

**Town of Bluefield  
Town Council  
Minutes  
January 24, 2023**

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a regularly called meeting on Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall located at 112 Huffard Drive, Bluefield, Virginia.

**PRESENT**

Donnie Linkous, Mayor  
Cathy Payne, Councilmember  
Chuck Presley, Councilmember  
Lee Riffe, Councilmember  
Anglis Trigg, Councilmember  
Ron Holt, Councilmember  
Rick Holman, Vice-Mayor

**ALSO PRESENT**

James Hampton, Co Interim Town Mgr/Treasurer  
Kim Hernandez, Co Interim Town Mgr/Town Clerk  
Shane Gunter, Chief of Police  
Lori Stacy, Communications Director/Executive Asst.  
Alan McGraw, Interim Attorney  
11 members of public

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Linkous called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Linkous asked the Clerk to read the Executive Session.

**MOTION FOR CLOSED MEETING**

It is hereby moved that the Council of the Town of Bluefield, Virginia enter into a closed meeting pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1,6,29) of the Code of Virginia as amended, The specific purpose for this motion is to discuss the following matter(s):

Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body litigating posture of the public body, discussion or consideration of the investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the governmental unit would be adversely affected and discussion of the award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds, including interviews of bidders or offerors, and discussion of the terms or scope of such contract, where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the

bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body with such closed meeting being confined to the following subject (s): town manager applications, public funds and contracts.

Mayor Linkous asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session.

Councilmember Riffe made a motion to enter into Executive Session as described above. Councilmember Presley seconded the motion.

Mayor Linkous asked the Clerk to do roll call and report.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Councilmember Riffe:	Yes
Vice-Mayor Holman:	Yes
Councilmember Holt:	Yes
Councilmember Presley:	Yes
Councilmember Payne:	Yes
Councilmember Trigg:	Yes
Mayor Linkous:	No Vote Permitted

Mrs. Hernandez stated that it was 6-0 in favor of going into Executive Session.

Mayor Linkous asked for a motion to resume open meeting.

Councilmember Holt made a motion to enter back into regular session. Councilmember Presley seconded the motion.

Mayor Linkous asked the clerk to read the certification.

**CERTIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**

WHEREAS, the Town Council of Bluefield, Virginia convened a closed meeting on January 24, 2023, pursuant to a duly adopted motion, attached hereto, and such closed meeting was convened in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of Bluefield, Virginia returned to its open meeting held on January 24, 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA HEREBY CERTIFIES that to the best of each member's knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act were discussed in the closed meeting held on January 24, 2023, to which this certification applies and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening such closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered by the Council of the Town of Bluefield, Virginia in such closed meeting.

Mayor Linkous asked for a motion to approve the certification.

Councilmember Presley made a motion to approve the certification. Councilmember Riffe seconded the motion.

Mayor Linkous asked the Clerk to do roll call and report.

### **ROLL CALL VOTE**

Councilmember Riffe:	Yes
Vice-Mayor Holman:	Yes
Councilmember Holt:	Yes
Councilmember Presley:	Yes
Councilmember Payne:	Yes
Councilmember Trigg:	Yes
Mayor Linkous:	Yes

Motion carried 7-0 approving the certification.

### **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Jay Ferguson, First United Methodist Church led the Invocation. Mayor Linkous led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Councilmember Presley made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilmember Payne seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilmember Presley made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Councilmember Riffe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

### **CITIZEN REQUESTS & SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

#### ***Anglis Trigg, Jr. Council Plaque – Mayor Linkous***

Mayor Linkous welcomed Mr. Trigg back and read his newly elected council plaque.

#### ***Bluefield University Update – Josh Cline***

Mr. Cline stated that they were excited to see all of the students return and that enrollment was steady. He thanked the county for their contribution to pay up to \$2,500 each semester for Tazewell County students, stated that the pathways had opened up to all Virginia students, asked that everyone write our state delegates asking them to support going to a private school, they were in strategic planning sessions and would like the input from local officials, that the counseling

program and school of education were looking for accreditation and the spring sporting events schedule was posted and encouraged everyone to come and join them.

