

The Pearisburg Town Council met in Regular Session on November 10, 2020 at 6:30 pm at the Pearisburg Municipal Building in the Council Chambers and via electronic meeting using Zoom technology hosted by Town Clerk Harless. Present for the meeting in the Council Chambers Mayor Dickerson; Vice Mayor Eaton; Council Members Williams, Harrell, Journell, Ballard and Clark; Town Manager Meredith; Town Clerk Harless; Police Chief Martin; Treasurer Harrell; Director of Public Works Wilson; Recreation Director Collins; and Officer Melissa Cohen. Present for the meeting via Zoom Town Attorney Hartley; and Amelia Whittaker, Virginian Leader.

Chief Martin introduced recently hired Police Officer Melissa Cohen to Council. Before joining the Pearisburg Police Department, Cohen worked for the Bland County Sheriff's Department. The Council welcomed her to the Town and stated that they look forward to working with Cohen.

Dennis Amos of Hurt & Proffitt addressed Council on the UV/Sewer Project. Amos provided Council with an overview and timeline of the UV installation part of the project. He recapped the process and events that occurred in November 2019 when that portion of the project was thought to be completed. The Town received their Certificate to Operate from DEQ in January 2020. At this time the UV System was placed online at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. He stated that weekly testing was performed on the system. Immediately after the results of weekly testing started the plant received unfavorable results. The results didn't compare to the original samples. In January 2020 the new system was taken offline. Staff alerted the manufacturer Trojan of the issue with the equipment. Trojan sent their factory representatives to the plant in February 2020. They were eager to assist and clear up the issue. Trojan felt the issue could be due to failing ultraviolet lamps. They thought the trough might have been contaminated. Kast disinfected the trough before it was put back online in February. Again, samples came back unfavorable. At this time, Trojan wanted to sample a polymer from February to March. He stated that Covid-19 hit us and from March to May there were no action items to report. Trojan was not allowing their employees to travel during that time. The plant was waiting on Trojan to try a different type of polymer. In May 2020 Trojan used jar

testing and performed it on various polymers. Staff obtained samples of effluent in jars to see how they tested. Based on those results, they recommended a certain type of polymer. In June 2020 a temporary feed pump was installed. The polymer was fed without good results. In August Staff sent effluent samples to Trojan lab in Canada to perform testing and gather results. The results of Trojan's analysis indicated that all the parameters were in tolerance and was on metric with the particle side. He stated the total suspended solids is what you normally look at; and, it was favorable, but the suspended particles were large enough to affect the disinfection by the UV light.

Hurt & Proffitt asked a third party to come and look at the issue. Tom Fore was contacted. He visited and toured the plant from beginning to end with staff. After his inspection Fore recommended a different polymer that hadn't been tried yet. He was able to obtain a Del-Pac sample polymer. This polymer showed promising sample testing results. Plant Operator Kast had another polymer unit brought in along with a Del-Pac. The UV system was not run while the pilot test was conducted. Staff obtained effluent samples and sent them to Canada for testing. Trojan reported that Del-Pac showed favorable results. They would like the Town to continue to run this way and continue to test weekly as normal. Amos stated that this concluded his summary of the status of the Wastewater Treatment Plant project to date.

Ballard asked what would take place if the testing doesn't provide favorable results. Amos stated that an option would be to install a filter on the effluent as it comes out of the clarifier. He stated that Meredith had asked for pricing on the Del-Pac and the filter system. Council and staff could then look at both options and see which would be the most feasible for the Town. Ballard asked if the filter option was guaranteed to work. Amos replied that he is looking at the less costly option first. He stated that an estimated cost of a polymer system was \$10,000 and the filter systems were \$100,000. Eaton asked who would be paying for this cost to get the new system properly working. Amos stated that the Town would get the results of Del-Pac within the next few weeks. He stated that once the results are available the Town, the Town can then look at using Del-Pac or a filter option. The next step would be to look at funding options. Hartley asked what is different with Pearisburg's Plant that makes it not work compared to other plants with the same system that are working. He questioned what the

issue is that is causing the Town's system not to work. Amos replied that, at times, the plant has a great effluent and are comparable to the samples from 2019 that came back favorable. He stated that for some reason there are other times when the solids are getting past the clarifiers. They are unable to determine the cause. He stated that Kast would be better suited to speak on this matter than him. He stated that this was not something you would anticipate happening. Journell asked if there was any way to correct the problem. Amos stated that at this time it has not been something they can correct. There is a large amount of time that the effluent is great but then there are times it's not working well.

