

Attendance:

Larry LeMond- Mayor

Robert Lewis- Vice Mayor

Norma Spencer- Council

Barry Downing- Council

Jackie Davis- Council

Matthew Yancy- Council

Wesley Travis- Council- Absent

Staff:

Stacey Sparrow- Clerk

Warren Wisneski- Code Official

Public:

21

Call to order: 7pm

Invocation- Barry Downing

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes-Motion to approve with correction to 9-5-18 minutes page to change to hazardous duty, Norma Spencer. 2nd Barry Downing. Unanimous.

Mayor report: Larry LeMond.

Bike Station to be installed on Monday October 1st.

ID Networks agreed to cancel the hardware and software contracts that had been previously agreed to.

All Items have been returned to PC Patrol that was purchased to install in the police car.

Cloud Server Techs agreed to purchase the server back for \$2800.00 dollars.

Motion to approve return and sale of server for \$2800.00 to cloud server techs, Robert Lewis. 2nd Norma Spencer, unanimous.

Spoke to Department of Justice about how long the department can stay inactive. It can stay inactive indefinitely.

Town Clerk Report- Stacey Sparrow

The VML risk management grant was approved and must be claimed by December 4th 2018. The approved products are road closure equipment and playground mulch.

The DMV Connect team will be at our location on October 25th to do driver's license work.

Halloween Road Closure and trick or treat announcement will be posted in the middle of the month.

Building and Code Report- Warren Wisneski

The Ben Burton case has been continued to November 8th.

The town needs to adopt the Virginia Maintenance Code and Soil and Erosion code. This will help with ditch cleanup efforts and state regulations.

Public Comment #1

Letter or resignation from Wesley Travis read into the record by Clerk Stacey Sparrow. (attached)

Motion to accept resignation – Barry Downing, 2nd Matthew Yancy, unanimous.

Vince Conroy- 3520 Sunnyside Road

The ditches in town being taken care of? Can the drainage ditch on Sunnyside Road be checked to make sure they are flowing properly in case of a storm or hurricane?

Rita Berger- Mill Street

Before our own police department we used the Northampton county sheriff office, something with that set up didn't work for our town, so what has changed? Do you think going back to our old ways is going to solve our problem?

Carol Habel- Sunnyside Road

What are the revenue streams from the Northampton county sheriff as of now? What is the time line for it to come into the town coffers? The ditch on Sunnyside behind the fire house is bad, people have been throwing things in it that are blocking it and it needs to be checked. There are also cars abandoned on Main Street in town.

Jason VanMarter- Bayside Road

It seems with the discussion of returning equipment for the police department and cancelling contracts that a decision has already been made by the council to cancel the police department.

Matthew Yancy- Because a contract has been signed with the Northampton Sheriff it does not mean that it has been abandoned it will remain inactive until (A) a Police officer is hired or (B) council votes to disband our own police department. I believe a public comment session will be had prior to this decision and we will welcome the towns input.

Ken Eshleman- Stoakely Court

We should be thankful that NHCO stepped back in to help us. More tickets = more revenue.

Vince Conroy- Sunnyside Road

Does it mean the Sheriff is not adequate? Maybe we need two police officers. If we need more service based off of population then we should ask.

JoAnn Fitchett- Huntington Road

I was very taken back with the way the council didn't include the town's people in the decision making of this town. Finding out we had a policed department on the news was not acceptable. When the council does things without the peoples input then we feel like we do not have a voice. There is also a problem with the storm drain on Huntington that is between the Fitchett and Lewis house. We were supposed to put in place a committee of resident's to come up with other revenue ideas. So we are not putting all of our apples in one barrel. We put all of our weight on one person's shoulders. Council never gave a reason for firing our police officer. We need to know why, he lives in our community. Everyone has a story to tell but we never got a official ruling from our governance. Why don't we have a voice before the vote?

Matthew Yancy- Sometimes in business and government we cannot say. You all have put us here to do a job; I am hoping you had some type of confidence in us. It is my understanding that there have only been votes on terminating the police chief contract, utilizing the Northampton Sheriff until a decision is made and returning some equipment. This situation has taken the councils concerns & time. We have not had the time to go back and get to that point. I am hoping this meeting tonight will help everybody have some degree of comfort to move forward. I'm trusting when you went to the ballot that you had some trust.

Nancy Brauer- Sunnyside Road

Directed toward council members- You two are brand new and haven't had the time. You three have had plenty of time and still haven't done anything. Why was a investigation not done. No accountability.

Rita Berger- Mill Street

You talk about a police department; I do not envision it being a whole revenue generator. Believe they address issues and support our community and something our children look up too. They are much more than a ticket writer.

