

Attendance:

Council:	Staff:	Public:
Mayor Larry LeMond	Stacey Sparrow, Clerk	9
Vice Mayor Robert Lewis	Warren Wisneski- Building & Code	
Councilman Barry Downing		
Councilman Greg Hardesty		
Councilman Matthew Yancy		
Councilwoman Jackie Davis		
Councilwoman Norma Spencer		

Call to Order: 7pm

Invocation: Barry Downing

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda- Motion Robert Bo Lewis, 2nd Greg Hardesty, unanimous.

Approval of Minutes from November 28th, 2018, Motion Norma Spencer, 2nd Barry Downing, unanimous.

Town Clerk Report-

Clerk Stacey Sparrow shared with council the state required amount of time recorded meetings , the state only requires recordings to be kept while they are useful or until they have been transcribed. The council would like to keep recorded minutes longer. A policy for those recordings would need to be developed. A recording device has been found and will be purchased to start recordings. The device will have the ability to download to the computer for storage.

Public Comment #1-

Rita Berger- Mill St. – How would the recorded minutes be kept?

No Further Comment.

Old Business:

FEMA- Clerk Stacey Sparrow informed council and community of the CAV meeting with FEMA and the walk about at the flood area sight. More information will be forthcoming once the report is sent back from FEMA.

Police Car-

Larry LeMond- the activity of the deputies since we started in September is as follows; 185 tickets have been written, estimated income on those tickets is \$18,500.00. As of current \$3600.00 has been received by the town. That is a 5/1 return on investment with the Northampton County Sheriff's Department. The sheriff's officers are not currently using the town police car at all, the battery is currently dead from non-use. That is a asset of \$35,000.00 not being used.

Norma Spencer- We should sell the car as it is currently not a asset and more of a liability and we should begin to sell the other equipment as well.

Jackie Davis- What about putting the car under shelter while we make a decision?

Larry LeMond- Last week I spoke to Sheriff Doughty, I asked if Northampton County would be interested in the car?, David said yes he is hiring a new deputy and could buy the car if the price is right. But he has to go through the board of supervisors for funding.

Barry Downing- Should we put the car for sale in the paper?

Bo Lewis- Have we made a quote to the county?

Larry LeMond- the car would be kept in the county and be in Cheriton when it was patrolling.

Matthew Yancy- If we sell are we closing our minds to having a police department? If we agree when the time is right and we are not closing the door to a police department then I have no objection but only if we agree that a police department is not off the table.

Barry Downing- We would not be closing the door. By the time we decide if we are going to have our own police department we will probably need new updated equipment.

Larry LeMond- the car doesn't need to be given away but it will be six to eight months before we could hire someone.

Greg Hardesty- I agree to sell the car but don't give it away it could be a liability sitting and not being used. If we paid \$ 35,000.00 fully equipped then at 75% return would \$26,250.00 and a 70% return would be \$24,500.00

Norma Spencer- We have no plans to use the car between now and June 30th. It losses value every day; it would be a good purchase for the county and could save tax payers money.

Barry Downing- Ask David to make the town an offer , if we don't like the offer then put it for sale in the paper and share with other departments.

Norma Spencer- I think the consensus is to sell the police car.

Jackie Davis- I wanted to get a little more financial background maybe six to twelve months, but I do agree with the sale.

Larry LeMond- If we sell the car I think we should put the money aside in a separate account to escrow for later use.

Matthew Yancy- If we are going to escrow the money then I vote yes for the sale if not then my vote would be no.

Vdot/ Drainage Issues- Clerk Stacey Sparrow and Building and Code official Warren presented an email from VDOT regarding the drainage pipe on the Cheriton Methodist Church property in the email VDOT states the ditch is not in VDOTs right of way to care for so it should be taken care of by the property owners.

Larry LeMond- The property owners should be sent a letter explaining this.

After discussion between town and council LeMond stated that there has to be a common good for the people and the town and more discussions will have to be had.

The FOIA policy was in the packets for council and citizens to have a copy of.

