

Town of Haysi
Minutes of Regular Town Council Meeting
September 6, 2016 @ 7:00 p.m.

On September 6, 2016, the regular meeting of the Haysi Town Council was held in the Council Chambers of the Haysi Town Hall Municipal Building located at 322 Main Street, Haysi, Virginia.

The following members were present:

PRESENT: Mayor Larry D. Yates
Vice Mayor Rocky Wood

Council Members:
William "Billy" Counts
Michael Harris
Tim Wallace

ABSENT: Susan Tiller
Barry Whitt

ITEMS # I, II, & III

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Larry D. Yates at 7:00 p.m., and the Invocation was held by Chief George Wallace and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Mayor Yates introduced and welcomed the town's new attorney, Stephen Mullins.

SUSAN TILLER ENTERED THE MEETING.

ITEM # IV - APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

At this time Mayor Yates asked for any changes or additions to the agenda. Motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood seconded by Council Member Billy Counts to approve the agenda as presented. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

ITEM #V - PUBLIC COMMENT

The only person signed up for Public Comment was Matt Owens of P.O. Box 743, Haysi. Mr. Owens introduced himself as President of the Haysi Partners and advised that he was assisting with the planning of the Haysi Russell Fork Autumn Fest. Mr. Owens requested the appropriation for the autumn fest. Mayor Yates asked for the amount budgeted this fiscal year. Clerk, Amanda Perrigan advised the amount to be five hundred dollars. Mr. Owens reported that all funds would be used for the event. Motion was made by Council Member Billy Counts and seconded by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood to approve the \$500

donation to the Haysi Partners for use during the Haysi Russell Fork Autumn Fest. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

ITEM # VI – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Prior to the meeting council had received for consideration of approval a copy of the following prepared minutes:

- August 2, 2016 Regular Town Council Meeting

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood and seconded by Council Member Billy Counts to approve the minutes as presented. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

ITEM # VII – FINANCIAL REPORT

Mayor Yates advised that the Financial Report had been changed and asked Clerk Perrigan to explain. Clerk Perrigan advised that the new report was updated with a chart of all four bank accounts to include revenues and expenditures for each along with the beginning and ending balance. Then, a separate column for the cumulative totals. Mayor Yates added that this would make the report more accurate. The council was also presented for approval the following:

- July 28, 2016 through August 31, 2016 Financial Report listing: beginning balance, revenue, expenditures and ending balance.
- July 28, 2016 through August 31, 2016 itemized listing of expenditures including checks # 13457-13518 & deposits
- July 28, 2016 through August 31, 2016 Profit & Loss Report
- Current payables to date for review

BARRY WHITT ENTERED THE MEETING.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood seconded by Council Member Billy Counts to approve the financial report. Let the record show the motion on the floor was passed unanimously by verbal voting.

ITEM # VIII - NEW BUSINESS

Rocky D. Barton, Dickenson County School Board – Sandlick District

Mayor Yates welcomed Dickenson County School Board Member, Rocky Barton. Mr. Barton said that in his talks with the Mayor there seemed to be concern from the community about the school property and the Haysi Elementary School not being built. Mr. Barton