Ballard asked if anyone had pinpointed if it's our plant that has the issue. Amos stated that he felt that the contractor had installed the equipment correctly and as designed. He stated that the contractor's work is acceptable. He stated they had a few punch list items to correct but as far as the system is concerned, it's installed correctly. Ballard asked if it was the product that's the issue. He asked if we knew of any sources causing the problem. Amos replied that normally the UV systems would be able to treat the effluent from the plant. He stated that Pearisburg's plant is just not able to handle the solids. The plant is letting large particles make their way past the clarifier. He contacted Trojan and they asked Tom Fore who is a tenured operator to examine the system. Fore stated that he could not see any reason as to why this was taking place and had no answers. Ballard stated he was just trying to grasp a better understanding as to why the new system is not working as advertised. Journell asked if the clarifier manufacturers had been contacted. Amos replied that he had hoped the polymer would help and be the solution needed to resolve the problem. Hartley stated that he understood there was a suggestion that the clarifier wasn't staying close to the tank. He asked Amos to comment on the matter. Amos replied that there were two clarifiers. He stated that on one they can see separation between the skimmer and the wall of the tank and on the other it was relatively close in tolerance. He stated that Kast had pulled samples from the good clarifier and it has the same issue. Hartley asked how many others across the US are using the same system as Pearisburg. Amos replied that he didn't have that list. He had asked for one from Trojan. He stated that he only handles Virginia and had provided the Town with the list. Amos stated that he could try to find more examples of that system. Hartley stated that he felt

it was unusual Pearisburg would be unique. Hartley stated it would be worthwhile to check with the other plants and see if they had a similar problem and how they fixed it. Amos stated that was a good point. Mayor Dickerson asked Amos to check maintenance cost of each, per year, when he is getting the new prices for the polymers and options to finance.

Ballard made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular October 13, 2020 Council meeting as written with recommended corrections. Eaton seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Eaton, Williams, Harrell, Ballard, Clark and Journell. The motion carried 7 to 0.

Journell reported on the Public Safety Committee Meeting. Chief Martin informed the Committee that he had completed changes to the rank structure of the PD and are considering the possibility of applying for accreditation in the future.

Clark asked Meredith to send a memo mandating when volunteer firemen are gathering in the building, they should wear a face mask. She has concerns and wants to keep all the volunteers safe. She stated that if they won't wear them, then suggest they remain at home. Harrell mentioned the potential danger with Fire Department members coming in the Town Hall. Meredith stated he would communicate with the firemen and remind them to wear a mask and social distance. Ballard asked if they refused what would be the repercussion. Eaton asked about a face shield. Wilson stated that he felt his staff had done a good job at wearing their masks in vehicles and when within 6 feet apart. Ballard stated that he wouldn't get too aggressive on asking them to wear a mask. Meredith stated he would attend a meeting and encourage them to wear a mask and social distance.

Ballard reported on the Property and Recreation Report. The Committee discussed blighted residential structures. He reported that roof repairs were completed on a portion of the Community Center.

Recreation Director Collins addressed Council on Basketball sign ups and guidelines. Collins stated she had been talking with directors from Narrows and Pembroke about how to host basketball and still follow the guidelines. She contacted Mr. Potter with the high school about their plans. She suggested that the Town follow along with the high school. She stated that Pembroke would need to use the Community Center gym. She stated that Pembroke

would split the cost with Pearisburg to pay for cleaning and sports. She stated that according to the guidelines, they would be able to seat 20 people on the bleachers at one time during a game. The total amount of people allowed at one time in the gym would be less than 50 which included coaches, players and recreation staff.

