

**TOWN OF RICHLANDS**  
**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

The Richlands Town Council held a “Regular Monthly Meeting” on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at 6:00 pm in the Richlands Police Department with the following present:

Mayor: Rod. D. Cury  
Town Manager: Ron Holt  
Project Manager: Susan Whitt  
Town Clerk: Absent  
Town Attorney: Mike Thomas  
Finance Manager: Ronnie Campbell  
Council Members: Seth White, Rick Wood, Jordan Bales, and Jan White.

The Town Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Mayor Cury.

Mayor Cury explained the reason the meeting is being held in the Richlands Police Department is due to the air conditioner currently not working at the Town Hall.

**IN RE:                      Additions, Deletions, or Corrections to the Agenda**

Mayor Cury made the following additions/deletions to the agenda:

- Added Rick Puckett to Unscheduled Public Comment

Upon a motion by Rick Wood, seconded by Jan White and the unanimous roll call vote of all members present, the Council voted 4-0 to approve the agenda as amended.

**IN RE:                      Authorization to Pay Bills (May)**

There were no questions regarding the Bills for May.

Upon a motion by Jan White, seconded by Rick Wood, and the unanimous the roll call vote of all members present, the Council voted 4-0 to approve paying the bills for May.

**IN RE:                      Minutes**

Upon a motion by Jan White, seconded by Seth White, and the roll call vote of all members present, the Council voted 3-0, with Rick Wood abstaining, to approve the following Minutes:

- May 13, 2025, Public Hearing
- May 13, 2025, Regular Scheduled Meeting

**IN RE:                      Scheduled Public Comments**

**Johnny Lester, 129 Bragg Rd-** Mr. Lester spoke to the Council about the road conditions on Bragg Road stating that the potholes are getting deeper and would like the Town to fix them. Mr. Holt advised he will schedule a meeting with Mr. Bragg and Mayor Cury regarding this issue.

**IN RE:                      Unscheduled Public Comments**

**Rick Puckett, Maple Lane-** Mr. Puckett inquired about the projected timeline for re-routing the road and advised the plates are bending on each end. Mr. Holt advised he was unsure on a timeline right now, but that it won't be a year. Mr. Holt also advised he will personally look at the plates.

**IN RE:                      Stop the Bleed**

Rescue Chief Matthew Whited advised the Council that Richlands Rescue received their Stop the Bleed Educational License Certificate and are approved to teach the Stop the Bleed Coalitions Course.

**IN RE: Quantum Power Update**

Mark Ramono with Quantum Power advised the Council that:

- The unit is 60% complete and will be finished ahead of schedule.
- Have had environmental issues with bats that have caused a setback, and they will not be able to break ground on the roads until November.
- The new route will take less road and should be overall cheaper.
- Received and RFP from CNX for the gas supply to the generator.

**IN RE: Electrical Committee Appointment**

Upon a motion by Seth White, seconded by Jordan Bales and the unanimous roll call vote of all members present, the Council voted 4-0 to appoint Craig Earls to the Electrical Committee.

**IN RE: I/EDA Appointment**

Upon a motion by Seth White, seconded by Jan White and the unanimous roll call vote of all members present, the Council voted 4-0 to appoint Mike Bales to the I/EDA Committee for a (4) year term beginning 07/01/2025.

Councilman Bales advised Mike Bales is no relation to him.

**IN RE: FEMA Updates**

Susan Whitt gave the following FEMA Updates to Council

- Staff members have been working with FEMA and have almost completed the Hurricane Helene Storm Damage Claims and advised if all goes well, they will receive \$127k.
- Staff members have been meeting with FEMA weekly regarding the February 2025 Flood Event and should be finished by the end of July and will know more about the grant amount at that time.

Chief Holt commended Mrs. Whitt for her work with FEMA.

Mayor Cury thanked Mrs. Whitt on behalf of himself and the Council for her hard work as well.

**IN RE: Proposed Enterprise Zone**

Mrs. Whitt advised that Tazewell County Economic Development Office had reached out to the Town to give them the opportunity to make changes to the Towns Enterprise Zone.

Mrs. Whitt provided the Council with a map showing the current Enterprise Zone, the proposed area to be removed, and the proposed area to be added.

Mrs. Whitt advised the map removes some of the area in Doran that was implemented years ago in anticipation of the Fish Farm that has since been relocated.

Mrs. Whitt also advised that the map adds the area of the Richlands Mall, areas of Front Street, and Suffolk Avenue.

Mrs. Whitt advised if anyone is added to the Enterprise Zone their taxes will not raise.

