

The Richlands Town Council held a regular monthly meeting in the Richlands Council Chambers on February 14, 2017 at 7:30pm with the following present:

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

Mayor White opened the meeting.

Mayor White gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor White – Do we have anyone that would like to speak that is not on the agenda?

Ginger Branton was added to the agenda.

Mayor White - Ginger Branton will introduce the queens, I will move her up before closed session, and she will be after Mr. Stone.

Mayor White - Anyone else that would like to speak?

Ernest Lowe and Kyle Anthony were added to the agenda.

Mayor White – Is there anyone else that would like to speak, last call?

Mayor White - Do we have any additions or deletions to the agenda? If not, do we have a motion to approve the agenda as amended? Mary Ann made the motion, Rod Cury seconded the motion.

Mayor White - We have a motion and a second. All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries 5/0.

Mayor White – You have the minutes that were distributed prior to the meeting. Are there any corrections, additions or deletions to the minutes?

Mary Ann - Under my comments on page (4), please change compassionate to passionate.

Mayor White - Any more correction, additions or deletions to the minutes?

Brad – On page (7), please change “resend” to “rescind”

Mayor White - Does anyone else have deletions, additions or corrections to the minutes?

Mayor White - Do I hear a motion to approve the minutes as amended?

Rod – I make a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Mary Ann seconded the motion.

Mayor White - We have a motion and a second. All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries 5/0.

Mayor White - We have Corbin Stone from Robinson Farmer & Cox with our 2016 Annual Financial Report.

Corbin Stone – First, I would like to thank everyone for having me. You have an unmodified, unqualified opinion of your financial statement. You have a clean opinion of your government auditing standard opinions. You have good controls in place to make sure your statements are correct. What that means is that each month you are doing reconciliation as you produce financial statements, they are validated if you will. I have handed out the “Audit Presentation” which has a picture of the Town Hall on the front cover.

Select Financial Data – Page 1

I will go over some historical financial information with you. The general fund balance in 2016 was \$717,292. In 2010 the balance was \$1,567,705. The balance has come down a little bit, but came back in 2016, which is primarily due to some capital projects you had during the year. We would like to see that number at 10% of the operating budget. If you have a five-million-dollar budget, you should have a minimum of \$500,000. If it’s double or triple, we are Ok with that too. This would give you minimum of \$500,000, enough to operate for about five weeks into your budget; not a lot of reserve.

Enterprise Funds – Water and Sewer Assets \$10,568, 133, Electric Fund Net Assets \$2,699,877, which includes the depreciation value of assets in the ground or your power infrastructure, it’s not cash. Total cash in bank \$5,702,847 a little bit down from last year of \$6,000,000. Overall you are in good financial health. Total outstanding debt is \$3,000,000, which is relatively low. Debt per Capita is \$534 per person compared to the state average of \$2135 in 2010. You are in good shape but hard to look out into the future. (Reference graphs)

Summary of Original Tax Assessments – Page 2

The assessed value of the town, annualized growth rates is 1.377%. In 2007 it was 0.472%. Your assessed value going up at 1.377% per year.

Audit Recommendations – Page 3

1. Economic Interest Statements - Recommend the forms be completed prior to filing.
2. Unclaimed Property – Recommend that the Town review the listing and turn over amounts to the State’s unclaimed property, as necessary.
3. Drug-free Workplace Policy and Non-Discrimination Clause – Town’s paving contract did not contain a drug-free workplace policy clause and non-discrimination clause as required the Code of Virginia. We recommend that the Town include the aforementioned clauses in future contracts.
4. Security for Public Deposits Act: The Town currently maintains a rescue squad account at First Sentinel Bank. The account was not designated as a public deposit under the Virginia Security for Public Deposits Act at year end. Under the Act, public deposits carry additional protection beyond amounts covered by the FDIC; you don’t have to worry about going over the \$250,000 limit. Recommend that the Town contact the Bank and have them designate the accounts as a public deposit with the State Department of the Treasury.