Harrell asked Collins about the scheduling conflicts with the Daycare's use of the gym. Collins replied that she would work with Helen on coordinating times. Harrell had concerns with sanitizing the gym. Collins answered that she was familiar with the cleaning requirements and comfortable with what needed to be sanitized. She stated her main concern was to do what's best for the community and safe for everyone in order to have sports. Meredith mentioned the possibility of using Facebook Live for parents to watch the games. Harrell asked Collins if she was comfortable starting sports. Collins stated that she hadn't considered it in that way. She stated that she just wanted to be able to provide the community with sports and follow guidelines. Eaton stated that she liked the idea of following the high school guidelines and waiting until they start sports. Collins stated that Narrows planned to follow the VHSL guidelines and how the schools operate. Meredith stated that Staff could monitor temperatures of participants, coaches and guests. He stated that Staff could follow sanitizing guidelines and be able to host sports, if it is the will of Council. Harrell wondered how long the participants would even get to play a game once you wait to follow all the guidelines. Harrell stated that she was not in favor of having sports given the current situation. Eaton stated that she felt that this is the new normal. Collins stated that she could move forward on sign-ups to find out how many are interested in playing basketball; and, be clear on the form that there is no guarantee they will be able to play. She stated that the local recreation departments decided not to hold sports for K through 3rd. They felt that the K through 3rd age group was more apt to have contact with each other. She suggested only having sports for 4th to 7th; and, begin after high school starts. Eaton stated that the if the Town followed the schools, then that would also include shutting down in unison with the schools in the event that it was needed. Eaton supported the idea of one or no parents. Ballard stated that he is 100 percent for playing sports. He feels that we need to move forward with life. He feels that not having activities for children affects them mentally, physically and socially. He thinks the Town should provide an

option for children to burn energy, exercise and play sports to help them learn and develop. Ballard is comfortable with anything provided that the Town follows the guidelines set forth. Collins stated that based on the number of bleachers, she could accommodate one guest/parent per child. Ballard felt the Town could use the high school as a benchmark. Meredith stated that he felt Staff could provide sports.

Ballard made a motion that Council approve the Recreation Director holding basketball as outlined in the packet and follow the guidelines. Williams seconded the motion. Voting yes: Ballard, Williams and Eaton. Voting no: Mayor Dickerson, Clark, Harrell and Journell. The motion failed by a vote of 3 to 4.

Council will revisit the hosting recreation sports at their December meeting.

Council discussed ideas for the traditional Christmas tree that is placed in the lobby each year. Wilson stated that Staff had discussed the guidelines set forth by the governor. In order to meet the governor's guidelines, he suggested placing a small tree in the far corner next to Treasurers Office. He has discussed decorating the gazebo with Collins. Treasurer Harrell suggested placing icicles up around the gazebo instead of the rope lights. Journell stated that she would like to see a live tree placed in the gazebo. He mentioned a potted tree that could be planted later. Eaton suggested a tree on the front lawn of Community Center shaped like a Christmas tree using string lights.

Eaton reported on the Finance Committee. Librarian Long presented her proposal for developing a mobile library book mobile to serve residents and surrounding community. The Committee discussed water bills for Giles County Farm Bureau.

The Committee recommended that Council waive penalty and interest owed by Mr. Delbert Sutphin for Tax Year 2005 on parcel 26-42-A1 in the amount of \$248.62. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Eaton, Williams, Harrell, Ballard, Clark and Journell. The recommendation carried 7 to 0.

Eaton reported on the Public Works Committee. The water loss for September was 45.70%. The Town Crew repaired four water leaks in September. Staff plans to fill the Superintendent of Streets position in the next two weeks.

Eaton reported on the Beautification Advisory Committee.

Clark reported on the Library Advisory Board.

Meredith addressed Council on plans for the upcoming Christmas Parade. He stated that Staff had submitted the proper permitting to VDOT for approval and extended the route to go further on Wenonah to Hale Street and back down Mountain Lake Avenue. Staff is working with the Merchants on whether to have a traditional or a drive-thru parade. The idea behind extending the route was to provide a larger surface area which would provide more parking space for the public to view the parade and socially distance. Meredith asked Council if they had a preference on the type of parade to host. Council left it up to Staff to work with Merchants on developing the best type.

Eaton made a motion that Council approve the Annual Christmas Parade Permit. Ballard seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Harrell, Ballard, Journell, and Clark. The motion carried 7 to 0.