said he would like to explain the situation and started with the history of the project. Mr. Barton stated that nine years ago the Dickenson County School Board became concerned about the condition of the old buildings and voted to consolidate, but funds were not available. The Corp of Engineers was busy working on the project in the town of Grundy. When the current superintendent was hired, the board asked her to revisit the funding options for a consolidated school. At that time, the Corp of Engineers began working on the project. The Clinchco Elementary School had footers poured at the time of the flood, so that it why it was able to be included in the plans. The board requested that the funds be directed into construction of a consolidated school due to the loss of students at Ervinton and the location of the school in proximity to the rest of the county. The Corp of Engineers agreed to the consolidated plan. Mr. Barton explained that Haysi Elementary School was supposed to be built and opened the same time as the consolidated middle and high school. Dickenson County was to “stand good” for the interest, so due to the construction of the Dickenson County Judicial Center the Dickenson County Board of Supervisors, the Dickenson County Industrial Development Authority and the Dickenson County School Board voted to delay the construction of the new elementary school. Due to a well negotiated construction contract for the consolidated school. Mr. Barton said that more people are now pushing for a consolidated elementary school due to a loss of student enrollment. Mr. Barton stated that he was against consolidating the elementary schools, but a few school board members were in support of it. Mr. Barton stated that he would “fight” for the Haysi Elementary School and the community needed to show their support publicly. Mr. Barton admitted that there were some good points for consolidating such as busing, but the good was outweighed. Mr. Barton said that when Grundy consolidated six elementary schools to build Riverview a lot of students transferred to Sandlick Elementary School. Mr. Barton noted that statistically large student enrollment for elementary schools was not good. The current enrollment at Sandlick Elementary School is four hundred and fifteen. Mr. Barton said that the Corp of Engineers was “big” on community hubs. Mr. Barton also noted that there is always something scheduled at Sandlick Elementary School. Mrs. Katy Jo Powers said that her daughter, who works at Riverview, talks about how hard the situation is for the Kindergarten students. Mr. Barton said that he has heard similar stories from other families. Mr. Barton pointed out that a consolidated elementary school would cause Dickenson County to lose the enrollment from Buchanan County. The current enrollment for Dickenson County Elementary Schools is around 1,100 students. Mr. Barton also pointed out that a consolidated elementary school would lose Dickenson County students close to Wise County to J.W. Adams in Pound because Wise County didn’t consolidate their elementary schools. Mayor Yates reiterated that the Corp of Engineers wanted community hubs. Mr. Barton said that he has heard rumors that the Dickenson County Board of Supervisors wanted to be involved. Mr. Barton said that Ervinton District Supervisor David Yates is in favor of “sticking” to the Corp of Engineers plan. Mr. Barton explained that without a school in Haysi the community would be devastated. Haysi has had the biggest decline since the loss of Haysi High School. Mayor Yates said that the Town of Haysi had strong support from the Dickenson County Board of Supervisors. Mr. Barton said that he thought the Dickenson County Board of Supervisors would support the original Corp of Engineers plan as well. Mr. Barton that in order for the location to be

changed from Haysi, that the Dickenson County School Board would have to hold a public hearing and resend the previous vote. Mayor Yates said that he had an offer from the WIC Clinic workers to distribute information on the impact to students. Mr. Barton said that would be a good thing to do. Mr. Barton encouraged supporters to speak at the Dickenson County School Board meetings during public comment. Mayor Yates suggested that the Haysi Partners consider doing that. Mr. Barton said that Kathy Harrison used to come to the meetings from Haysi. Mr. Barton stated that he thought the work on the Haysi Elementary School would be done and the Sandlick Elementary School vacated before the demolition took place, but it didn't work that way. A general discussion of ownership of the Haysi High School and adjoining property along with some possibilities was held. The property considered for the Haysi Elementary School is owned in four parts: Merle Fuller, Arlene Deel, the Belcher family, and heirship. Dickenson County School Board purchased the property from Merle Fuller that was needed for the road to the entrance of the school. The school board tried to negotiate with Arlene Deel, but all property owners were willing to sell. Mayor Yates asked about a timeline since the note burning for Ridgeview took place last week. Mr. Barton said that the project needed to be started and the funding is in hand. Mayor Yates said that the starting the project would help to heal the Haysi community. A general discussion was held about the bus routes. Mrs. Katy Jo Powers asked if the community should attend the Dickenson County School Board meeting as a group. Mr. Barton said that he could add it the agenda if asked in advance, but anyone could speak during public comment. The next Dickenson County School Board meeting will be held on September 28, 2016, the last Wednesday of the month. Mr. Barton stated that Dickenson County has no money in the new school. Mayor Yates said that the town supported the elementary school being built in Haysi and believes that the Superintendent of Dickenson County Public Schools feels the same way based on previous conversations with her. Mr. Barton agreed and said that she deserved credit for Ridgeview Middle and High School. Mayor Yates stated that the boards needed to "stick" to the Corp of Engineers plan.