Mr. Holman asked for an update on the entryway.

Mr. Cline stated that it was coming along nicely and the sign would be their next project and they concluded the centennial campaign with \$25 million over the 5 years.

***FY 2022 Audit Presentation – Scott Wickham***

Mr. Wickham went over the FY 2022 budget:

Pg. 2 – full audit stated it was an overall unmodified opinion which was good.

Exhibit 1 – net position/net worth of \$10.5 million with \$7.2 million of that tied up.

Exhibit 3 – \$4 million total fund balance with \$3.9 available to use.

Exhibit 5 = short term was down \$190k.

Exhibit 9 – Water/Fincastle, he stated that he was concerned about the golf/pool and it needed to be monitored.

Pg. 101 – GASB report, two findings reported similar to prior years, segregation of duties which was common for towns.

Pg. 2 – smaller handout showed a total revenue of 2.4% with 1.46% expenditures which was impressive and would be hard to continue that way with inflation, 2.67% fund balance.

Pg. 3 - \$3.9 million unassigned fund balance which was strong.

Pg. 4 - .32% tax assessment increase over 10 years.

Pg. 5 – shows the state average and we were down, debt service includes financial liabilities.

Pg. 6-8 – charts.

Pg. 9 – showed 10 year trend for water fund which was looking stronger.

Pt. 11 – GASB amount that was paid.

Pg. 12 – similar OPEB.

Pg. 13-18 – detailed information on upcoming standards.

Pg. 19-20 – report to the state shows all clean.

Pg. 21-22 – recommendations, a couple have been there for a few years.

Pg. 23-25 – overall went well, staff uploaded a lot of information before they were onsite, financials looking better, watch the cash in the golf fund.

Mr. Presley asked what other entities were doing with ARPA monies.

Mr. Wickham stated that other places were using for general services including salaries.

Mr. Holman asked if in the general fund summary were we truly in the “black” that we were staring down inflation and asked if we were poised to continue to stay that way.

Mr. Wickham stated that without an increase in revenue it would be hard.

Mr. Holt stated that the meals tax was up.

Mr. Holman asked how we compared with other municipalities.

Mr. Presley stated that we could survive on 60% for half a year.

Mr. Wickham agreed.

Mr. Holman asked if the new meters saved on water leaks, etc.

Mr. Hampton stated yes.

Mr. Riffe asked if there were a lot of outstanding checks.

Mr. Hampton stated that it was not a lot of money but a lot of checks and they had been turned into unclaimed.

### **COMMITTEE RERPOTS**

None.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS & REPORTS**

#### ***BVLL Donation Request, ROLL CALL VOTE – Kim Hernandez***

Mrs. Hernandez stated that BVLL was asking for a donation in the amount of \$8k to help them offset the costs of purchasing a building.

Mr. Holt stated that the last two years, the budgeted contribution had not been made. He asked if this request was outside of the annual donation.

Mr. McFarland stated that was correct.

Mr. Presley asked how much it was bumped too.

Mrs. Hernandez stated that once it was realized that it was only \$2,500, it was bumped up to \$5,000 to match the Graham Youth League but would not be effective until the next budget year.

Mayor Linkous stated that he was told by Trent that the mounds were \$15k.

Mr. McFarland stated that was true for 4 mounds which are VHSL and Little League approved.

Mayor Linkous stated that the town paid the whole \$15k for that in 2022 so the \$2,500 was not given but \$15k was to accommodate that budgeted line item.

Mr. McFarland stated no, that was a special request.

Mr. Holman asked where that money came from.

Mr. McFarland stated that some came out of contingency and some came out of recreation. He stated that they also maintained the two fields in the Rec Park for Little League and because of the Recreation situation.

Mr. Holt stated that two of those fields were owned by the Town.

Mayor Linkous stated that he was not questioning him but that none of them knew anything about this.

Mr. McFarland stated that \$15k may sound like a lot but to build and maintain one mound was \$7k/year. He stated that due to rising costs that they had to raise the registration fees this year.