Independent Accountants’ Report - Page 4

We have to do some additional work for the state. We have to make sure what is reported to the IRS is correct. We need to make sure employees are still working for the town; their contribution is based on their actual salary. You guys did a great job, didn’t have any problems,

Appendix A - Page 5

We identified one control environment that the Town of Richlands was responsible for during the review. The staff does a great job of providing information. We had very few adjusting entries, very good job at keeping books. You should be very proud.

Mayor – Does anyone have any questions for Mr. Corbin?

Mr. Corbin – My contact information is on front of the Audit Presentation. We do work for the council and are here to serve the council.

Mayor - Ginger will be introducing the Queens.

Ginger – Introduced Courtney Oxford – Miss Greater Richlands 2016 and Janey Dales – Mrs. Greater Richlands. Courtney Oxford will be going to the VA State Pageant in April and her platform will be CRMO Awareness. Both spoke for a few minutes stating it was an honor representing the Town of Richlands.

Mayor – Thank you ladies for representing our town.

Mayor – We need to go into closed session to discuss Section 2.2-3711 (a) 1 – Discussion - Consideration of Interview of Prospective Candidate for employment of Town Clerk. Do we have a motion to go into closed session? Motion made by Vickie, seconded by Rod. We have a motion and a second. All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those opposed say no. Motion carries 5/0.

Mayor – Do we have a motion to come out of closed session? Doug made the motion, Mary Ann seconded the motion. All those in favor of the motion say yes, all those that oppose say no, Motion carries 5/0.

Mayor – Do all members agree the only item discussed was Section 2.2-3711(a) 1 – Discussion - Consideration of Interview of Prospective Candidate for employment of Town Clerk.

Vicki- Yes, Rick-Yes, Doug-Yes, Mary Ann–Yes, Rod-Yes, Do I have a motion as a result of closed session? Do I have a second?

Rick –Made a motion to hire Connie Allen as Clerk, seconded by Doug.

Mayor - We have a motion and a second, all those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries 5/0. – Welcome Connie Allen as Town Clerk, starting immediately.

Mayor - Moving on to Scheduled Public Comments, remember you only have five minutes. First will be Craig Earls.

Craig Earls – 311 Lynnwood Drive – President of Richlands Little League – Handed out pins to each council member. Pins are customary part of the little league program; kids trade with different players within the state. We have had an increase in enrollment and participation. Little League now has a website - richlandslittleleague.org. Mr. Earls ask the council if they could have the Little League Parade again this year and include the middle and high school teams. The parade would be the 2nd Saturday in April (April 8, 2016).

Mary Ann - Is there any conflict with the date?

Rod - What time do you plan on having the parade?

Craig - Last year we started at 10:30am and ended at 11:00 am

Mary Ann - I would like to make motion for Richlands Little League to have their opening day Parade on April 8, 2016. Rod seconded the motion.

Mayor - We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those opposed say no. Motion carries 5/0.

Craig Earl - Second request – Capital project on the field that needs to be addressed. I would like to ask the town for funds to help with purchase of safety nets. The existing nets have holes; concerned with

the safety of the kids. I would also like to see if the town can help install the nets using their bucket trucks for both the Flanary and Williams softball field.

Rick - Are you talking about the backstops at the fence?

Craig - Backstops are fine, it's the nets.

Rick - Is it both Critterville and the park at the police station?

Craig - Yes

Tim - We can help you with all the labor but the funds would have to come from the recreation budget which is already stretched at this time. The council would have to reallocate funds. At this time, I would prefer for you to raise the money for the nets.

Mary Ann - The nets at the police station will be eleven years old this June.

Craig - We have to address the nets this year, our main concern is for the safety of the kids. I would appreciate your consideration for the request. This year the State Tournament for the Girl's Senior League Softball will be at Critterville, the date will be around July 12th. The Junior League Baseball State Tournament will be in Bluefield. Baseball Tournament for seven and eight year olds will be hosted at the Flanary Field end of May.

Mary Ann - Craig is also Secretary of Recreation Commission.