Dean Hill

Mayor Yates welcomed Dean and Reva Hill. Mr. Hill said that he owns property purchased from the town in Splashdam. Mr. Hill explained that after the purchase of the property business "fell off", so he didn't move his operations. However, Mr. Hill said that he created Thunder River Dirt Drags and would like to create a campground there for ATV tourists. Mr. Hill advised that he is currently working on a septic system for the campground. Mr. Hill said that he would like to know if the town would sell riverfront property in Splashdam. Mr. Hill would like to advertise that his campground has river access. Mr. Hill handed out two pages of information to the Haysi Town Council, the second of which was a map of the Splashdam area. Mr. Hill explained that the river was represented by dotted lines and that he owned the square on the map. The property line runs to the middle of the river. Mrs. Hill read the first page of the information handed out. Mr. Hill said that he would like to develop ten "hook-up" sites at the beginning. Mayor Yates stated that he appreciated the work already completed by Mr. Hill on the Splashdam property. Mayor Yates noted that tourists must travel through town to access the property. He also noted that a campground

has followed the opening of each ATV trail as a natural business fit. Buchanan County is currently constructing a campground for the Coal Canyon Trail. Mayor Yates said that according to the information handed out that it would leave the town around twenty acres if the property was sold, but it wouldn't be a continuous piece of property. Mr. Hill said that was not the case since the town still owns the road. Mr. Hill stated that Roy Balthis from Pound did the survey and plans presented. Mr. Hill said that he was spending a lot of money in Splashdam and that the water issue was a big obstacle that he was trying to overcome. Mayor Yates advised that Mr. Hill's work enhanced the town's property and asked if he had seen a good turnout for the drag races. Mr. Hill said that the number of people fluctuated, but overall there was a good turnout for the races. Mayor Yates commented that Thunder River Dirt Drags was licensed as an official business in town. A general discussion about the water line and work to be done to obtain water at the campground was held. Mr. Hill said that the property that he was asking to purchase will need a lot of clean-up preformed. Mr. Hill invited everyone to attend the next drag race. Mr. Matthew Owens commented that he could foresee more kayakers since it would create an easier location to get out of the river. Mr. Owens also said that the local paddlers association could promote it. Council Member Barry Whitt asked about primitive campsites near the river. Mr. Hill answered that primitive campsites would be available beside the river and on the top side near the drag races. Mr. Hill said that he would be limited on the number of "hook-up" sites he is able to provide. Mayor Yates asked if the property has electricity. Mr. Hill answered that it does and poles are in place and the next step is to install the lights. Mr. Hill explained the septic system design that was engineered for clean septic on the property. Mayor Yates advised that there was a specific process that the town had to follow including a public hearing. Attorney Stephen Mullins advised that the Haysi Town Council would have to agree whether to sell the property and the price. Vice Mayor Rocky Wood questioned whether the council wanted to make the decision to sell the property. Mayor Yates advised that the town enter negotiations with Mr. Hill. Mr. Hill explained that the property that he purchased from the town in the past was thirty feet above the flood plain, but the area he was currently requesting is in the flood zone. Mr. Hill said that the value of the property would be about half per acre of the other property purchased. Mr. Hill also said that the property he is requesting would need a lot of work. The stretch of property ranges from between 400-500ft, which is due to the bend of the river. Mayor Yates suggested setting up a meeting with Attorney Stephen Mullins and Mr. Dean Hill to discuss the matter then report back to the Haysi Town Council at the next meeting. Council Member Tim Wallace asked if the town had plans for the property at Splashdam. Mayor Yates said that there were no plans because there were no funds to work with on that location. Council Member Tim Wallace asked what could be done with the property. Mayor Yates mentioned the gob pile. Council Member Tim Wallace asked if the town needed to keep any of the property. Mayor Yates also mentioned the project with Appalachian Voices and Mr. James Potter. A general discussion was held about mineral removal, potential environmental issues, and the flow and rise of the river. Mr. Hill stated that he would love to own all the property, but didn't want the gob. Mr. Hill said that a wall would need to be built or the gob removed. Mayor Yates suggested that the meeting with Attorney Stephen Mullins and Mr. Dean Hill take place at Splashdam.

