

The Richlands Town Council held a regular monthly meeting in the Richlands Council Chambers on December 12, 2017 at 7:30 pm with the following present:

Mayor: Jannis White
Town Manager: Tim Taylor
Town Clerk: Connie Allen
Council Members: Mary Ann Strong, Vickie England, Rod Cury
Council Members Absent: Rick Wood, Larry Johnson, Doug Ratliff
Town Attorney Absent: Brad Ratliff

Mayor White opened the meeting.

Mayor White - Doug Ratliff had an emergency and had to leave.

Mayor White - Mr. Crawford will lead us in prayer. Please stand for the prayer and pledge.

Mayor White - Led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor White - Our Attorney Brad Ratliff has pneumonia and will not be here tonight.

Rod - Will Mr. Ratliff be coming back?

Mayor White - He didn't say.

Rod - Does three (3) Council members constitute a quorum?

Mayor White - No Sir.

Tim - Unless you had something to vote on, the only thing that comes to my mind is authorization to pay the bills. You already have authorized with the allocation of funds. We don't have to reassemble to vote on paying the bills.

Mayor White - What about approving the agenda and the minutes?

Tim - I'm not an attorney, so I am not sure. I would not do it.

Rod - I'm not an attorney but it is my understanding if we don't have a quorum we can't vote on anything.

Tim - It is still a meeting we just can't do official business.

Mayor White - We can review the minutes but will have to vote on approval in January. Connie has brought to my attention of two (2) changes that need to be made.

Connie - Page 14 under Rod's comments, In the meeting Rod stated - If we have more than three (3) Council members we have to report to the press, it should be two (2). Page 16 under Larry's comments, Larry stated - I make the motion to allow Mr. Taylor to sign the contract for bridge inspections for next two (2) years - should be three (3) years.

Tim - Should have been a three (3) year contract.

Mayor White - Does anyone else have anything that needs to be corrected on the minutes? We will approve the minutes next month.

Mayor White – Corbin Stone, Robinson Farmer & Cox could not make it tonight due to the weather. We will reschedule for next month.

Mayor White - Do we have anyone who would like to speak that is not on the agenda for “Unscheduled Public Comments”?

Mayor White - Please add to “Unscheduled Public Comments” - Andrew Cox and Ernest Edgell

Mayor White - “Scheduled Public Comments” – Ronnie Cordle, Tony Cordle and Mark Gillespie – Update on Capital Improvements for the Little League.

Ronnie – The Richlands Little League presented us with the plans on expanding the batting cage outside next to us. We all voted unanimously that it is a great idea and would be great for the Town. I want to commend Mark for going through the proper channels and coming through us. They know what they are doing; they just need permission to go forward with the project. I will let him explain the plans.

Mark – (Reference hand out sheets to explain plans) - The red represents the existing batting cage. We want to make additional improvements to accommodate both the Girls and Boys Little League. We may change the plans a little, but what I have presented to you is close to what we plan to do. It is not just for the Town of Richlands it will draw other people from different areas.

Tony - We want to come in and enclose this facility. We want a facility that we can use year-round so we can support kids. A lot of kids like to play baseball.

Mary Ann - Our local kids have to go to Bristol. We have some serious baseball/softball players that like to work out year around. If we go with your plans, they can stay in our hometown. The structure is right behind the Rescue Squad and is the only an outdoor facility. The Rec Commission was very excited about it. Like Ronnie said, you have great planners and will be done first class.

Vickie - What is the time frame?

Mark - We want to get approval from Council and then get approved through our Board. We want to start as quickly as possible and hopefully use by Spring. We have money to make the improvements.

Tony - We hope to finish by the time season starts.

Rod - That is teamwork.

Mark - The first steps we have to take to get started is getting our Board’s approval and Richlands Council’s approval.

Tim - How close is it to the road?

Tony - I think it is 16 ft.

Mark - I think they left a 20 ft. right away.

Tim - I think that is OK

Tony - We only have to eliminate a few parking spaces.

Mary Ann –Unfortunately, we have to wait a month before we can vote.

Tim - You have to go to your Board too?

Tony- We must get permission from the Council before we take back to our Board.

Tim - Council, what you see so far, are you OK with the plans?

