

Cheriton Town Council Minutes

April 24, 2019

Town of Cheriton

Attendance:

Mayor Larry LeMond

Vice-Mayor Robert 'Bo' Lewis

Councilman Matthew Yancy

Councilman Barry Downing

Councilman Greg Hardesty

Councilwoman Norma Spencer

Councilwoman Jackie Davis

Staff:

Clerk -Stacey Sparrow

Public:

6

Work Session- Budget

Session Began 6:05PM

Review of Conservative Budget by Jackie Davis.

The Conservative Budget presented by Councilwoman Davis showed a balanced budget a \$154,728.00 with minimal income from Sheriff's deputies. It also showed reduced donation amounts and a 1.5% increase in salary for employees.

Review of Alternate Budget by Mayor LeMond.

Mayor LeMond's alternative budget shows a tax on citizens in either the amount of .07 per \$100.00 on real estate or .75 per \$100.00 on personal property. The Town of Cheriton currently does not tax citizens for either.

Discussion:

Councilman Hardesty posed the question have we exhausted all other avenues of traffic enforcement?

Councilwoman Norma Spencer stated her opposition to taxing the people of Cheriton. She stated that Cheriton is an affordable town for people to live in. She stated she did not expect Northampton County Sheriff's Department to write a lot of tickets this year. I think it will increase in the coming years. There are new people in the Sheriff's department. I think the new people must acclimate with the county before helping Cheriton. Can the town offer more money to these officers to peak interest?

Larry LeMond suggested offering an additional \$10.00 to peak interest.

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Norma Spencer, if we have to go into reserves to pay for drainage then we will.

Barry Downing stated he is not for taxes and can we hire someone else to work traffic for the town? I don't see how the town is hurting anyone writing tickets. I believe we should look at every avenue before we rush into taxes.

Robert 'Bo' Lewis, if we have to implement taxes after all other resources have been exhausted then I'm in favor of taxes but I want to exhaust those other options first.

Barry Downing- Can we reach out to David Eder with Eastville Police Department to see if they can help but include Sheriff David Doughty (NHCSO) in conversations as not to ruffle any feathers.

Matthew Yancy- Questions?

I would agree with Mayor LeMond that to hire a police officer for the sole purpose of tickets is not the right reason.

When we were in that place of discussions did we not know that it would come to this point?
Did we not foresee that tis day would come that Smitty would retire?

Larry LeMond- Conversations have been had. Nobody can match Smitty in writing tickets and David cannot force them to work overtime.

Matthew Yancy- Is David pushing and emphasizing to them that it's important to us?

It seems to me we (Council) rushed to sell everything we owned from the Police Department.

Can the sheriff hire someone for us? We cannot hire someone for our police department because we sold everything how are they going to write the tickets without a car? We are digging a hole that we are about to fall into. It would have to be the absolute last resort before I vote for a tax for this town. I do believe we have people in this town that can contribute to help come up with ideas. I personally do not think this council has brought in any revenue or ideas to the town.

Larry LeMond- We do not have business tax, what can this council do besides taxes?

Barry Downing- If we go back with NHCO Sheriff he would furnish his own equipment and car. Also other expenses would be covered like salary, health benefits and retirement. The reason we sold was David would furnish all of his own supplies. That has not been pursued. We were hoping it would go back but it has dried up. Open to discussion on option for revenue for this town.

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Matthew Yancy- Why isn't asking Sheriff Doughty to hire someone for this town still on the table? We make our biggest mistakes when we get in a rush and nervous. Our next conversation should be with David in front of the entire council not with just one person. Tax to me is the absolute last resort.

Robert Lewis- The next move should be talking with Both David's.

Jackie Davis- Our main concern here should be the safety of this town, the only pro that I can see to taxes is the revenue increase.

Larry LeMond- I will talk to David Doughty first then David Eder and invite them to meetings. In the mean time I would like to see some changes.

Norma Spencer- I believe we should commit the full twenty thousand budgeted to drainage at this time.

Larry LeMond- This will go to public hearing in May.

Recess...

Attendance:

Staff:

Mayor Larry LeMond

Stacey Sparrow, Clerk

Vice-Mayor Robert Lewis

Councilman Matthew Yancy

Councilman Greg Hardesty

Councilman Barry Downing

Councilwoman Norma Spencer

Councilwoman Jackie Davis

Regular Session- Attendance by public 13

Call to Order 7:06PM

Invocation- Barry Downing

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda-

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Changes to remove the closed session with PAPA to old business and there will be no Building and Code report as Warren is out of town. A motion to accept with noted changes was made by Robert Lewis and second by Greg Hardesty, it was unanimous.