Mayor - Ronnie Cordle, President Recreation Commission - Update

Ronnie - I was recently elected President of the Richlands Recreation Commission. I would like to encourage everyone to visit the Recreation Park. We are updating the facility, changing bathrooms into the weight rooms, weight rooms into bathrooms, plus updating the facility inside. We want to improve the traffic & parking areas, etc. The park was opened in 1977 and this year will be the 40th anniversary for the Recreation Park. Advice is needed from council on what is permitted on updating the recreation park as far as the legal aspect.

Mayor - Anyone have any questions?

Doug - Do you need any additional weights?

Ronnie - We will need additional weights. Fred and I plan on getting estimates on different items need for the recreation park.

Doug - I think it will be a great investment to have three or four stations.

Ronnie - The weight room will be extended from 16X34 to 40X40 room. Income from the weight room is \$500 a month; once the room is extended hope to double the income. We are trying to draw more women and encourage adults to live a healthy life style.

Mayor – Jeff Hurst – Clinch River Soccer Association- Update

Jeff – 206 Chinch Row, Richlands, VA – Mike and Misty Bandy accompanied - Met with the Recreation Commission on January 22nd. The vision is to put a synthetic turf facility at the Recreation Park. This would be a huge asset for the town and the recreation park. Spoke to the commission on January 22 about the campaign in order to make the project a reality. Fund raising goal is in the packet. We have a bid on the project. We have an engineer trying to develop site plans for the project, where we need to be and what we need to go forward. We have the commission's blessings but would like the council's blessings on this project. We wanted to make the council aware of the project.

Rod - I think it is a good project and a first rate facility.

Maryann - They have put a lot of time and effort into their plan. I appreciate you wanting to dream "Big".

Jeff - We now play basketball games at the Recreation Park. It was exciting to see all the people in the community coming to the games. It will be good for us to get this; it will draw more kids.

Rick - Jeff is this the ballfields at the recreation park now?

Jeff - Yes, we have two fields, big and a small field. Small field is grassed over and the lights already exist.

Rick - Are you playing at the field now?

Jeff - Yes we are playing at the field, there are no fences, and lighting already exists.

Rick - See me before you leave, I have some information on this.

Mayor – I was at the park last night and was amazed at all the people there.

Jeff – There were two companies bidding on project. We are looking at different avenues. We will get permits when ready to start project. Excited about the project and getting everyone on board.

Mike Bandy – I appreciate Jeff for getting the project together. The ball and field is only a tool. We need to help build character, teamwork and to make our children great adults.

Jeff – Thanked Mike Bandy for all he does for the organization. We will continue to work hand and hand with the recreation commission. The next meeting is scheduled for February 20th. Commission gives us great support.

Mayor – Kyle Anthony, what is your address?

Kyle – 2409 Charles Street, Richlands, VA

Kyle - I would like to move a single wide mobile home onto Doug Ray's lot on Oxford Street.

Tim - He has applied to move a single wide on a private lot. This does require a conditional use permit from the council. According to the drawings, he does meet all the zoning requirements. Application is in order. Do you own the property?

Kyle - No, but the landowners are here.

Tim - If it's granted it would probably be a joint type permit. Douglas Ray is the owner of the property.

Mary Ann – I make a motion to allow Kyle Anthony and Whitney Profitt to have a conditional use permit. Doug seconded the motion.

Mayor - We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those opposed say no. Motion carries 5/0.

Tim - You are supposed to start within six months; do you see a problem with that?

Kyle – We will start this weekend.

Tim - See Mr. Blankenship regarding the application tomorrow.

Mayor – Ernest Lowe

Ernest Lowe – Fallen Warriors - Passed out pictures of the flags and wall along with cards about the organization. Fallen Warriors main function is to escort deceased veterans from the funeral home to the grave site. We have built a wall that currently has over 700 names of all the killed veterans from Buchanan, Tazewell and Russell County. I am asking permission to post flags around the square of the police department, in order to raise funds to improve the wall. We would like to start with 75 flags. The flags are VDOT standard. Would like to give the flags and name tag back to the family of the veterans at Richlands Freedom Festival instead of retaining the flags. We already have permission to display the wall at the Freedom Festival. The flags would be posted on April 20th and removed on May 3rd. The wall is currently made of wood. The dream is to have the wall made into a panel system. The mobile wall would be displayed at local functions.