Mr. Holt made a motion to approve the \$8k donation. Mr. Presley seconded the motion.

Mayor Linkous asked the Clerk to do roll call and report.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Councilmember Riffe: Yes  
 Vice-Mayor Holman: Yes  
 Councilmember Holt: Yes  
 Councilmember Presley: Yes  
 Councilmember Payne: Yes  
 Councilmember Trigg: Yes  
 Mayor Linkous: No Vote Permitted

Motion carried 6-0 approving the BVLL \$8k donation request.

**NEW BUSINESS & REPORTS**

***Budget Amendments, ROLL CALL VOTE – Kim Hernandez***

Mrs. Hernandez asked for a vote to approve the following budget amendments:

**PURPOSE:** Pickle Ball Courts (Fincastle)

**Revenue**

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
3401-0419	ARPA Transfer	\$66,326.48	\$180,146.48	\$113,820.00
	General Fund	\$66,326.48	\$180,146.48	\$113,820.00

**Expenditure**

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
1220-6014	Other Operating	\$15,000.00	\$128,820.00	\$113,820.00
	Supplies & Programs	\$15,000.00	\$128,820.00	\$113,820.00

**PURPOSE:** Security Services (Wal-Mart Closed)

**Revenue**

<b>Line Item</b>		<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
0400-0413	Misc. Law	<u>\$183,486.32</u>	<u>\$184,686.32</u>	<u>\$1,200.00</u>
	Enforcement	<u>\$183,486.32</u>	<u>\$184,686.32</u>	<u>\$1,200.00</u>

**Expenditure**

<b>Line Item</b>		<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
3110-1200	Salaries	<u>\$55,019.00</u>	<u>\$56,219.00</u>	<u>\$1,200.00</u>
	Overtime	<u>\$55,019.00</u>	<u>\$56,219.00</u>	<u>\$1,200.00</u>

**PURPOSE:** Security Services (Wal-Mart Black Friday)

**Revenue**

<b>Line Item</b>		<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
0400-0413	Misc. Law	<u>\$184,686.32</u>	<u>\$186,166.32</u>	<u>\$1,480.00</u>
	Enforcement	<u>\$184,686.32</u>	<u>\$186,166.32</u>	<u>\$1,480.00</u>

**Expenditure**

<b>Line Item</b>		<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
3110-1200	Salaries	<u>\$56,219.00</u>	<u>\$57,699.00</u>	<u>\$1,480.00</u>
	Overtime	<u>\$56,219.00</u>	<u>\$57,699.00</u>	<u>\$1,480.00</u>

**PURPOSE:** Community Foundation Grant

**Revenue**

<b>Line Item</b>		<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
0400-0413	Misc. Law	<u>\$186,166.32</u>	<u>\$196,166.32</u>	<u>\$10,000.00</u>
	Enforcement	<u>\$186,166.32</u>	<u>\$196,166.32</u>	<u>\$10,000.00</u>

**Expenditure**

<b>Line Item</b>		<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
3110-8106	Grants	<u>\$25,593.98</u>	<u>\$35,593.98</u>	<u>\$10,000.00</u>
	Supplies & Programs	<u>\$25,593.98</u>	<u>\$35,593.98</u>	<u>\$10,000.00</u>

**PURPOSE:** Infrared Camera

**Revenue**

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
0100-0509	from Prior	<u>\$1,849,233.00</u>	<u>\$1,853,233.00</u>	<u>\$4,000.00</u>
	Year Reserves	<u>\$1,849,233.00</u>	<u>\$1,853,233.00</u>	<u>\$4,000.00</u>

**Expenditure**

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
3110-8106	Grants	<u>\$35,593.98</u>	<u>\$39,593.98</u>	<u>\$4,000.00</u>
	Supplies & Programs	<u>\$35,593.98</u>	<u>\$39,593.98</u>	<u>\$4,000.00</u>

Mr. Holt made a motion to approve the budget amendments. Mrs. Payne seconded the motion.