Council - Yes, great idea, great plan.

Mayor White - I don't think you will have any problems getting the Council's permission.

Mary Ann - Especially since you already have the money.

Mark – We mainly raised the funds through donations.

Rod - Private Citizens stepped forward.

Mark – Businesses and Citizens.

Rod - The public is interested in seeing this happen and willing to put up their personal money to see this happen.

Tony - You are correct. This has been an ongoing effort since 2011. It has been an ongoing process to upgrading facilities that Mary Ann so strongly pursued and built what we have today. We have more people coming into Town which brings in more revenue. If we can build a cage as we have planned, you will have people come from all areas to use our indoor facility. It will bring business to Richlands. Parents will go where kids go.

Mayor White –“Unscheduled Public Comments” - Andrew Cocke

Andrew Cocke – 194 Autumn Chase Road, Lebanon, VA - I have been following the story of Mountain Magic, the Magic Shop downtown. I read the minutes of the October meeting and I want to state for the record, I have the upmost respect for the people who spoke about their thoughts and concerns. I recognize it is a predominantly Christian society, but we are also republic in society. Everyone has rights, matters of the soul best left to each individual. I can understand they don't want to deal with divination and terror. My advice to them is just don't go to the shop. With that being said, I just want to voice my support for the store and hope the Town Council doesn't hinder their effort to make a profit legally. You have a beautiful Town. This is first time I have been at a Town Council Meeting in five (5) years. I was involved in Pulaski VA where I had a shop of my own. I had to close it since I moved to Abingdon. I will tell you in the short time we were there, we received a lot of business, even an hour or two away. There are people who are old enough to buy cigarettes. For me personally since I heard about the shop, I have taken quite a few lunches here. I may not be a tax payer in Richlands and would never say anything to offend anyone, but I ask for you to remember all of us. I have been in this path for seven (7) or eight (8) years. I can honestly say I have not met anyone pagan or any other religion for that matter who sought to harm anyone. Most of the time they are fallen victim to people trying to shut them out. I certainly hope that is not happening here. I don't think it is. I respect the position you are in, some expect you to hamper business and I understand that. I know legally you may come under some fire; I don't envy you for your job. I appreciate your time and look forward to coming back and buying candles, statues and big macs. Thank you for your time.

Mayor White – “Unscheduled Public Comments” - Ernest Edgell

Ernest Edgell – 206 Terry Drive – I would like to thank the people from the Water Department. I had a water line that had to be reconnected, they were right on time. There is trash at the red light piled up around the curve. The cigarette tax will put a stop to that; they will smoke them down a little shorter. I heard through the grapevine you are making some of the trailer courts clean up. Elkin's Trailer Court on Farmer Street needs a little encouragement. The junk yard at the old bowling alley has an old Plymouth that has been sitting there for least three (3) years with the trunk lid up. If that is not considered a junk car, what would you call it? There is also a fork lift with a tree growing out of it. I think that is in the

Town alley. You had a special meeting and you advertised it. I came and you ask me to leave. What was that about?

Tim - That meeting was for a prospective business, waste for energy project.

Ernest Edgell - It was advertised as Trash for Cash.

Tim - That is their logo. It is a waste energy project and is still in progress. I can't make comments yet. The reason you were asked to leave was because you were not part of the project.

Ernest Edgell - Sounds like a secret meeting to me.

Tim - No, we only have very few of those. We must protect their proprietary information and technology. They didn't want other people to copy them. If it turns out to be great for the area, I am sure you will know all about it. No offence to you, I would have loved to have brought you in the meeting.

Ernest Edgell - I don't know why you even advertised it.

Tim - We are required to run the ad.

Ernest Edgell –Most people in Hidden Valley thought I ask for the speed bumps. Glad you put them in but it has not slowed a lot of people down. I was here once before talking about the speed and the school buses in Hidden Valley. I was out one morning and there was a man in a red pick-up that went by the school bus that had their flashing lights on.

Tim - You should have gotten the tag number.

Ernest Edgell - It is hard to do when they are speeding. I was talking to a policeman the other day and ask if they wrote a lot of tickets and they said they did. I ask if they had written any at Hidden Valley. He said they told them they didn't want them to radar there because they would have to park in people's yard. I told him he could park in my driveway anytime. I am thinking about putting a camera up.