The Council briefly discussed the proposed changes and incentives with Lynna Mitchell and agreed to bring this back in July once they have clarification on the blue and red areas.

**IN RE: Budget Amendment**

Mr. Campbell advised the purpose of this amendment is to appropriate funds to the REC Department Salaries & Wages Expense Account from the Retirement of Debt Expense Account in the amount of \$12,000 for additional salaries expected to be incurred during the pool season.

Upon a motion by Seth White, seconded by Rick Wood and the unanimous roll call vote of all members present, the Council voted to approve this Budget Amendment.

Mr. Campbell advised the purpose of this amendment is to appropriate funds to the Public Works Street Department VDOT Reimbursement Expenses Account from the Fund Balance Allocation Revenue Account (Restricted Funds) in the amount of \$324,738 for the Town of Richlands labor, material, and equipment during March-May 2025.

Upon a motion by Rick Wood, seconded by Jordan Bales and the unanimous roll call vote of all members present, the Council voted to approve this Budget Amendment.

**IN RE: Update on Tobacco Commission Loan and AMLAR Grants**

Mr. Campbell advised that the \$2M Tobacco Commission Loan will close by the end of June.

Mr. Campbell also advised staff are still working on the AMLAR Grant, they had requested additional documents.

**IN RE: Monthly Financial Report**

Mr. Campbell gave a brief overview of the Monthly Financial Report for April as follows:

- General Fund- Year to Date Net Income Loss is -\$1,246,641
- Water- Year to Date Net Income Loss is \$27,428
- Sewer- Year to Date Net Income Loss is \$317,065
- Water and Sewer Line Maintenance Year to Date Net Income Loss -\$524,676
- Electric w/o Generator Year to Date Net Income Loss -\$1,010,536
- Electric w/Generator Year to Date Net Income Loss -\$8,685,064
- General Fund- Reserved Cash Balance \$2,377,633
- General Fund- Unreserved Cash Balance \$1,231,241
- Water Department Reserved Cash Balance \$1,075,053
- Water Department Unreserved Cash Balance \$734,913
- Sewer Department Reserved Cash Balance \$493,808
- Sewer Department Unreserved Cash Balance -\$361,718
- Electric Department Reserved Cash Balance \$1,797,809
- Electric Department Unreserved Cash Balance \$348,389.

There were no questions regarding the Monthly Financial Report.

**IN RE: Attorney Report**

Mr. Thomas advised if the Town wants to continue livestreaming the Council meetings on YouTube, they must have a live signer or someone who can do the closed captioning to make sure it is accurate in order to be ADA Compliant.

Mr. Bales asked if staff have checked on the software for this and Mr. Thomas advised it would still have to be monitored for accuracy.

The Council had a brief discussion about becoming ADA Compliant.

**IN RE: Town Manager Report**

Chief Holt gave the following updates to Council:

**Golf Cart Ordinance-** Mr. Holt advised he had spoken to some of the board members about the possibility of allowing golf carts in certain neighborhoods in Town and provided the Council with a sample Golf Cart Ordinance from the Town of Bluefield.

Mr. Holt spoke to the Council about some of the benefits and advised there could also be a new revenue stream generated from the sale of stickers for the Golf Carts

The Council expressed their safety concerns regarding the Ordinance and would like to think about it and get feedback from the public before it is considered.

Mr. Holt advised he would bring back options from Public Safety.

**Detour Update-** Mr. Holt advised Mr. Shepherd picked up the remaining material to complete the detour today.

Mr. Holt stated the amended detour has been posted on all social media platforms and the detour would go live on June 23. Mr. Holt advised the Public Safety Team would be out for at least three days helping direct traffic.

**Davenport Meeting-** Mr. Holt advised that on July 1 they would be hosting a working lunch for the Council at the Southwest Virginia Community College with Davenport (this will also be open to the Public). Mr. Holt stated that Davenport would have a presentation regarding the General Fund and Electric Fund Financial Review & Electric Fund Generator Project Funding Plan Recommendations.

**Bulk Brush Schedule-** Mr. Holt stated they have posted the updated Bulk & Brush Pick-up Schedule and Guidelines on the Towns social media platforms.

Mr. Bales expressed his concerns about one of the guidelines and stated some shipping containers that will not fit in a trash can. Mr. Holt stated he knew there would be instances like that and there would be exceptions for it.

Mrs. White inquired about Recycling Containers.

The Council had a brief discussion about the Recycling Program.

Upon Mr. Holts' recommendation, the Council agreed to revisit the Recycling Program at a later date, once normal operations have resumed at the Cedar Bluff facility.