Mayor Linkous asked the Clerk to do roll call and report.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Councilmember Riffe: Yes  
 Vice-Mayor Holman: Abstain  
 Councilmember Holt: Yes  
 Councilmember Presley: Yes  
 Councilmember Payne: Yes  
 Councilmember Trigg: Yes  
 Mayor Linkous: No Vote Permitted

Motion carried 5-0 approving the budget amendments.

***Bank of Graham /Old Platnick Building Deeds, ROLL CALL VOTE –Kim Hernandez***

Mrs. Hernandez stated that the IDA would like for the Bank of Graham and the old Platnick Building be deeded to them so that they can accept rent checks on the old Platnick building and be able to apply for grant funding for the Bank of Graham, 104 Meadow Street and the Town surplus properties were also mentioned to be deeded over to the IDA as well.

Mr. Presley made a motion to approve deeding the above properties over to the IDA. Mr. Holman seconded the motion.

Mayor Linkous asked the Clerk to do roll call and report.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Councilmember Riffe: Yes  
 Vice-Mayor Holman: Yes  
 Councilmember Holt: Yes  
 Councilmember Presley: Yes



Councilmember Payne: Yes  
Councilmember Trigg: Yes  
Mayor Linkous: No Vote Permitted

Motion carried 6-0 approving deeding the above properties to the IDA.

***Virginia Main Street Resolution, ROLL CALL VOTE – Lori Stacy***

Ms. Stacy stated that this program was a subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and designed to help bring jobs, dollars and people to small towns and commercial districts in Virginia. She stated that the result of this program was one of the most successful economic revitalization strategies in the country with the ultimate result of this program to receive an official Main Street Designation. She stated through this 3 tier process we would be permitted to take advantage of different levels of opportunities:

- Tier One – Exploring Main Street will take 2 years to complete. Specific criteria is required.
- Tier Two – Mobilizing Main Street will also take 2 years.
- Tier Three – Advancing Main Street is the top tier and where we hope to achieve our official Main Street Designation.

She stated that our DHCD contact person, Nicole Childress, made a visit to Bluefield on Wednesday and was very excited that the Town of Bluefield had interest in being back in the program. She stated that she gave great ideas for our town and explained grant opportunities which was what an affiliation to this program would provide and identified the Industrial Revitalization Funds and the Community Business Launch grant as opportunities that currently existed for our downtown. She read the following resolution:

VIRGINIA: AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE TOWN HALL IN BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA ON THE 24<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2023.

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE VIRGINIA MAIN STREET PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Town of Bluefield desires to submit an application for Virginia Main Street Designation; and

WHEREAS, this designation would help continue efforts to revitalize our downtown area;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of Bluefield, VA hereby supports this application process and authorizes submission of such an application.

Adopted this 24<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2023

Mr. Riffe made a motion to approve the Virginia Main Street Resolution. Mr. Presley seconded the motion.

Mayor Linkous asked the Clerk to do roll call and report.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Councilmember Riffe:	Yes
Vice-Mayor Holman:	Yes
Councilmember Holt:	Yes
Councilmember Presley:	Yes
Councilmember Payne:	Yes
Councilmember Trigg:	Yes
Mayor Linkous:	No Vote Permitted

Motion carried 6-0 approving the Virginia Main Street Resolution.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Gail Cook asked for a Ridge Road update.

Mayor Linkous stated that it was being discussed with VDOT to first stabilize the hill.

Ms. Cook asked why the council meetings were changed to once per month without letting the citizens know.

Mr. Riffe asked that Mr. Holt explain.

Mr. Holt stated that he asked council to accommodate for his new position and had originally planned to come off of council. He stated that he was not going to debate it but had been elected by 1500 people other than her and a lot had asked him to stay because of some concerns they had. He stated that he was not opposed to meeting twice per month but just could not meet on that one particular day because of his new position.

Mr. Holman stated that those meeting times were set every two years by the Town Charter at the Organizational Meeting in January so they decided to take one scheduled meeting per month and maintain the option to have as many more as needed.

Mr. Holt stated that Mr. Riffe voted for it as well.

Mr. Riffe asked if they did vote.

Mr. Holt stated that there was a video of it and a whole set of minutes. He stated that they came out and voted and should stand to it that he asked them to and appreciated council's cooperation with him.