Danielle Romeo- Mill Street

Members of this body have discussed with others regarding executive sessions and it has started a tidal wave of ugliness in this town. The mayor said no to for committees but I was told to form my own business association. The Sheriff's department isn't volunteering they are making \$46 p.hr. Sheriff Doughty stated he doesn't have enough help for his own department. There has never been a Plan B, never new ideas or openings for ideas. It's more of a dictatorship. Never came up with any other revenue to the town. Everything is always let the county do it. There is no leadership.

Jackie Davis- We can't change the past we can move forward. Our next meeting we have invited Elaine with ANPDC for more revenue sources and information. We are working on moving forward.

Matthew Yancy- While I appreciate everyone's comments, we are a new council while some of us are returning I don't appreciate the singling out of any individual member. Allow us the time to get some of these things done. Our time has been taken and I would like to try to enact some of these great ideas from the public. I don't think singling out is good.

Barry Downing- I appreciate all of you being here tonight, there are a lot of things we wish we could tell you, all of this in fact. It has been a very stressful three months. We have been voted in by some of you, we need your help.

Joe Habel- Sunnyside Road

I have not seen anything being done, we need to remind the citizen to clean up but the town needs to make sure they are being done as well. We need to remind the town when you park tight against the curb in a large rainfall the debris and water cannot run freely to allow proper drainage.

Jason VanMarter- Bayside Road

We should talk to other towns about main street programs and reach out to them how they did these items.

Scott Berger- Mill Street

I'm wondering if we start a contractual basis someone to clean the ditches out. Not everybody can and a handful doesn't want to. That is something to take in revenue to cover those costs. I know it's a new council this is why it would be a good step to develop trust and a foot faith gesture to benefit the residents.

Bo Lewis- We did have a contractor at one time that did a good job. We must be careful about the EPA and Chesapeake bay act when attempting to dig or maintain ditches.

Warren Wisneski- one problem with having soil and erosion control is some plants in ditches can be considered wet lands and cannot be disturbed or are protected under these acts. Also if you see something call in a complaint in to the office so we can check on your concerns.

Claudia Conroy- Sunnyside Road

I don't think hiring a person to do it is the solution; we need to fine the people that are causing the problem.

Matthew Watson- Cheriton Cross Roads

Speaking from a professional Police stand point, every time I hear the word police department I hear revenue. There are federal and State laws and regulations that prohibit this. This council is opening a Pandora's Box; you will not have officers that want to work. Emphasize safety of personal and safety for the town instead.

Richard Romeo- Mill Street.

I will move the abandoned truck on Bayside Road tomorrow.

Old Business:

Fema- The town adopted a resolution at the August meeting to join the national flood insurance program but due to recent changes with the fema maps the town needs to revoke that resolution and adopt the new to incorporate the changes. A motion from Barry Downing to revoke the previously adopted resolution was made with a second from Norma Spencer and unanimous. A second motion from Norma Spencer to adopt the new resolution was made and second from Barry Downing and was unanimous.

Committee Reports:

HR Committee- Jackie Davis and Matthew Yancy

Job descriptions have been made for the clerk and deputy clerk. A motion to adopt the job descriptions was made by Robert Lewis with a second from Norma Spencer and was unanimous.

The next project the HR committee is working on is reviewing and finalizing an employee handbook.

Budget & Finance Committee- Robert Lewis and Norma Spencer

Working on adjusting the 2018 and 2019 budget to reflect change based on move from Cheriton Police department to Northampton Police Department. We should hopefully have a final to consider at the October meeting.

Maintenance Committee: Barry Downing and Wesley Travis

Few things that need to be done but we need to figure out what we want to do first and prioritize and ask the people of the town what they want first.

Joe Habel- Sunnyside Road

I created an employee handbook, why can't it be used?

Jackie Davis- We are using the handbook as the infrastructure but some things need to be updated to be compliant.

Scott Berger- Mill Street

Maybe a way to entice bidders on projects is by using as a long term contract over a number of years
Might make it worth there time to bid on it if they look at it for long term.

Northampton Firearms Representative- Bayside Road

I am new to the area; in Virginia Beach we had prisoners to do this type of work.

Jason VanMarter- Bayside Road

Are the storm drains VDOT's responsibility? We should increase our relationship to get more done.

JoAnn Fitchett- Huntington Lane

Before the council votes on the vacant council position will we the people know and get a say?

Larry LeMond- we will check out the process with voter registrar and see what the process.

Carol Habel- Sunnyside Road

Thank you for what you do, Wesley Travis was that one person that did not want to go with the flow. Choose your next person wisely. Say Thank you to Wesley for his service and honor.

Matthew Yancy- I would like to put the call out, if you have a heart and a desire to help the town. Let us know.

Rita Berger- Mill Street

Is there a way to get more information from the town when a storm or natural disaster is happening? How do we find out what to do or where to go?

Larry LeMond- Thank everyone for coming, our next meeting will be Wednesday, October 24th at 7pm.

A motion to adjourn was made by Robert Lewis and second by Jackie Davis, it was unanimous.

Adjourn 8:45pm

