

MEETING MINUTES
Meeting of Eastville Town Council
June 3, 2013

Council Present: Eleanor Gordon, Todd Simpson, John Crockett, Ben Fox, Nancy Mulligan

Mayor Present: Jim Sturgis

Council Not Present: Edgar Sturgis

Town Employees Present: Jack Wescoat: Attorney, David Eder: Sargent, Jonny Stevenson: Town Clerk

At 7:00pm Mayor Sturgis called the meeting to order. Mayor Sturgis called for acceptance of the minutes from the May Council meeting. The Council decided to delay the accepting of the minutes until the next meeting.

Financial Report: The Bookkeeper is on vacation so Jonny Stevenson, Town Clerk, reported the bank franchise check has been received as has the May fine check. Sgt. Eder reminded the Council there were still outstanding fine revenues expected. Councilwoman Gordon reported she had to withdraw more funds from the LGIP account. Councilman Simpson requested that the Town Bookkeeper provide the Council with a monthly statement of interest earned by month and cumulative. **Councilwoman Gordon moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Councilwoman Mulligan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Police Report: Sgt. Eder distributed his police reports. He reported the State Comptrollers' office cannot answer whether the monies from fines are formulated on an annual calendar or fiscal year calendar. The Town still has outstanding funds that have not been received from the State. Sgt. Eder also reported the work on the Ford has been completed. Sgt. Eder wondered if there were some way the Town could pass an ordinance that would automatically accept the annual changes in the Code of Virginia laws each new Fiscal Year. Town Consul, Jack Wescoat, stated that he had researched the issue and it was his opinion that he would not recommend adopting the code automatically although if you did it that way you probably would not get challenged.

At 7:35 Mayor Sturgis called the Public Hearings to order:

1. Resolution for Acceptance of the Updated Solid Waste Management Plan by the Eastville Town Council (adopting the Northampton County Plan)
2. Ordinance Incorporating Laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia by Reference (Ord. No. 2013-001)

There was no public in attendance so there were no comments.

At 7:37 Mayor Sturgis closed the public hearings.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **GRASS CUTTING:** Mayor Sturgis discussed the Town land around the water tower concerning the grass cutting and the spreading and leveling of the sand pile so that it is not higher than the road. Michael Brickhouse cleaned up the Courthouse Rd. issue and will return to complete the project.
2. **TOWN WATER:** Mayor Sturgis stated he will be double checking the sampling procedures for the town water testing to insure accuracy. Sgt. Eder recommended finding someone to address the project at the railroad tracks on Willow Oak Rd. Also, David Sumners completed the hydrant work on Courthouse Rd. and Willow Oak Rd. over Memorial Day weekend. Councilman Simpson mentioned that someone had fallen recently on the sidewalk in front of his home due to the hole that is still there. Sgt. Eder stated he would again approach VDOT, who used to be responsible for the sidewalks, to see what could be done. **Councilman Simpson moved to proceed with fixing the hole at his curbside on Willow Oak Rd. Councilwoman Gordon seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**
3. **DRAPER ADEN:** Councilwoman Gordon reported she is pursuing back-up contractor information for emergency situations to put in our records.
4. **AUDIT:** Councilwoman Gordon reported she was completing the checklist from Leatherbury-Broache so the Town audit can be completed. She stated it was close to completion.
5. **OLD JAILS:** Councilwoman Mulligan reported she had drafted a letter to the Northampton Board of Supervisors concerning the Old Jails lease between the County and the Town and requested all to review the letter and requested feedback. She also reported that a letter would be coming from the newly formed Northampton Historic Preservation Society (NHPS-previously PVA) concerning their contributions to the

project. The Council discussed the lease and commitment thoroughly. **Councilwoman Gordon moved to fine tune the letter as presented and discussed and then send it to the Northampton County Board of Supervisors and also draft a letter to NHPS about their letter of intent they are to send the Northampton Board of Supervisors. The motion passed unanimously.**

- 6. POWWOW CRITIQUE:** Jonny Stevenson, Town Clerk, reported the Homecoming PowWow held over the Memorial Day weekend should be considered a success. The workshop that was held Saturday, May 25 in the Old Records room at the courthouse was well attended (approximately 35) and well received. Sherry Majors, Native American genealogist, was pleased with the turnout and offered a specialized service to those in attendance. The PowWow at Indiantown Park was also very successful. Over the two day event there were almost 1000 attendees. Community Service volunteers from local schools proved to be a great help. The tent with artifacts and weapons was busy the entire time. The vendors reported they were busy and would be favorable to return should the Town decide to do it again next year. The traditional Powwow with the dancers and drummers proved to be entertaining and educational to those in attendance. Traditionally, Native Americans honor active duty and veterans of our Armed Forces (warriors) during the Grande Entry at every powwow, but the Memorial Weekend entry proved to be exceptionally moving with an invitation to enter the sacred circle by anyone who wanted to honor a family member or friend who had fallen. Many stated they had never experienced a more moving Memorial Day Remembrance. Ms. Stevenson stated the preliminary numbers have been run and show that the event earned approximately \$2000 over what was given by the Town and the County towards this event. She also stated that the Accohannock would be interested in participating next year should the town decide they would like to sponsor another one. Ms. Stevenson stated this first attempt to raise Native American heritage was a niche that has been totally overlooked in our area. This town is known for preservation of history and she asked the Council would they be interested in supporting another powwow next year on Memorial Day weekend? **Councilwoman Mulligan moved to support another powwow next year and the excess funds from this year would be added to the event fund to be used next year with the annual contribution by the Town. Councilman Fox seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. SOLID WASTE MANAEMENT PLAN:** Mayor Sturgis called for a vote. **Councilman Simpson moved to accept the resolution for the up Updated Solid Waste Management Plan. Councilman Crockett seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**
- 2. CODE OF VIRGINIA:** Mayor Sturgis called for a vote. **Councilman Simpson moved to accept the Ordinance Incorporating Laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia by Reference (Ord. No. 2013-001). Councilman Fox seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**
- 3. WATER BILL REQUEST:** Mayor Sturgis read a letter from Yvonne Bagwell asking to be relieved of the penalty on her water bill as she has been a long time good customer and she never received her bill. The Council reviewed the Town Water Ordinance. **Councilwoman Gordon moved to not allow an exception. Councilwoman Mulligan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**
- 4. DERELICT PROPERTY:** Mayor Sturgis reported the Town had been contacted by a County official and a town property owner giving a complaint on property on Willow Oak Rd. and what could be done. Sgt. Eder stated the Town ordinance addressing upkeep on the yard could be applied in this case. He would deliver a letter and a copy of the ordinance to the landowner in question.
- 5. ANEC:** Jonny Stevenson, Town Clerk, reported she had contacted ANEC and found that the fee had been submitted to ANEC, however, the Town had not yet called them back telling them the electrical boards had been constructed and passed inspection. **Councilwoman Mulligan moved to ask Doug Williams to build a structure for the electrical box and have it inspected by the County Inspector. Councilman Simpson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

At 9:00pm Councilman Simpson moved to recess the meeting until Monday, June 10, 2013 at 7:00pm at the Town Hall for a Public Hearing. Councilwoman Gordon seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonny Stevenson, Town Clerk