Ms. Cook stated that it had been the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays for many years and she had people asking her why all of a sudden did it change and the citizens were not notified.

Mr. Holt stated that it was set at the organizational meeting.

Ms. Cook asked why the citizens did not have a voice.

Mr. Holt stated that he has had citizens come to him about staying on with concerns she probably was not aware of.

Mayor Linkous stated that what the charter stated was the meeting time not the day. He stated that he read some other things in the charter and realized that the state and constitution said another thing.

Mr. Holman explained that they were not saying that they were only going to meet once a month because there would be months they would have to meet more.

Mayor Linkous stated that they could call special meetings at any time. He stated that he thought they needed to meet twice a month right now but did not have a vote. He stated that they had a lot going on and once they had a manager then the manager could tell them if they needed two meetings a month or not.

Ms. Cook stated that a lot was done in Executive Session and when they came out it was already done but the citizens did not know why.

Mr. Holman invited them to come and ask, call or email him.

Mr. Holt stated that he would tell them that he asked for it.

Ms. Cook wanted to ask another question and stated that she knew Mr. Holt would think it was towards him.

Mr. Holt stated that this was because of personal issues with her and a councilman he believed. He stated that they could air it out right then if needed but he would rather not because he had been the subject of a couple gouges and had tried to be very gentlemen like but if they continued to go down this road, he would air those issues. He stated that he would continue to work with his fellow board members in his current capacity until his term ended. He stated that he was elected by 1,500 people which may not be particularly powerful with the two of them and that was okay but was the democratic process they went through. He stated that he would work with his fellow councilmembers including Mr. Riffe and her if she ever had any issues. He stated that there was a time before that they talked pretty regularly and he helped her in any way that he could and what he had asked was the board to work with him during the remaining period he would be on the board and they agreed to do so. He stated that any citizen could call him that his number was posted.

Ms. Cook stated so one person on council (any of them) could request a meeting change or anything else and council could approve it.

Mayor Linkous stated that it would require a motion, second and would pass if there was a positive number of votes in favor of it. He stated that there was a long discussion regarding changing the time and a lot of dates were discussed.

Mr. Riffe stated that he thought they were going to keep two meetings and have it on the second Monday and fourth Tuesday.

Mr. Holman stated that some months there was not enough business to take up 2 meetings but they always reserved the right to have another meeting, etc.

Mr. Presley said that they would see more work sessions because that was where things got done.

Mayor Linkous stated that any of them could call a meeting with 12 hours' notice. He stated that Mr. Holt asked them to work with him and as a board they needed to respect each other and do that.

Mr. Holt expressed his appreciation for them working with him and stated that he could be there any other night but that 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday.

Ladenia Lemon thanked the Police Department for their professionalism with a mental health issue on her street and thanked Public Works for bringing gravel for Habitat for Humanity. She stated that she did not know Mr. Holt and had no issues with him but she did not think it was fair for them to call a meeting with 12 hours' notice because unless the citizens were sitting on the computer and watching it then they would not know. She said there needed to be more discussion on things done by council.

Mayor Linkous stated that it had been 2 meetings for years and asked that council think about it and make a decision at the next meeting if they want to have a second meeting and the date. He stated that they would be having more meetings for things coming up once they had answers.

Mrs. Payne suggested meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in February as the next meeting either for a regular meeting or a Work Session.

Mr. McGraw stated that it would require a resolution/ordinance.

Mayor Linkous asked why that was not done at the first meeting.

Mr. Holt stated that was the organizational meeting.

Mayor Linkous stated that the way it was stated to him was that at any time anyone could make a motion and second to change the meeting times again.

Mr. McGraw said that he may have misunderstood what he was asking that they charter stated "Thereafter the council shall meet at such times as may be prescribed by ordinance or resolution except that they shall regularly meet not less than once each month".

Mayor Linkous stated that was correct and he said to him.

Mr. McGraw interrupted and stated that he may have misunderstood him.

