smith to continue in this position, seconded by Rod Cury. Vote, all in favor, 6/0. Motion carried.

4-Richlands Chamber of Commerce Representative-following each election-Doug Ratliff made the Motion that Mary Ann Strong continue as Chamber Representative, seconded by Frances Meadows. Vote, all in favor, 6/0. Motion carried.

#### Manager's Report-

1-Authorization to pay bills. Mr. Taylor went over the check register which included bills for the month totaling \$791,366.53, including AMP Power Bill \$466,395.10, Anthem \$82,817.00 and VRS \$56,533.24. Larry Johnson made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to pay the bills, seconded by Joe McCracken. All in favor; vote 6/0. Motion carried.

#### 2-Project updates:

a) Section House-we are moving along on this to a final design stage, finally. We have given them authorization to proceed onto that next phase which is 90% reviewed. We hope to get that as soon as possible. We have worked out most of these idiosyncrasies with this grant. I know a lot of people are wanting to see something, we are working on this and the committee is very active and doing a great job.

Rod wanted to mention our website, he said it was outstanding and it lists the Freedom Festival Committee, the Section House Committee, special events, etc. and



asked Tim to elaborate on it. Tim said we have enhanced it to make it usable for folks. We have started using it with the hopes of when we get our new software for our payments and those types of activities; the codification to where they can query through it, that it becomes a real good tool and an asset for everyone to use. We have the special projects area which includes the Freedom Festival Committee. They have their own website, so we just link to that but we do have a list of committee members and mission statements and so forth. We have the Clinch River Walking Trail, all the charets and all the drawings are online for people to review and can use that to get ideas and to collect things for development purposes. We always have the Section House Committee and there is quite a bit of activity on that and as the construction process begins, we will post that on there as we can. We are trying to make it accessible to where you don't have to wait forever to get it to load. They are doing a good job with it. Rod said it was looking really good. Tim said we have done it economically and the engineering interns have really helped us with it. Zack Frazier, most of the late work has been done through him and he is working on two other things for us, he does have the ability to do that while he is in college, because I feel like once he has graduated that will be it, he will be an electrical engineer and gone.

Street Committee will need to have a meeting soon also, maybe we can coordinate it with this drainage issue but I was going to show you some photos but I will save it. Just so you will know, it isn't something I consider critical. Through our last budgetary process, the bridge next to the Incubator was in poor condition, and you have seen the photographs. We just went through our bridge inspections and they have listed that bridge a little bit more deteriorated to where it is a priority recommendation for repair so we have talked to staff about that. We have some bearings that are gone anywhere from 50 to 100% section loss. It is not critical and is still usable but that is their flag to tell us we have got to start doing something. I attended a meeting with VDOT to talk about funding. They are taking a little different approach with trying to do funding, not funding like this for urban projects, unfortunately, funding like this would come under monies that are available for enhancements in other areas that are still competitive, they are changing the rules. They wanted comments from all localities so I participated in a day-long seminar about these rules and how these rules will impact the funding source and obviously, it is still a ranking criteria and it's still going through the Commonwealth Transportation Board selection but it gives them some tools to use, hopefully to put the dollars where they need to be more than a political item. That is what we were told. We are trying to be real active in that so we don't miss any funding source that we can have. This bridge is an issue that we are really going to have to talk about. I feel strongly that it shouldn't be funded by local dollars because it is a U. S. Route but we may have to be creative. If not, we will have a real problem with that bridge in a few years. We are going to fix these things, it will take time and money to replace those bearings, the last ones we fabricated ourselves and welded them up and put those in. I think we still have the expertise on staff to do that but there are other things in section losses such as the beams and so forth. We will get a full report on that bridge in the next couple of weeks. It is an issue worthy to note.

Town Manager's Recommendations and Consideration of Approval for:

- a) Chief of Police-Frank Dorton
- b) Lieutenant of Police-Richard Brown
- c) Sergeant of Criminal Investigation Division-Jerry Gilbert
- d) First Sergeant of Uniform Police Division -Gary Childress
- e) Sergeant of Uniform Police-Crystal Stanley

These are the same order and ranking membership that we currently have. These are my recommendations to Council. Rod Cury made the Motion to adopt all of the recommendations for the Police Department as presented. Larry Johnson suggested they table the matter until the Chief is here in case anyone has any questions about any of the Officers' performance or anything. He said this may be the first time some of them have been up for recommendation due to all the transitioning. Larry made the recommendation as the Chairman of the Public Safety Committee to wait and talk to Chief Dorton before voting on these recommendations. This matter will be tabled until next month.

Tim announced a work session January 20, 2015 at 7:00 pm for the Community Planning Partners to discuss matters with them. Chairman of the IDA has a presentation he would like to present to Council on Project Jonah if we have time. If not, we can schedule for another night.

Tim asked that they go into closed session.

Frances Meadows made the Motion to go into closed session pursuant to Section 2.23711 a 7- Consultation with legal counsel and staff concerning AMPGS Project and pursuant to Section 2.23711 a 1-personel matters, seconded by Doug Ratliff. Vote, all in favor, 6/0. Motion carried.

Tim invited Sue Wade into closed session for the personnel matter as she had communication with the applicants for the Clerk position.

Council went into closed session at 8:53 pm and returned at 9:15 pm.

Joe McCracken made the Motion to return from closed session pursuant to Section 2.23711 a 7- Consultation with legal counsel and staff concerning AMPGS Project and pursuant to Section 2.23711 a 1- personnel matters, seconded by Rod Cury. Vote, all in favor, 6/0.

All members affirmed that no other business was discussed in closed session other than matters pursuant to Section 2.23711 a 7- Consultation with legal counsel and staff concerning AMPGS Project and matters pursuant to Section 2.23711 a 1-personnel matters.

With no further business, Joe McCracken made the Motion to Adjourn, seconded by Larry Johnson. Vote, all in favor, 6/0. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm. until next meeting Tuesday, February 10, 2015 at 7:30 pm.

(signature on file)

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Jan White, Mayor

Attest:

(signature on file)

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Susan Whitt, Clerk