

Town of Haysi
Minutes of Monthly Town Council Meeting
February 7, 2012 @ 7:00 p.m.

On February 7, 2012, 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.

Present: Mayor Larry Yates
Vice Mayor Michael Harris
Council Member Susan Tiller
Council Member Barry Whitt
Council Member Rocky Wood
Council Member Johnnie Branham
Council Member Diana Reedy

Absent: None

ITEMS # I, II, III

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Larry Yates at 7:05 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was said and a moment of silence was held.

ITEM # IV – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

At this time Mayor Yates asked Council for any additions or changes to the agenda. Ramona Duncan stated the Haysi High School Senior Class was unable to attend the meeting, and asked to be on next month agenda. With no further additions or changes to the agenda the motion was made by Council Member Johnnie Branham, and seconded by Council Member Mike Harris. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

ITEM # IV – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- January 3, 2012 Monthly Town Council Meeting

With no corrections to the January minutes the motion was made by Council Member Johnnie Branham and seconded by Council Member Susan Tiller to approve the January minutes. Let the record show the motions on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

ITEM # V – FINANCIAL REPORT

At this time the Council was presented for approval the following:

- Current listing of payables due for February 2012.
- January 2012 Financial Report listing: beginning balance, revenue, expenditures and ending balance.
- January 2012 itemized listing of expenditures including checks # 10672-10717, 10724-10725 & deposits
- January 2012 Profit & Loss Report

With no further comments or changes to the financial report the motion was made by Council Member Johnnie Branham and seconded by Council Member Barry Whitt to approve the financial report as presented. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

ITEM # IX- NEW BUSINESS

Ecosystems, LLC, Presentation on proposed streambed restoration project-Splashdam

Mayor Yates introduced Kip Mumaw, John Roller, Bryan Wagner with the Ecosystems, LLC.

Bryan Wagner stated Ecosystem LLC is an environmental consulting firm located in Louisa County, Virginia. He said Ecosystem had contacted Gene Counts approximately one month ago to discuss doing work in the Big Sandy River Watershed. Mr. Wagner stated what Ecosystem is proposing is a joint restoration project at Splashdam with the Town of Haysi and The Nature Conservancy of Virginia, which is a non-profit environmental organization with branch offices based in Charlottesville, Virginia, which is part of an international organization which manages the Virginia Aquatic Resources Trust Fund with oversight from the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. Stream Bed Restoration is needed in this area due to a shoot cut-off that has formed during periods of increased river flow that threatens to divide the peninsula and leave the majority of the current land area owned by the Town of Haysi as a mid-channel bar.

John Roller stated the current stream morphology has over-widened or incised in many cases and much of the river flow becomes disconnected from its historic floodplain. The confined stream valley has increase the downstream velocity and is in part responsible for the floodplain erosion at Splashdam. This has also affected efficient and functional sediment transport and resulted in aggradation of coarse colluvium and also alluvial fines. The sediment that deposits on the stream bed has impaired the stream's function as trout spawning ground. What Ecosystems goals for this project are to improve aquatic habitat, reconnect the channel with it historic floodplain, protect the vegetated buffer area

adjacent to the river with conservation easement, reduce bank and floodplain erosion, protect infrastructure and prevent over-widening.

Kip Mumaw stated the Russell Fork River is a beautiful river. While reviewing the site, it was noticeable a channel was developing. He discussed the restoration techniques which are recommended to be employed are the filing of the shoot cut-off; the use of in-stream structures for grade control, flow deflection and habitat; invasive species control; and native stream bank and riparian planting. These techniques will create a stable self-maintaining river and restore many of the lost ecologic functions.

Bryan Wagner said what Ecosystems is asking of the town is authorization. He said the project is fully funded by the Virginia Aquatic Resources Trust Fund. The town would not have any funds obligated. He said schedule wise, with the town's authorization, the Nature Conservancy would then put together a preliminary construction plan and design plan, once this is approved then in March or April 2012, the town would review and make any necessary changes, then the interagency review team would review the plan, once this is complete the town will review again, then final construction documents will be made, and if everything goes as planned, then construction should begin in late Fall or early Winter. After the construction of the property Ecosystem will monitor for at least ten years. At the end of ten years the easement is then turned over to a non-profit group for example "Friends of the Russell Fork" where they will be given a trust fund to manage the project.