Rick - They will stay up for two weeks, correct?

Ernest Lowe – Yes

Rick - You want to put them around the police station?

Ernest Lowe – Yes, we hope to grow and line the streets with the flags with the council's permission. I talked to Mayor White and Frank Dorton earlier on the subject; they had no objections.

Rod - Great idea, what wars does this include?

Ernest Lowe - Any war, as long as they are a veteran, can be from different counties.

Rick - The only thing we need to watch is the flags blowing and blocking traffic.

Rick - Ask George to look at the standards since he manages the street department.

Tim - We will be glad to help.

Ernest – We want to use metal conduit flags with 3/4-inch quarter rebar to drive into the ground approximately 2 ½ feet then sit pipe directly on top of it. If we meet the town's criteria; we request at least five years to put the flags up due to the cost of the flags.

Tim - I don't see a problem with five years.

Rick - We just want you to come back and tell us how you are doing on the project.

Ernest Lowe – OK

Tim - Is all the money going to help with this project?

Ernest Lowe – Yes, the money will go to building the wall. Richlands has funded the wall in its present state.

Mary Ann - Do you anticipate 75 flags to start with?

Ernest Lowe - Yes, we will start with 75 flags.

Rod - I make a motion we accept his proposal, Vicki seconded the motion.

Mayor – We have a motion and a second, any further discussions. All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those opposed say no. Motion carries 5/0.

Mayor - We will move on to the Council Member Reports.

Rod - I have two things – Joint public hearing on Comprehensive Plan with the council and Planning Commission will be on the February 21st. Second, I had a citizen call me, Bob Beavers; he wanted to know why the recycle bins at the mall have been removed.

Mayor - I was also asked about the recycling bins.

Rick - The problem with the recycling bin is that people are bringing so much trash, it is blowing into Grants Supermarket property. The property owners decided to move the bins. Lusk Disposal was not taking care of the bins. Citizens can go to the Cedar Bluff Transfer Station where there are recycling bins.

Tim - Richlands does not own the recycling bins, it is privately owned.

Rod - Would like the council to take into consideration of having a recycling bin in Richlands.

Tim - We elected to take a different route in not having the recycling bins. We do have bins for the cardboard recycling, mainly around the businesses that use them a lot. We can get a committee together to look into this.

Rod - Don't know much about the recycling bins but do know it is good for the earth. I will let Bob Beavers know that the bins are privately owned and not part of the Town of Richlands.

Rick - I am for it, but if the cleanup became a problem, not willing to pay anyone to clean it up. Then the bin would have had to go.

Rod - I think we should pursue the idea.

Tim - Will contact Santek to see if they are interested in putting a site in Richlands.

Vicki - Had someone talk to her about the trees on Veterans Drive. The trees have been trimmed on the left hand side of the road but not on the right hand side of the road. They need to be trimmed before they bloom in spring.

Tim - The electrical crew had to trim the trees on the right hand side for the lights.

Vicki - Can they trim the trees on the left hand side of the road?

Tim - We had to meet a deadline in a hurry to meet the funding requirements on the project.

Vicki - Can we have the trees cut for cosmetic purposes?

Tim - Yes

Tim - Will talk to Kevin to see what they are doing, maybe we can push trimming the trees. I will see what we can do in order to get the trees trimmed.

Mayor - Vicki, do you have anything else?

Vicki - This is just for me, the "Welcome to Richlands" sign at the Clinch Valley Hospital looks terrible and is embarrassing. It is made out of wood; looks like someone who does woodwork could make the sign more presentable.

Tim - The sign belongs to the Richlands Garden Club. We can take it down, usually this a civic project that someone likes to do. The Garden Club's focus is on the baskets, etc. The sign needs to be made out of something more of a permanent material.