Vickie - You could use your phone and take a picture of the truck that passed the bus.

Ernest Edgell – I am illiterate when it comes to the phone. A dumb phone is smarter than me.

Mayor White - We can't vote on Item IX – Consideration of Conditional Use Permit Request for Body Piercing from Jason Mosley.

Tim - You have a letter in your packet from Mr. Mullins, proprietor of Mountain Magic. The application that is before Council to have uses added to include Fortune Teller/Palmist in the B2 area which is signed by Mark Mullins. I suspect he is the owner of the business and Mr. Kitts who is the owner of the property. We need to forward this to the Planning Commission for their processing for part of the code. Then we will have to run an ad in the paper and decide if we want a Joint Public Hearing either January or February. We will need to have a Public Hearing in the future that is the process.

Rod – Tim is this a matter that will be taken up at our next Planning Commission meeting on January 2nd?

Tim – Yes at 7:30 pm at the Town Hall.

Mayor White - Council Member Reports – Rod Cury

Rod – Since we don't have quorum, you don't want me to read the recommendation from the Planning Commission.

Tim - We can't vote.

Rod - I will hold the recommendation from Planning Commission until next month.

Rod - Richard Brown has served the Town, the Council and the Commission for several years. He has resigned from the Commission. In his resignation, he has recommended Virginia Hart as Chairman. We have not had the opportunity to request that, we didn't want to go behind your back because we are forthright; we will be talking about it the next Planning Commission meeting. Just wanted to be up front and transparent, hope you will accept. We will be short a member of the Commission and I have been in touch with a member of the community. I think they will be excellent in serving the community. I don't have an answer yet so I can't bring forth tonight. I would like to thank Mr. Brown for his service to the Commission.

Rod - I would like to comment as a Council member on the two taxes that are before us that we can't vote on tonight. We can't have an emergency measure on taxes, is that correct Tim?

Tim - That is correct, you must go through two (2) meeting cycles.

Rod - We will have to do that in January and then vote in February. I don't know how that works since we have a quorum.

Tim - May be delayed on that too. We will have to lean on the Attorney's expertise.

Rod - I do have an opinion that I would like to share with the public. I support the cigarette tax because I think it is an appropriate tax and by comparison we are one of the few communities of VA of 3500 or more that does not have the tax. We don't currently have it but we need it. It will help fund many services for our Town including police protection which was the immediate call for the tax. That was the topic for the agenda when we had our work session on how to help the Police Department. I just want to remind the public that the agenda was not about the Rec Department but about Police Department. That being said, I support it because we need it for the Police Department and we also need it to enhance the whole Town. It is not one thing that makes this town, it is multiple faceted. Anyone who potentially lives or who wants to come here looks at all the different facets. One thing may appeal to one person and another to another person. That is what makes a community strong. It is a reflection of all of us. I think that is important. We want the very best police protection. We have always had it and I appreciated it personally. Even if I was on the Council or not, I feel I could dial the Police Department and our dispatch would take care of it and be at my house in seconds if I needed them. It has only happened one time in my life and they were right there. Matter of fact it was Officer Brown. Just in commenting, I don't oppose to support outside the Town of Richlands, but in the meantime, we cannot take the risk of sacrificing a human life it is really out of hand. You can't get it back.

The third thing I would like to discuss is I we have a strong Recreation Department. It is an important part of the community. I keep hearing we are cutting things. I don't know what is true or not until we talk about it. We do not need to cut it at all but we need to enhance it. Growing is a part of it. The Director of the Rec Park and Supervisor Fred Phillips has done a fantastic job. He has brought in a lot of private money into the table and without his connections and knowledge we would not have. I dare say the money he has brought in has paid his salary for seven (7) to eight (8) years if we want to look at it in a multitude of ways. I want to thank you Fred. There are so many projects in our Town and no one tops another one. If we feel that way, we are wrong. Whether it is access points or historical venues, they are all important. Diversity is the strength of America and our community.