Gene Counts commented about two years ago, the river from Splashdam to the Kentucky line was chosen as Virginia's Newest Scenic River. The sign has not been installed due to needed clean-up at Splashdam. With this project Splashdam could be beautified and the channel filled. He said he thinks this project is a good opportunity for the town to improve Splashdam and help with other projects such as the Haysi to Breaks Hiking/Biking Trail.

Council Member Johnnie Branham asked would it be helpful to have the Splashdam property graded before the project started.

Bryan Wagner responded no, but if there is available fill dirt which can be used this would be helpful.

Mayor Yates asked would the area need to stay vegetated.

Kim Mumaw replied it would need to stay vegetated.

Mayor Yates asked if the project moves forward who will be responsible for the permits.

Bryan Wagner replied Ecosystem Services would get the permits.

Mayor Yates asked when the town signs an easement is this basically a blanket for the project to move forward.

John Wagner replied, yes in the back of the hand-out presented to council there is a sample of a Declaration of Restrictions that needs to be completed.

Mayor Yates asked what agency would handle the funds.

Bryan Wagner replied the money comes from the Virginia Aquatic Resources Trust Fund. None of the funds would flow through the town's accounts.

Mayor Yates asked in order for the project to move forward what is needed from the town.

Bryan Wagner said a resolution in support of the project.

Kip Mumaw stated a resolution or at least a letter of commitment needs to be done by February 29, 2012.

Mayor Yates stated he has received a verbal from the Forest Land Group to release the covenants of the deed concerning Forest Land Groups surface mineral at the site.

Kip Mumaw said also a letter from the Forest Land Group stating the release of the covenants of the deed would be needed.

Bryan Wagner stated on the ground construction would take between one to two months

Mayor Yates asked could plans for a fitness trail be included in the plans Ecosystem presents to the Nature Conservancy.

Bryan Wagner said it could be part of the plan.

Mayor Yates asked how the flood plain will be impacted.

Bryan Wagner replied it will allow more downstream storage.

Mayor Yates asked at the entrance to the site how will the railroad trestle be addressed.

Bryan Wagner replied it will have to be coordinated with the railroad.

Mayor Yates said the town will try to get something back to Ecosystems before the deadline.

Alternative Spring Break-Indiana State Students-March 4-9, 2012

Mayor Yates reported the Indiana State University Students will be visiting the town of Haysi on March 4th-March 9th. This year the Haysi Partners will host the group.

ITEM # VIII – OLD BUSINESS

- A. Police Department Report – Patrolman/School Resource Officer Bobby Edwards gave a brief activity report of the department’s activities. (See attachment) He reported one of the biggest concerns at the schools is bullying. He reported another concern was a vehicle that had gotten stuck on the tracks at Splashdam. He said the vehicle owner and the train conductor did get the vehicle off the tracks, but he still had to set with the vehicle for approximately 19 hours. He reported in January the police department received four new Colt 45 hand guns from the military and one fully automatic M-16. The total cost for the guns to the town was \$145.00 for transfer fees and shipping. The U. S. Corp of Engineers donated twelve life jackets to the town.

Mayor Yates reported Chief Wallace will be returning back to the department on February 20, 2012.

ITEM #XI – MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Yates mentioned he has been to Richmond during the legislation meetings, and was able to meet with the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the town is now able to move forward with applying for federal funds through the Department of Conservation and Recreation. In the Spring the town will apply for a grant to begin the construction of the River Front Trail. He also, mentioned a gate has been installed at Splashdam to help keep trespassers out.

ITEM # X- COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Barry Whitt asked is the 1995 S-10 tagged and ready for use.

Mayor Yates replied, yes.

Council Johnnie Branham stated the Pizza Factory sales pizza to the high school to resale as a fund raiser. He said the state does not collect taxes on the food sold to the school, but the Town of Haysi collects taxes. He said it doesn’t seem like the town should tax the schools in that form through the meals tax.

Mayor Yates said he agreed, and would take a look at the meal tax ordinance to see what can be done.

ITEM # XI - PUBLIC COMENTS

Jerry Donner stated on the fill issues going back to the Splashdam project, the town needs to be careful on free-fill material.

Mayor Yates said somewhere in the process the town will need to try to find areas with huge boulders to fill the site at Splashdam. He said there is a strip bench located at the fair ground's which may have materials for the site.

ITEM # X – ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to be brought before the Council, a motion was made by Council Member Johnnie Branham and seconded by Council Member Diana Reedy to adjourn the meeting. Let the record show the motion was passed unanimously by verbal voting and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM

Larry D. Yates, Mayor

Attest:

Clerk