Mary Ann - The sign on Railroad Avenue is pretty bad also.

Tim - They have been touched up before. We will take both the signs down at the Clinch Valley Hospital and Railroad Avenue.

Vicki - Veterans drive looks good.

Tim - Those signs are made out of a different product - Redwood

Rick - Thank you George for picking up trash, it has really made a difference.

Mayor - I was a little skeptical at first of having a trash bin in front of my business, but people are actually stopping and putting trash in the bin. It would be nice to add a few more trash bins in the town if we have the money.

Doug - Can we schedule inmates to pick up trash on 460? Can they have a set schedule where they come twice a month?

Frank - Not sure if they will let us schedule that far in advance. We can check out (3) inmates but that is the max. We have no way of hauling any more than three.

Doug - I thought they provided the van.

Frank - There is a difference between the sheriff doing it and us.

Tim - Sheriff gets paid by VDOT to take inmates out in van to clean up VDOT roads. I will talk to the sheriff.

Mary Ann - Can we make a request to the Sheriff?

Frank - We do the same thing; be we are limited to the number of inmates.

Mary Ann - Is this still possible, or is this not available anymore?

Frank - Yes, the sheriff still takes inmates out.

Mary Ann - How do we get on the list?

Tim - We just ask to get on the list.

Frank - VDOT pays their people, they only pick up trash on 460 and 67.

Doug - I think George's group could handle around the schools, etc., but if we had a set schedule it would work better.

Frank - We can't bring inmates into town, VDOT won't pay them, won't pay guard.

Rick - What if we paid them?

Frank - If you are going to pay them to pick up the trash, just pay our people overtime to work.

Doug – Sheriff takes care of 460, George can take care of the little spots.

Frank - I will talk to the Sheriff.

Doug - What is the gas company doing? They have dropped off the radar.

Tim - I haven't had any contact with them, but I'll see about getting meeting scheduled.

Doug - In the next few months we need to make a decision whether we are taking over the system or let them have it. The Town can do a lot better job than they are doing. They have made many promises.

Tim - They may have plans; we just don't know about it. I will make an effort to call this week.

Mary Ann - I would also like to thank George and his staff on cleaning up the trash. Encourage our community to have more pride. It is a shame to see tons of trash everywhere. People coming to our area to consider moving here, it is very embarrassing to see all the trash.

We met on Jan 23rd with Ronnie and reorganized the Rec Commission– Ronnie Cordle, President, Tony Cordle, Vice-President, and Craig Earls, Secretary. We are meeting again on February 20th at 7pm at the Recreation Park. As soon as we get an agenda together, I will send a copy to Sue. Once our minutes are approved from the January meeting it will be published.

I contacted Dusty Ballard and due to time constraints on his schedule, he is going to resign. Tonight I would like to make a motion to have Jeff Hurst become a member of Recreation Commission. Rod seconded the motion.

Mayor - We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those opposed say no – Motion carries 5/0

Mary Ann – I commend Fred on a tremendous job he has done at the Recreation Park. He has more plans and the Recreation Commission will be excited to report back next month.

Mary Ann - The last thing I have is the Fluoride Issue – Talked to Benny McGhee at the PSA at length and to the Town Manager of Lebanon, I feel I have put time and effort into this. I am extremely sensitive to our town staff, and seeing bags stating "Poisonous". I understand, I'm not in their shoes but I am very sensitive of the risk it puts them in. I do respect the council members and the request for us to delay this issue. However, I have been attending REEC meetings for months and it is brought up time and time again. If I truly felt waiting another month would change matters, I will certainly be the first to agree to that. I honest don't feel minds are going to change one way or the other. I would like to make a motion.

Doug - Before you go on, I would like to ask the council to wait for Larry to come back so we would have full council, and ask for one month to do more research. Maybe minds will change, I don't know but the decision is not only for Richlands but for Bluefield, Tazewell and a lot more communities. I ask the council to wait 30 days.

Vickie - What kind of research? I've already done my research, so has Rod and Mary Ann.