Mayor White - "Council Member Reports" - Vickie England

Vickie - Rod, I second everything you just said, thank you very much. I would like to discuss is our Downtown Coordinator position. We had on our agenda to try and work out and now we have had all these fund issues, which now it is on the back burner. I think a Downtown Coordinator is going to be

important to pull things together. They will be working directly with Tim. Once the funding gets taken care of, we need to look for a Downtown Coordinator to help with our community. I think it is extremely important. There is a gentleman in Marion and a young lady in Galax that has got so many great ideas to help bring Richlands to the forefront. They brought their community to the forefront. We need a coordinator to step in and help us with these things. We need to keep this on the agenda.

Mary Ann works with the Chamber of Commerce, but with our Chamber of Commerce going into one County Chamber Commerce, I think the Town Council needs to really get involved with the satellite office. We need to work with Ginger before she retires and before it goes to a county wide chamber. We need to stay active in working with Richlands as a satellite office. I think it is very important to this community. We cannot lose the satellite office, we need to have it here. I don't know exactly how that needs to be but I think Town Council needs to be a supporter of the Chamber of Commerce.

Tim - I agree with you. Getting the Board of Directors to understand the need would be a way to start. Council can strengthen that and support will go a long way.

Vickie - We can't let it go by the wayside. When I am working with anyone, I go by the Chamber and pick up materials. I found our Chamber is a necessity for this community.

Vickie - We have a sidewalk that is crumbling down next to the Mayor's building. It is on the corner of Tazewell Avenue on Front Street. Barbara McMillian talked to me about it. It is hazardous. Mayor, do you have any comments?

Mayor White - You go on up the street there is a place that is cracked out bad. It is dangerous for people walking or running.

Vickie - I think Barbara's husband actually fell. I also had a gentlemen ask me about increasing the speed limit in front of the hospital area to 45 instead of 35 because there are too many tickets being written.

Rod - Would you repeat that please?

Vickie - I was asked to see if we could increase the speed limit to 45 mph down in front of the hospital in front of Gethsemane/Governor C Perry highway due to many tickets being written.

Mayor White – "Council Member Reports" – Mary Ann Strong

Mary Ann – I agree with Vickie, we worked hard with Tim and Adrienne on the Downtown Coordinator position. I have heard names of applicants and I know we have some very qualified applicants. I think it would be a difficult decision on what we have now. We have the issue with funds and it is kind of embarrassing as we work hard to create the position and have applicants. I think it is our responsibility to find the funds. I am very puzzled where the one million dollars is in the budget. If it is true then we should be able to proceed with hiring our person. I would like to congratulate the Town of Tazewell. Their main street is booming. My family and I had the opportunity last Friday night to eat at a new restaurant in Tazewell. You could not find a parking place on the main street. That would be part of the Downtown Coordinator position to economically develop. I am embarrassed that Richlands is getting so left behind. We need to make improvements. That position will be part of it. It is not only an event planner, it is economic development.

I am proud of the Rec Commission. We meet the 3rd Monday of every month. We will meet again on January 15th. Ronnie Cordle and the two (2) Little League officials have a lot of good things happening. I am extremely disappointed in someone sitting at the rec parking lot for four (4) days last week counting how many people entered the Recreation Park. I think that is a lack of respect to our Recreation Commission and to myself as the Council representative to the Commission. I think there is respectful ways to work through the Commission. We all have committees. Rod is on the Planning Commission, Vickie is streets and roads, and Doug is electrical. We should not go behind each other's

backs. We need to show respect to each of our committees and work in the proper process. Mr. Phillips has done amazing job with private money. Nearly \$400,000 dollars of improvements have been made which he personally raised. Yes, we don't have a lot of revenue at the moment, but the last phase of renovations is in process with nice new cleaner bathrooms, locker rooms and weight rooms. It would be embarrassing right now to invite teams from out of town to come even though we have a beautiful gym. When they walk into the park there are still improvements that need to be made. When you have a lot of people you need adequate restrooms. They will be completed as the Town is able to provide the labor. I do compliment you Mr. Phillips in what you are doing. I do want people to know the Rec Commission is meeting and we don't just meet to sit and talk with each other. We are making plans discussing memberships in and out of the Town limits. I had a meeting as I promised with Supervisors Travis Hackworth and Tom Lester. We are meeting, we are not sitting back not trying to bring in revenue and make improvements.