Old Business:

Matthew Yancy- The Fire School, I had opportunity to speak to fire members and talk to neighbors that are backed up to the school. I have been able to get some more background on the school. I will share more info at next month's council meeting. I want to get as much information and I can to share and to make a vote.

Refuse Increase- Clerk Stacey Sparrow presented council with information for a rate increase for refuse service for the town. Effective July 1st 2018 the tipping fees for Northampton County were increased therefore a increase for the town will need to happen to adjust for the increase. The county increased tipping fees by 4.3 % in order to cover the cost a 5% increase for the town was presented to allow for the increase. The increase will equal to be \$1.00 per month for customers. Stacey suggested the new change go in effect February 1st to allow for notification time to all current customers.

After brief discussion from council a Motion to accept the changes presented was given by Norma Spencer and a second by Bo Lewis. It was unanimous.

Following on the Agenda was the 2019 Council Schedule. It was approved by council as presented with a motion from Norma Spencer and second from Greg Hardesty and was unanimous.

Committee Reports:

Visionary Committee:

No updates from visionary at this time.

HR Committee:

Jackie Davis- the employee manual should be ready to present on or before the regular January Meeting.

Maintenance Committee:

Barry Downing- The Christmas tree up town was installed and looked great. Options for storage and take down need to be discussed in January.

Budget & Finance:

No updates at this time.

Public Comment #2

Bruce Nutter- Maple Drive

If you need somewhere to store the police car until a decision is made I have space available at the Webster plant that I will donate and also make sure the battery is charged. Also there was a break in at the building located near the railroad tracks, nothing of value was taken but it was broken into and gone through.

Rite Berger- Mill Street

There has been 10 thousand dollars budget for ditch maintenance each year if the homeowners are responsible for the ditch maintenance then where does this money go? There was not ditch maintenance last year? If what she said about the ditches is true can I put stones or flowers or anything like that in my ditch? Vdot needs to come clean out the ditches it is responsible for.

Jason VanMarter- Bayside Road

For the ditches on VDOT property how do they set standards? Can we include directions on how to maintain the ditches to residents?

Matt Yancy- Councilman

Those monies that are being moved year to year when do we use it? Have we not needed to clean ditches or do we not know what needs to be cleaned or how or whose responsibilities it is.

Norma Spencer-Councilwoman

The problem we have faced in the past is we have not been able to find people or contractors to do the work as well as all of the run around we get from VDOT and other agencies. We want to do work but can't because of continued road blocks.

Matt Yancy- Councilman

We need to set up a plan so this is not a continues problem. There are so many questions regarding this issue.

Jackie Davis- Councilwoman

Soil and Erosion control is a big concern, you have to follow those guidelines as well.

Bo Lewis- Vice-Mayor

When did VDOT decide they were not going to do this work any longer?

Warren Wisneski- Building and Code Official

The Chesapeake Bay Act stops a lot of "cleaning if ditches".

Bo Lewis- Vice-Mayor

Kenny Wright with VDOT many years ago told the town not to clean the ditches anymore because of all the changes and regulations through many agencies.

Nancy Brauer- Sunnyside Road

When answers are found can a map be marked up to show the areas VDOT takes care of and what the homeowners are required to take care of.

Danielle Romeo- Mill Street

Handouts are available on the VDOT website that could be useful and how to get permits, etc about easements, etc.

Matt Yancy- Councilman

I talked to residents affect by our fire school and I think we should broaden our scope because it effects all aspects of town. I am inviting members of council to see what the fire school does so you can see first hand the effects and impacts.

Nancy Brauer- Sunnyside Road

Are there any options to monitor air quality, to be able to monitor how much of a nuisance the fire school really is?

Jason VanMarter- Bayside Road

Could the town do some type of refer a friend program for trash service and maybe offer a discount?

Larry LeMond- Mayor

The Northampton Farm Store will hold its grand opening and parade starting at noon on December 22nd. The parade will start at 1:30 and there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony. All are welcome to attend.

The next regular council meeting will be held Wednesday January 23rd at 7pm in council chambers.

With no further items on the agenda a motion from Bo Lewis to adjourn was made and a second from Norma Spencer it was unanimous.