Doug - See what mistake they made at Chapel Hill to accidently overdose the people. We don't know what we are getting into. It is right, we do have other localities riding on our shoulders, but we need more before making a decision.

Vicki - This has been down since November; we will just start it up again.

Doug - If we do that the other communities will follow thru. What will 30 days matter since we have already been down 3 months? We need to wait for full council since this decision is for that many

people, Richlands, Bluefield, Tazewell and all the communities in Virginia. We all need to have a say, wait on full council.

Tim - It's not that simple, the reason we quit, could not make the product work. We do have an engineer that will have to design a new product and then submit it to the Health Department for approval. If approved we will implement, order and get it put in. If we vote tonight it will be a couple of months at least to complete the process.

Doug - Why can't we let them go ahead and design the new product?

Vicki - We have to vote on it tonight.

Tim - I would not want to spend money unless we are going to do it. We can go ahead and start talking about the design.

Rod - I don't think minds are going to change, I agree with Mary Ann. I would like to think so but I don't think so. If Mary Ann wants to make the motion I am inclined to second it.

Mary Ann - One of the things that have been mentioned many times tonight, is that other communities are waiting to see what we are going to do. I'm proud they look up to us and respect us that much but why don't they have the courage to make the decision and then maybe we follow them. I am proud we are leaders.

Doug - They are waiting for us to stand up and make the decision. They are looking for us to be the leader. Looking to us shows they have problems with it; I think we should weigh our decision and not rush into it. If it's going to be 2 months before it comes on line, why not wait another 30 days. I don't want to vote until we have full council and checking out Chapel Hill to see what happened. I want to have all the details.

Tim - It will take two months is just to get the design approved. Probably four or five months before it is back in the picture, if you vote tonight.

Rick - Is there a digital way to monitor the dose?

Tim - We are pretty confident; they will dose it to what it is supposed to be. We have natural fluoride at .3 anyway. Probably dose at .4 or .5

Doug - Chapel Hill has 80,000 people; they make a mistake, what is to say we can't make a mistake. We need to see what problems Chapel Hill had. How do you overdose the whole water system and put people in jeopardy?

Rod - I make a motion that we add fluoride to the water.

Mayor - I have a motion on the floor, do we have a second.

Mary Ann - We have been talking about this a long time, each month I have brought up since I had been hearing it at the RECC meetings. My concern is if we wait another thirty days, I don't think it will change the minds of who is present tonight. Then Tim needs two months to design and then another couple months, so it is going to be 5 or 6 months.

Doug - Probably won't change any minds here but possibly could. If Larry has a vote, it could change the whole council. If we vote today, it will not be full council.

Vicki - Mayor will have to break the tie.

Mayor - Motion on the floor, we need to second before we have any further discussion.

Vicki - I make the second to put fluorine back into the Town of Richlands water.

Mayor - We have a motion and a second, any further discussion?

Mary Ann - I would like to say, I hate we don't have a full council, but when we meet in March we could not have full council again. We all have to miss sometimes and could keep delaying the issue.

Doug - Everyday decisions that's fine but when you have a tremendous decision for not only Richlands but all of Virginia. There are questions about the health issues from the public. If you have a question, it deserves much more thought and deserves the whole council. This is not your everyday decision, probably the most important we will make in probably ten years.

Vicki - We had a Chief of Pediatrics and four dentists here tonight and one oral surgeon; they all feel this was an important issue.

Doug - They are more prone to the teeth. I would rather have a cavity instead of being distributed all thru the body. Even if we are wrong I would rather be safe.

Vicki - The damage would have been done a long time ago.

Brad - Could you please restate your motion?

Rod - I make the motion to add fluoride to the water as we had been doing.

Tim - Not actually as stated before, do you second?

Vicki - I second Rod's Motion

Mayor - We have a motion and a second. Are we ready to vote?

Rod - I understand how you feel Doug, there are pros and cons to everything, we can error on either side, we really don't know, it is in our best interest to do it.

Mayor - All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries 3/2.