Meredith updated Council on the proposed lease agreement with Eartha Developers. He stated that Gnegy and Price were good with signing the 5-year term and after that it would automatically renew for one-year periods. The new term would begin in May 2021 based on completion of mural.

Harrell made a motion that Council approve a lease agreement with Eartha Developers. Clark seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Harrell, Ballard, Journell, and Clark. The motion carried 7 to 0.

Meredith discussed the RD UV/Sewer Project Division II Final Payment documents with Council. He had planned to make the final payment to Simmons by end of the month. He stated that he would wait until Simmons completed the items on the punch list before processing the pay request. He stated that he would bring it back to Council for approval after the work is completed. He requested Council's approval to process the payment of an invoice for legal services provided for bond counsel. He requested approval to pay the invoice with funds from the permanent loan .

Williams made a motion that Council approve the Town Manager paying the RD/UV Sewer Project invoice for legal services from permanent loan finances. Journell seconded the

motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Harrell, Ballard, Journell, and Clark. The motion carried 7 to 0.

Meredith briefed Council on the need for Council approval on a Letter of Intent for Hazard Mitigation Plan. He stated the only requirement was to provide a Town Staff member to participate on committees. He strongly recommends the Town agree and participate. He stated that in the past the Town had been renewing every 5 years. Council would need to appoint a staff member or Council Member to serve on the Committee.

Journell made a motion that Council approve a new Letter of Intent for Hazard Mitigation Plan and appoint Town Manager Meredith to serve on the Committee. Williams seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Harrell, Ballard, Journell, and Clark. The motion carried 7 to 0.

On a motion by Williams, seconded by Clark, passed by the following recorded vote, Mayor Dickerson, yes; Council Members Williams, yes; Eaton, yes; Ballard, yes; Journell, yes; Clark, yes; and Harrell, yes; Council went into Executive Session as permitted by Virginia Code § 2.2-3711(A) (1), for discussion, consideration or interviews of candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of the Town of Pearisburg regarding: discussion of employee salary; Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A) (7) for consultation with legal counsel, and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in an open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the Town; and consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by the Town regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel regarding: Discussion of RD/UV Sewer Project; and Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A) (29), for discussion of the award of public contract involving the expenditure of public funds, including interviews of bidders or offerors, and discussion of the terms of scope of such contract, where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the Town regarding: discussion of proposed lease agreement with Gigabeam Networks/WVVA.net Inc.

On a motion by Williams, seconded by Ballard, passed by the following recorded vote,

Mayor Dickerson, yes; Council Members Williams, yes; Eaton, yes; Ballard, yes; Journell, yes; Clark yes; and Harrell, yes; Council returned to regular session.

On a motion by Eaton seconded by Clark, and passed by the following recorded vote, Mayor Dickerson, yes; Council Members Williams, yes; Eaton, yes; Ballard, yes; Journell, yes; Clark yes; and Harrell, yes; Council certified that the subject discussed in this Executive Session was the subject identified in the motion to go into Executive Session and only that subject, and that Council discussed no other subject while in Executive Session.

Harrell made a motion to approve and authorize the Town Manager to negotiate and sign a lease agreement with WVVA.Net leasing them the right to erect a forty-five foot high pole for installation of equipment related to its wireless Internet business, and to install and maintain a cabinet and generator outside of a pumphouse on the premises and to connect the equipment on the aforesaid pole to the cabinet on the Premises as well as the right to install and maintain an antenna attachment and related rights on the water tank and on the "star" utility pole and property located at the water tank owned by the Town on Hobson Avenue, in the Town of Pearisburg at the rent amount of \$300 per month per site. Eaton seconded the motion. Voting yes: Mayor Dickerson; Council Members Harrell, Ballard, Journell, and Clark. The motion carried 7 to 0.

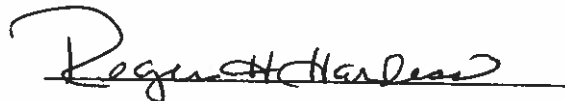
There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:



Mayor Robert L. Dickerson

ATTEST:



Regina H. Harless, Town Clerk