Approval of Minutes- Motion to approve as presented by Greg Hardesty with Second from Matthew Yancy and was unanimous.

Mayors Report:

Larry LeMond- Some complaints about speeding have come up and Jackie Davis has spoken to David Doughty and we hope that will help the matter. At the 6pm Budget work session the conservative budget proposed by Jackie Davis is on the table for consideration and adoption at a public hearing that will be scheduled for the May 2019 regular meeting time.

Clerks Report:

Stacey Sparrow- All business license renewal letters and invoices have been mailed and will be due by June 1st. Money is still coming in for Vehicle license fees that was billed in March due by April 15th.

Public Comment # 1-

Rita Berger, Mill Street- I know we have been dealing with our sheriff, has anyone asked Cape Charles for help we have highway frontage they do not ,why don't we look at our neighbors to try and benefit each other?

Kay Downing, Pine view- I want everyone to be cognitive that there are a lot of people in town that cannot afford any additional expense or tax. They cannot even afford medications needed. We don't want to see anyone have to move out of town because they cannot afford to live here.

Larry LeMond- There will not be any tax this year or next year.

Nancy Brauer, Sunnyside Road- I want to thank you Larry for bring up a tax. It can be designed to work with the poor.

Wesley Travis, Sunnyside Road- I brought this up, it came around because council has been negligent. Look into it don't blow having a tax off. There are waivers for the poor to help reduce costs. Do we have a sales tax for the town? I suggest a .01 tax that goes to the town. It's passed on to the customer so its not a business expense.

Carol Habel, Sunnyside Road- Referring to the budget meeting , I appreciate that someone has at least thought about taxes and Thanks Matt for recommending to look at the problems now instead of later.

How many people complained about the fire school?

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I have complaints, the ditches are full of mosquitos and trees , pots, pans, etc. I can complain too.

Bruce Killmon, Northampton Farm Store- Have we ever looked at anyone that is retired police to monitor Cheriton?

Rita Berger, Mill St.- Have you thought about a ditch tax one time only fee? To have the money to fix the problems.

Rocko Debeillis- Box at Rocs- I'm really excited to be here in Cheriton and it's the next best thing since sliced bread. Let's figure this out.

Old Business:

Drainage- A quote from Major Jones with Majors Excavation has been received and no other bids have come in at this time.

Barry Downing- We need to know exactly what we will be getting for the prices quoted.

Larry LeMond- Let's get Major here to get a plan together and review the bids he proposed before making a decision to move forward.

Jackie Davis- how will it work allowing him to work on private property?

Larry LeMond- The town would procure temporary easements from those property owners to allow the work to be done.

Larry LeMond- Lee Goldman with PAPA could not be here with us tonight but said she could come during the day. I will be proposing a 5% increase retroactive from January 2019 forward and a bond when we meet with her and will update everyone on the outcome.

New Business:

Virginia Municipal League Insurance Renewal- The total for renewal for the 2019-2020 renewal beginning in July will be \$2740.00.

Committee Reports:

Human Resources (HR) - Jackie Davis, employee evaluations have started and Larry and I will be meeting with each employee to go over the evaluation process.

Maintenance Committee- Covered in the drainage discussion previously

Budget & Finance- Covered early during Budget work session

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Parks & Rec Committee- Fun Day is upcoming and vendors and volunteers are still needed for the event to help with games. The first Market will be May 18th; Market Vendors are still needed as well.

Public Comment #2-

JoAnne Fitchett, Huntington Road- On Saturday I was a volunteer at the Comicon event hosted by Nancy Brauer and the fire department, I felt proud to be a resident of Cheriton that day. Hopefully more people will be present who live here. It was a very enjoyable day!

Rita Berger, Mill St- I want to Thank Nancy, she was the person that did this it was amazing.

Scott Berger, Mill St- Can the cost of the pipe be used to take down trees or the worst trees?

Down town Business owners- All of us business owners on Front Street would like to hang shingles on town signs to include all business in town. Can we do that?

Larry LeMond- Yes please do!

Bruce Killmon- Thank you & what can we do to help the town?

Wesley Travis, Sunnyside Road- Thought? Can a committee of town's people with fresh new ideas be formed to present the town council with ideas?

Larry LeMond- Yes, please do that Wesley.

Carol Habel, Sunnyside Road- Without removing the trees from the ditches it will not solve the problem. It really opened my eyes to how bad that is. I recently got a bid that was way higher and a conversation should be had to really make sure you are getting what you think you are for that price.

Next Meeting date is May 22nd, 2019 at 7pm. This will be a Public Hearing on the Budget.

A motion to adjourn was made by Robert Lewis with a second from Greg Hardesty and was unanimous.

End: 7:47PM

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