Doug – No

Rick – No

Mary Ann – Yes

Rod – Yes

Vicki – Yes

Mayor - Tim this is not nothing written in stone if you find out something earth shattering in your research, please bring it back to the council so we can revisit.

Tim - I appreciate the debate; health of people is important. We can go ahead and talk with the engineers and get this started and get the design. If something comes up either way, we can always revisit. If something earth shattering comes up I would hold back. We are all learning. We will get approved thru the health department.

Doug - Who decided the dosage?

Tim - There are a minimum and a maximum. We will follow the minimum. EPA has a broader range but we answer to the Health Department. Health Department supports it, they were here. Again, I will talk to some people.

Rod - The motion is passed to do it.

Mayor - Still, if he finds something

Rod - Are we hunting for something?

Tim - No, we are not hunting for anything.

Rod – Thank you

Tim - I give you the assurance we will not stop the train or slow it down.

Rod - Thank you

Doug - Any health issue you are going to constantly look at it each day, you do dig the facts, and you do try to keep the public safe.

Mayor - Mary Ann, do you have anything else?

Mayor - Department Head Reports - Does anyone have any questions about the reports? If not, we will move on. Brad do you have anything?

Brad - I present to the council the Public Smoking ordinance for consideration.

Mayor - Do we have anyone who would like to make a motion?

Rod – Is there a place stipulated designated smoking area?

Brad – Yes

Rod – Designated smoking area is a step in the right direction but I thinking no designated smoking areas. Question to Mr. Earls - If someone is outside the designated smoking area does it come an enforcement issue? I personally would like to see it written, “No Smoking. I was talking to Jason during our break; he explained that the college had a rule of no smoking in the building and 25 ft. from the building. The students were smoking at the signs that were at the building. I wonder if we could eliminate designated smoking areas, up for discussion.

Brad - I think the State designates there has to be designated smoking area in certain areas.

Rod - What about in recreation areas?

Brad - I don't know I will certainly look into it if you desire.

Rod - Just throwing out to the council, I know there has to be designated smoking areas in certain places. It is important in recreation areas.

Tim – It says maybe not shall, may have room for discussion.

Brad - Except in designated smoking areas.

Rod - Does it allow for designated smoking area?

Brad - It will allow one.

Rod - That what I am thinking.

Mary Ann - Brad, on number ten, can we take out except designated smoking area, or do you have to research to find out if that is a requirement.

Brad - That is town property, so I think it is a town decision to say "no smoking".

Doug - Would this be the ball field?

Brad - Wherever there is recreation, Critterville, Recreation Park and all those areas.

Doug - Are you saying to take out the designated smoking area? I'm not a smoker, and hate smoke, but you are taking a lot of rights away if you don't at least have a designated smoking area.

Mary Ann - Fred could you give us your opinion?

Fred - We need designated area because they will smoke. I also think that the no smoking areas should not be "no smoking" but "Tobacco Free" which includes skoal and chewing tobacco.

Rod - Step in the right direction, they used to have a designated smoking at the RHS years ago and now it is nonsmoking.

Tim - There is a \$250 dollar fine for smoking in "no smoking areas".

Mary Ann - We need signage at Critterville, Flanary field and the recreation park. Do the signs have to be elaborate?

Brad - Don't have to be elaborate. They will have to find the designated smoking areas.

Mary Ann - We will have to do some work on our part, mark the designated smoking areas

Brad - I would make signs that site the ordinance.

Doug - Fred could pick the spots for designated smoking areas

Mary Ann - If he sees someone smoking, etc., he could point them in the right direction. If they don't, then call Frank.

Fred - If we have the long containers, people will see, and know that is the smoking area.

Mary Ann - I make a motion to adopt the smoking ordinance.

Mayor - We will need to dispense with the first motion.

Brad - You can't smoke unless you are in a designated smoking area. This gives the town the latitude to set the smoking areas.

Doug - I can't vote for it unless we state there is a designated smoking area. Can we have a consensus?

Brad - This does not stop smoking all over town, there are places it is not regulated, as far as the town property.

Doug - As far as the town property, we vote designated smoking areas, is this possible?