I really appreciate the Public Safety Christmas Dinner that Gordon Russ organized. Every year he does a really nice job. I appreciate everyone in public safety and the risk they take. As Rod said, I have never been afraid in Richlands. We must keep it that way.

I would like to welcome Dr. Wright, new president of Southwest Virginia Community College. I went to all four (4) of the public forums to hear the candidates. I think you will be very pleased with Dr. Wright. He brings a lot of experience and enthusiasm. I think him and his wife will be very happy to locate here.

I would like to comment on a development in Richlands, a very positive program, called Young Life. It is a program that Tazewell has had for nineteen (19) years and Graham has had for five (5) years. Shame on us we have waited so long in getting the program in our area. Right now it is moving very well. It is a non-denominational outreach Christian program. It is another positive program for the community. I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and encourage you very strongly to keep "Christ" in Christmas.

Mayor White - Does anyone have any questions on the Department Head Reports?

Mayor White - Manager's Report – Tim Taylor

Tim – I would like to comment on the Council's comments. I know you have tough decisions to make. It is very important where this community goes. I also know the concerns of the community not to raise taxes. Just wanted to let you know our staff is not perfect and we make mistakes but I assure you we will work hard to try to maximize and try to get as much out of as much as we can with what we do. We try to be efficient as we can and when we do make mistakes we try to correct and learn from them. What I like about the community is the fact that you have people who are behind you. We know what we are challenged with in the future with the strategic planning process. I feel good about things; people come by my office wanting to do different things. We have folks in the audience that take time out to come and express their opinions in a very professional way to let us know what they are interested in the community. What worries me about a community is when you have apathy nobody cares, nobody wants to run for office or be part of it. It is too hard and let someone else do it. I don't see that here in Richlands, I have been here a long time I am encouraged to see the folks that want to do something. It is very positive. We are not going to agree all the time, you don't agree with each other all the time, that is what makes it work. I have seen that happen with a couple of things we built in town and it took many years for it to happen. When Dr. Willis was Mayor, we had some controversy, had people get emotional, people cried but at the end of the day a lot of the folks came back and said it made them stronger, they understood why it happened. Things are hard but at the end of the day as long as the Council stays focused on what is best for the community, we will be fine. We will grow from it, we will start early and don't wait until we get in situations we can't get out of. I support you on the Downtown Coordinator position. It is a wonderful idea and we will continue as fast as we can. It is my job to make sure we don't get into financial trouble that is one of my major roles. I just wanted to make a few comments and let you know how I felt.

Tim - You have a copy of the Check Register, please review and let me know if you have any questions. Check 57195, Robinson Farmer Cox Associates, PLLC for \$22,000 for auditing services. I would like to mention Check 57190, Railroad Management Company for \$17,255.08; we must pay the Railroad Company for every line under or over whether it be the water, electrical or sewerage. We do have some properties that we have to rent from them that we use for parking lots. Last year we contested these for a while but ended up being frivolous, they are state wide. They looked at type of audit for those types of fees that had been charged in the past, which were low. They went from \$1700 from last year to \$16,000 which is a large amount. The minimum fee that we had was to put a line at the railroad tracks which is \$500 a year. We have quite a few of those. If we put a powerline across the railroad tracks, we must pay for those. We don't have any way to contest it. I asked Mr. Ratliff to look at the fees to make sure they legally have a right to do that, of course they do. This will be an ongoing cost.

Mayor White - Check 57179 – Liberty National for \$2,050.86

Sue - That is an employee deduction, they pay for it.

Mary Ann - Check 57182 Magic Mart - I assume this was for White Christmas.

Adrienne – Yes. That check is completely covered by donations, not an expense to the Town.

Mary Ann - I failed to mention in my comments but once again that was the highlight of my Christmas Season, to shop at Magic Mart with the kids. I would like to compliment the department that headed that up and thank Magic Mart, Wal-Mart and Burger King for the food. I would like to express my appreciation to them. Again, I encourage you to participate next Christmas; it will certainly brighten your day. We really appreciate the donors.