Mayor Linkous stated that he brought that up and that the charter said you have to have a resolution and a vote, it had to set for two weeks then read again and vote and they did not do that last time.

Mr. McGraw stated that the charter did not say that and he may be referring to the general rule regarding a resolution or ordinance.

Mayor Linkous stated that the book he had at his house stated that in the organizational meeting. He stated that he was not saying that what he had was up to date.

Mr. McGraw stated that he pulled this off of the Virginia State Code where the charters were and it stated: "Thereafter the council shall meet at such times as may be prescribed by ordinance or resolution" and does not provide notice times.

Mayor Linkous stated that when they questioned this that he told them that Virginia State Code said something and even the Constitution said something else and he was asking if it was legal what was done. He stated that he would happy to bring his book over and show it to Kim and James.

Mr. Holman stated that Mr. McGraw was looking at the charter right then that was on the website.

Mayor Linkous stated that all of them had a book at home but maybe not all of them were updated and it changed from time to time.

Mrs. Hernandez stated that it did change but that all books they had were updated and stated that the charter had not changed.

Mr. Holman asked when the charter said that they could set the meeting times.

Mr. McGraw stated anytime thereafter.

Mr. Holman stated that was in the organizational meeting.

Mr. McGraw stated yes.

Mr. Holman stated and that was exactly what they did.

Mayor Linkous asked Mrs. Payne if she wanted to make a motion to meet the second Monday in February.

Mrs. Hernandez stated that this would be a special called meeting.

Mrs. Payne made a motion to schedule a Special Called Meeting on Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Presley seconded the motion.

Mayor Linkous asked the Clerk to do roll call and report.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Councilmember Riffe:	Yes
Vice-Mayor Holman:	Yes
Councilmember Holt:	Yes
Councilmember Presley:	Yes
Councilmember Payne:	Yes
Councilmember Trigg:	Yes
Mayor Linkous:	No Vote Permitted

Motion carried 6-0 approving the Special Called Meeting.

**POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT**

None.

**TOWN UPDATES**

Mrs. Hernandez stated Mike Jacobs with Keesling Construction had talked with the Building & Zoning Department and was willing to deed the parcel they own leading up to the Double Gates water tank to the town. She stated that she had talked to Public Works and they would like to have that and put a road in to make it easier for them to access.

Mr. Presley made a motion to approve. Mrs. Payne seconded the motion.

Mayor Linkous asked the Clerk to do roll call and report.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Councilmember Riffe:	Yes
Vice-Mayor Holman:	Yes
Councilmember Holt:	Yes
Councilmember Presley:	Yes
Councilmember Payne:	Yes
Councilmember Trigg:	Yes
Mayor Linkous:	No Vote Permitted

Motion carried 6-0 approving this parcel.

She stated that Town Offices would be closed on Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup> for President's Day and that Monday's trash would be picked up on Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, stated that the next regularly scheduled council meeting would be on Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> and that Brad Ayers would be presenting a bridge proposal and everything would be done local for \$127,200. She stated that to give them another price factor that Thompson & Litton had quoted the abutments and crane rental to go with the Enwood Bridge for a total of \$130,155.

Brad Ayers stated that he was at the last meeting and was hearing about the bridge for the first time and took it upon himself to approach Kim about doing a proposal. He handed out a drawing of the bridge that was done as to what was already there and stated that it was a galvanized steel bridge with zero maintenance and the price included freight, etc.

Mr. Presley asked if there would be something in the middle to where no cars could be driven on it.

Mr. Ayers stated that there would be columns in the center, the bridge would be 8 ft. wide and if council were interested then he could add seating in the middle.

Mayor Linkous stated that they had been talking about this bridge for years and it had been voted on during the last meeting.

Mrs. Payne stated that she would like to see a picture of the wooden bridge and liked the idea of seating in the middle.

Mayor Linkous stated that they could add electricity so that it could be decorated in the winter time and he would like to see an arch with Bluefield, VA on it as well. He asked what council would like to do.

Mr. Presley asked if all of the buildup needed to be removed first.

Mr. Ayers stated that it could be done at any point.

Mayor Linkous asked if this bridge could be arched somewhat to avoid a dam building up against it.