Mary Ann - That is my point to have areas for smoking, like Fred mentioned. We need to have the containers so they would see where to go.

Doug - Do we have a consensus from the council there will be designated smoking areas?

Mayor - First we need a motion to dispense with the second reading.

Rod - I make that motion.

Mary Ann – I second the motion.

Mayor - We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries 5/0.

Mayor - Now we need a motion to adopt the ordinance.

Rod - I make a motion to adopt the ordinance.

Mary Ann - I second the motion.

Mayor -- We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries 5/0.

Brad - Included in definition - Covers e-cigs and hand held vaporize.

Mayor – Manager’s Report

Tim - Please look over the check resister.

Tim - Check 55121 – Logics for software conversion, which we are currently working on.

Rod - Check 55134 – PHYSIO-CONTROL, INC. \$13,071.08

Tim - Rescue squad device they purchased.

Mayor – Check 55141 – Richmond Machinery \$15,903.16

Tim - Purchase of a spreader which is in the budget.

Mayor - Do we have any further questions, if not, do we have a motion to allow Tim to pay the bills.

Mary Ann - Made motion to pay bills, Vicki seconded the motion.

Mayor - We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries 5/0

Tim - I will go over the project updates.

West Fork Sewage Project - They have a design that looks durable, working on permits. Will work on cost estimate, should come in next month. I will submit as a funding project to the planning district or for a least part of the funding. We will wait to see how to deal with it. If we get enough money we will contract the job, if not Hobert’s crew will do the work.

Section House Enhancement Project - Called VDOT several times. Bristol office approved the documents but we are waiting on Richmond’s final approval. Upon approval we can award the contract to lowest bidder. I am concerned the contractors will change bid due to dated pricing.

Rod - I’ve been in conversation with some of our committee members, you have reached out, and if you had not reached out, we would have not had the hearing. If you need further assistance, the council is

here to help you. We were given a grant for \$487,000 for a project of \$600,000; we are ready to roll as soon as we hear from Richmond. People are ready to get on board.

Tim - As soon as I know I will let the council know.

Water Treatment –Distribution Asset Management/Capital Improvement Plan. - Working with consulting engineers and collecting data. I am also working on the sewage side. This will give council a good financial tool to will help make a good decision.

Anthem Hospitalization Renewal – A little bad news on hospital quote for insurance premiums. We had a 10% increase resulting in over \$100,000 increased premiums over what we have today. I am not asking council to vote on this tonight. I will work with staff on this since this is a substantial amount of money. That is part of what the federal government is doing and the industry, plus the age of the employee population. We do have older adults that are working employees and does utilize the medical insurance. We will have a work session on March 21 and will know more details.

Mary Ann – After the workshop, can we put out RFP to other companies.

Tim – Yes, we can check with other companies. We have checked in the past but not recently.

Mary Ann - I would strongly recommend to consider since things change; you never know until you put it out to other companies.

Tim - May ask for your expertise, if you don't mind. Any help or advice would be appreciated. Don't want to take a lesser product unless we have too.

Mary Ann - We have always valued our benefits, employees may not have the wages but the benefits are good. Anthem would be my choice, if possible, but you can see what is out there.

Tim - We are aggressively pursuing the budget earlier this year in order to give you an opportunity for input. By law I have to submit to you by April. I hope to have by early or mid-March. We are in the middle of software conversion, going live Monday. Be patience, step in the right direction; we will be training for one week.

Mayor - Anything else to discuss?

Ronnie - Access Channel - Dogs not allow on field - Is that an ordinance?

Tim - Signage has been ordered. No animals are allowed on the fields, period. Once signs arrive, then we will enforce. Rules already on place for the leash law.

Mary Ann - Talked about dog parks, they have them in other communities.

Rod - Section House, we have programs to add activities on that property and that is one of them.

Mayor - Do we have a motion to adjourn?

Rod - I motion to adjourn, Rick seconded.

Mayor - We have a motion and a second, all those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries 5/0.

Jannis White, Mayor

Connie Allen, Town Clerk