**Website Development-** Mr. Holt advised staff is still working through this process and will update Council as soon as it is completed.

**New Connect/Disconnect Form-** Mr. Holt advised that staff have implemented new Connect/Disconnect Forms to simplify the process for citizens.

Mr. Holt also advised they hope to have an online form as well and that citizens would need to provide an ID to prevent fraud.

Mr. Bales inquired about the storage of documents provided for services by the citizens. Mr. Holt advised he would check on this to make sure it is being properly stored.

**VRSA Renewal-Financial Impact-** Mr. Holt advised they had just renewed their VRSA policy, and the premium will be lower than originally anticipated.

Mr. Holt also advised that staff completed a Risk Management Assessment Form for VRSA for the first time and Kim Fields was able to work with each department to comply with all training requirements that resulted in a \$16k deduction in the premium.

**Customer Service Training-** Mr. Holt advised that after he received a request from the Council, staff have begun taking free online customer service classes through VRSA to offer a better quality of service to customers.

**Fire Contract with County-** Mr. Holt advised the Town has received a \$100k check from the County for a 2-year Fire Service Contract.

**Paving Update-** Mr. Holt advised paving has started and crews had to repair a water line that had ruptured on East 1<sup>st</sup> Street due to the water lines being old and the weight of the machinery. Mr. Holt stated that paving on Farmers Street, Front Street, and Second Street were next.

Mr. Wood inquired about milling for the Town Shop and Mr. Holt advised he would check into this and update him.

**IN RE: Council Member Reports**

Laura Mollo- Absent

Jan White-

- Advised the Freedom Fest would be held on June 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Advised that if town merchants or organizations want to set up during Freedom Fest, they will be able to do so for free.

Jordan Bales-

- Stated the paving at Critterville looks great.
- Advised the All-Star Tournament will be held on June 14 at Critterville.

Rick Wood-

- Advised he has received calls regarding potholes on Buskill Ave.
- Stated he would like the Town to use the milling on the Iron Street Property for the laydown yard so they would not have to purchase gravel for it.

Gary Jackson- Absent

Seth White-

- Stated that the Police Department renovations look great.

**IN RE: Mayor Comments**

Mayor Cury-

- Thanked Mrs. White for her work organizing the Freedom Festival.
- Stated that Flag Day is on June 14.

**IN RE: Executive Session**

Upon a motion by Seth White, seconded by Rick Wood, and the unanimous roll call vote of all members present, the Council voted 4-0 to amend the agenda to include a personnel section under 2.2-3711 (A)(8) Consultation with Legal Counsel.

Mayor Cury advised the Council would be going into Executive Session pursuant to:

- VA Code Section: 2.2-3711(A)(3) - Property Acquisition
  - McCall Property
  - Maple Lane
- VA Code Section: 2.2-3711(A)(8) - Consultation with Legal Counsel
  - Teen Center
  - Meals Tax Collection- Legal Action
  - VDEM-EMA
  - Contract with Tazewell Co PSA/Water and Sewer
  - Personnel

Upon a motion by Seth White, seconded by Rick Wood and the unanimous roll call vote of all members present, the Council voted to go into Executive Session.

Upon a motion by Jan White, seconded by Seth White and the unanimous roll call vote of all members present, the Council voted to return to Open Session.

Upon a motion by Rick Wood, seconded by Seth White and the unanimous roll call vote of all members present, the Council certified that only the following VA Code Sections were discussed during the Executive Session.

- VA Code Section: 2.2-3711(A)(3) - Property Acquisition
- McCall Property
- Maple Lane

- VA Code Section: 2.2-3711(A)(8) - Consultation with Legal Counsel
  - Teen Center
  - Meals Tax Collection- Legal Action
  - VDEM-EMA
  - Contract with Tazewell Co PSA/Water and Sewer
  - Personnel

**IN RE:** **McCall Property**

Upon a motion by Jordan Bales, seconded by Seth White, and the unanimous roll call vote of all members present, the Council voted 4-0 to allow Mr. Holt to sign the deed on the McCall property on the Towns behalf.

**IN RE:** **Maple Lane Property**

Upon a motion by Jordan Bales, seconded by Seth White, and the unanimous roll call vote of all members present, the Council voted 4-0 to pay \$50k for the Maple Lane Property and to allow Mr. Holt to sign the deed on the Maple Lane property on the Towns behalf subject to legal review.

**IN RE:** **Adjournment**

Upon a motion by Rick Wood, seconded by Jordan Bales and the unanimous roll call vote of all members present, the meeting was adjourned.

  
Rodney D. Curry, Mayor

  
Amanda Beheler, Town Clerk