Rod - Check 57129 – American Carpet Care- \$15,175 - Have we not paid him in a while?

Tim – No, this goes beyond the mowing season. If you notice in Town there has been a lot of cleanup and brush cut. It is being areas that we have not been able to do with the Street Department. It is embarrassing to hear people say how bad things look, so we do have monies from our VDOT account that we can use to clean up the Town. We have a plan to trim the trees prior to the growing season. It will be easier to maintain when spring comes. We are going to use them for things we don't have time to do.

Vickie - Do they pick up trash?

Tim - Yes, if you will notice at the exit they have cleaned up. Mr. Hess knows that people see his workers all the time and he is very sensitive in making sure they do what they are supposed to be doing. I have not had any complaints, sometimes they move too quick for people, they have done a good job.

Mayor White - I have watched them down from my street, they do a good job.

Rod – I appreciate you explaining that. You said you use the money from VDOT? Is that a restricted fund?

Tim – Yes, that is correct

Rod - I'm sure that everyone here knows, but do you mind explaining what restricted funds are so they will know what it is.

Tim – We get certain funds from various parts of the State. They are restrictions on some of the funds. Funds from Commonwealth of Virginia is based on lane mileage on roads and based on classifications. Roads like 460 and Route 67, major highways, we get a bigger dollar amount per lane mile. The local collector roads are the smaller roads; we get so much to maintain those roads. The Town receives monies for approximately 85% of those. The budget for the Street Department must come out of that

fund. We can't use for anything else. We get audited every year on where we use the money. If you have a town smaller than 3500, example Cedar Bluff or Honaker, VDOT takes care of the streets for them. They pay us to take care of our streets out of the state funds. The streets that don't qualify must come out of local taxes.

Vickie - Tim, while you are talking about designated funds, I have had it mentioned to me, when Mr. Hearl gave money to take care of the coal miner's memorial, we have a fund set up for those designated items that can't be touched for anything except what they are designed for. Am I correct on that?

Tim - Yes, they are restricted funds. More money was raised for the project than needed. When it is needed cleaned or the pumps replaced in the waterfall, we use that money to replace that.

Vickie - Do you have an account within the bookkeeping system to where the money cannot go to other projects, only for the designated projects?

Tim - Correct, the money we use for Rec and Rescue is from local taxes unless we have to use for other things.

Mayor White - What is Check 57205, is that a new project?

Tim - No, that is the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Water Treatment Asset Management Program with a grant they got from the Health Department. The Wastewater did not get a grant.

Mayor White - Does anyone else have any questions on the bills?

Rod - I appreciate Mr. Taylor explaining restricted funds. It is for special purposes only.

Tim - We can't vote on the bills but they will be paid. It is part of the budget we already approved.

Tim - I have given you a copy of the Monthly Power Cost Report. This is for October 2017, but that is how we must pay our bills. I want you to see what is happening in that particular department based just on the power supply portion. Gives you an idea of the rates we pay. Rates go up and down and you can see what happened in the month. Also gives you some good charts that you can refer to, which helps simplify some of the numbers. I am going to try and include every month so Council can review.

Tim - We do have an issue and would like to have voted on a Resolution but it doesn't matter, often times a resolution doesn't have a lot of bearing. You may have a chance to call a Legislator, Senator or a Representative and let them know your concern. The resolution prepared has a mistake at the bottom of the page. The loss to Richlands was not \$175 million but 10.1 million dollars. The current tax cuts and job acts is being considered at the federal level at this time has some statues in it that might trigger these sequestration bills passed a few years ago based upon the fact we are trying to get infrastructure. The Build America Bonds is the one that is in trouble and the tax advantage bonds that we use. The Town has through the organizations to buy part of the power plant in Illinois, part of a combined natural gas plant in Toledo Ohio, part of three (3) hydro we have on Ohio River. The funds which were a lot of money, were financed with Build American Bonds and were basically part of the thought of the country after the 2000 recession. In the history of America, the tax exempt for financing has always been there. That amount of money if taken away from the particular bonds will have an impact on Richlands. That impact is illustrated in your packet. The Town stands to be impacted by 10.1 million dollars over 33 years. To put it into prospective if you look at the entire year, the impact is more on the front years of the bonds. You will see in the handout that I gave you if Congress does not make provision for that to stay in there next year, our power rates to buy power will be impacted by \$6.75 for that same 1000 kilowatt. You can't do anything about it unless Congress makes a way. Just wanted to give you the talking points on what the facts are and memo so if you get calls or you want to call a representative. We will forward the resolution to our Senators and Congressmen. We do have people working on it for us. Congressmen Griffith said he is aware of it and going to work out a solution.