ITEM # IX – UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Police Department Monthly Report-Chief George Wallace (See Attachment)

Chief Wallace reported twenty-eight calls for the month of August and he reviewed the calls on the August Monthly Report. There was several varieties of calls including a hit and run on August 10, which the driver tried to avoid by lying then later confessing. An eighty-eight year old man fell over a hill while mowing on August 11, but only obtained scratches and bruises. A wanted man on Rocklick caused multiple calls including a pursuit on August 22. Chief Wallace directed traffic for AEP in town on August 22, because they didn't have time to organize a crew to flag. Mayor Yates stated that the town had received the money from the EMS Grant for the defibrillators. Mayor Yates also stated that the town received a letter of approval today for the VML Risk Management Grant for the purchase of a snow blower.

Chief Wallace explained that the DMV Grant had approved the work of part time officers and the town hired a new officer. Then, the DMV changed their position and decided not to approve the work of the part time officers, so the Haysi Police Department is down one part time officer. There are two part time officers for the town as of September 1, 2016. Chief Wallace said that the police department will not pursue another DMV Grant until the 2018 funding year.

ITEM # X - MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Yates reported the following:

- Mayor Yates advised that the extended warranty on the heat pump had been purchased.
- Mayor Yates met with VDOT and Spearhead Trails to discuss the Land Use Permit last week. The map is only remaining piece to be completed before submission and he anticipates approval with little to no change based on the meeting.
- Mayor Yates noted that the renovations to the Haysi Russell Fork Trail Center has been advertised for bids. The Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled for Thursday, September 8, 2016 at one o'clock. The bids are due Thursday, September 22, 2016 at two o'clock.
- The town hosted a Google Workshop last week and it was one of the better workshops he had attended. Mayor Yates explained that the town leaned valuable information that Haysi Partners would try to share with local businesses.
- Mayor Yates advised that he had attended Dickenson County Tourism and Industrial Development Authority meetings. He is currently working within those organizations to help Superior Fabrication.

- Mayor Yates also attended the Business After Hours hosted by Dominion Health & Fitness.
- Mayor Yates reminded everyone about the WIC Clinics and Veterans Services being offered at the town hall.
- Mayor Yates asked the Haysi Town Council to consider a date for the Annual Christmas Dinner, which Mr. Dean Hill has offered to host. A general discussion was held about the Christmas Dinner and dates. The dinner will be scheduled for December 16, 2016 at Spring Branch Farm.
- Mayor Yates read the letter from Aidan Buchanan. He noted that there was interest in the property from the community.
- Mayor Yates informed everyone that Haysi's Russell Fork Autumn Fest will begin on September 30, 2016 and more information could be obtained from Kirsten Deel or Clerk Perrigan.
- Mayor Yates said that the construction crew for Spearhead Trails was ready to cross Route 80 to continue work. The equestrian trail is ninety-nine percent completed.

ITEM # XI - COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Susan Tiller asked about the Christmas Parade. Mayor Yates advised that it has not yet been discussed.

ITEM # XII - ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to be brought before the Council, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood seconded by Council Member Billy Counts to adjourn the meeting. Let the record show the motion was passed unanimously by verbal voting and the meeting was adjourned.

Larry D. Yates, Mayor

Attest:

Clerk