Rod – We can contact Senator Kaine, Senator Warner or Rep. Griffith offices to encourage them to take a closer look at this particular piece.

Tim - The resolution is not siding with parties. It is not a party issue, will protect us on either side. Very important if you don't understand call me and we can go over.

Tim - Boundary Adjustment Report - Will go over next time.

Tim – Purcell Road Curve and Street Lighting Concerns – We had people at the meeting last month on these concerns. We do have a report on the concerns. We met with engineer representative of America Power Company. We are trying to get a cost of providing lighting to Purcell Road, Vickie Drive and surrounding areas as well as Birmingham and Daw Road. We should have the cost estimates in the next couple of weeks. We would like to get the project started. We were trying to find a cheaper solution that we could do ourselves, but there is not one. Some of the street application poles are there and we can't put ours up but we can provide electrical power to it. They have special rates for street lighting. We negotiate every year. We have to make sure they don't charge us extra for what they call "In Kind". We hope it will be just a rental fee that will occur every year. We did have an issue on the map, just wanted to let you know what we did on the curve. I went and investigated with some of the staff. We have cleared all the brush in the area and have cleaned out the ditches. We have not moved any type of rock on the side of the highway. That right of way on the county map is real narrow not sure how far it goes up on the hill but there is a pole. I put a marker on the map that you see where the pole is located. Any type of road widening project requires some engineering cost. The pole is so close to the road it will have to be relocated. We talked to APCO engineer, they own the pole. As you can see in my memo that pole is in direct conflict with any type of road widening in that part of the area. The approximate cost is \$20,000 just to move the pole. It could be more if there is rock, may need more right away if we move the pole. We have not discussed with Verizon or Spectrum which also will incur costs in relocating their utilities which the Town would be responsible. The Stop sign at the Vickie Drive intersection has been changed from a 24" sign to a 30" sign to increase awareness. If we can get paint to stick to the road we will put a big bar there so they will see that, which will help. If someone gets into the ditch they would not hit the rocks. The road width is approximately 18 to 20 feet which is the same as other general roads. If people slow down, look at the signs and watch the kids, I don't think there will be any problems. If they don't it will be a large project and cost a lot of money and time. My suggestion is we watch closely and see what happens. We will install one more dangerous curve sign. This is my solution as of today. Any questions?

Ernie - The brush cutting was great and did help. I think you looked at the wrong telephone pole. The one I am talking about is dangerous. (Came up front and showed Council location on map)

Tim - It was next to the curve. Please come up front and show us which one you are referring too. We possibly can do something with the guard rail or move out a few rocks. I will look at it again.

Tim - We don't have to vote, but they did some refinancing with the bonds. They were a little scared the bonds would lose their value. They refinanced what they could. I will have to sign and submit back to them by the end of the year. Bonds hopefully are financed at a better rate.

Tim - You can see what is going on with the Section House Project. We have the electrical buried and ready to go. A lot of the water and sewage work has been completed. The scheduled completion date is in February. We have Request #6 to pay for \$39,989.63 which is part of the budget.

Tim – I have given you some handouts. I would like to go over in Closed Session.

Mary Ann - One correction I need to make. The Rec Commission will meet next Monday, December 18th at 7:30 pm. I would like to wish one of our former Mayors a Happy Birthday – Dr. Willis.

Mayor White - We can't vote to go into Closed Session. We will have to wait until next month.

Mayor White - We can't vote to adjourn, we will have to at the beginning of next month's meeting.

Mayor White - I would like to thank the Police for helping with the Christmas Parade. Thanks for all the different groups that participated.

Mayor White - Does anyone else have anything to discuss? We will adjourn beginning of next month meeting.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE.

Jannis White, Mayor

Connie Allen, Town Clerk