Mr. Ayers stated it was possible but would be an additional cost.

Mr. Trigg made a motion to move forward instead of keep talking about it. Mr. Presley seconded the motion.

Mayor Linkous stated that they voted to buy it during the last meeting so proper protocol would be to make a motion to not buy that bridge and a new motion to enter into a contract with Mr. Ayers.

Mr. Hampton stated with it being over \$100k that we would need a third quote.

Mr. Ayers stated that he thought we already had 3 quotes.

Mrs. Hernandez stated no.

Mayor Linkous stated that they already voted to buy the bridge so the next thing would be to complete the project by hiring Mr. Ayers so we already had the price on the bridge they wanted to buy, we have Thompson & Litton's price and we had Mr. Ayers price. He asked Mr. McGraw if Brad could give us the price on the abutments and crane rental to add to the bridge they were already going to buy.

Mr. Presley stated that he would have to know the specifics on the other bridge.

Mr. Ayers stated that the other bridge would be heavier and require a bigger crane.

Mrs. Hernandez stated that the reason the bridge was not purchased was she was waiting to get a price on the abutment, crane, etc. and we had to follow procurement which meant we needed one more quote.

Mayor Linkous stated that we could get a quote from Brad on just the abutment and the crane.

Mr. Holt asked Mr. McGraw what his legal advice was.

Mr. McGraw stated that we needed another quote.

Mrs. Payne asked if it would be the same since the county was giving us the money.

Mrs. Hernandez stated that we had to pay for it upfront.

Mr. Hampton stated that we would be administering it.

Mr. Holt stated that it would still be the expenditure of public funds.

Mayor Linkous stated that this went back years and they had voted many times to buy this bridge and it just was not done. He asked the attorney again why Brad could not quote just the abutments and crane.

Mr. Hernandez stated that Thompson & Litton was quoting on the Enwood Structures Bridge.

Mayor Linkous stated that they were never going to buy this bridge.

Mrs. Hernandez stated that there was still one more quote on everything needed.

Mr. Holt asked if they put an RFP back out and did not get anymore quotes could they then move forward with Mr. Ayers' proposal.



Mr. Hampton stated after 30 days he felt we would have done our due diligence.

Mayor Linkous asked if there were any other quotes that they were not aware of.

Mrs. Hernandez stated the only quotes were from Enwood Structures.

Mr. Trigg rescinded his motion to move forward with Mr. Ayers' proposal. Mr. Presley rescinded his second.

Mr. Presley made a motion to follow the RFP on the bridge. Mrs. Payne seconded the motion.

Mayor Linkous asked the Clerk to do roll call and report.

### **ROLL CALL VOTE**

Councilmember Riffe:	Yes
Vice-Mayor Holman:	Yes
Councilmember Holt:	Yes
Councilmember Presley:	Yes
Councilmember Payne:	Yes
Councilmember Trigg:	Yes
Mayor Linkous:	No Vote Permitted

Motion carried 6-0 approving to follow RFP on the bridge.

### **TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Mr. McGraw stated that regarding the surplus real estate that the IDA would be the cleanest, most efficient and fastest way. He stated that it would be one deed listing them all.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mr. Holt stated that he appreciated the board's willingness to work with him and it was difficult for him to sit and listen as he was being attacked. He stated that they needed to work together for the betterment of the town, that they did not have a town manager right now and had board members with health issues and it was tough right now.

Mr. Presley stated that he would be glad to have a Work Session so that they could go over the ARPA money and know how they were going to be able to afford things when it was gone for all to see.

Mr. Holman thanked everyone for coming out.

Mr. Trigg thanked everyone for coming and asked for continued prayers for his health.

Mrs. Payne wished Trigg and Rick success in upcoming procedures and asked that they all work together and move forward.

Mr. Riffe thanked all and stated he was glad to see Trigg back.

Mayor Linkous stated that they would be having some special called meetings soon for interviews, the event at Fincastle last Friday with McKenzie Phipps was great and she would be back again this Saturday. He stated that he was tickled to have Trigg back with them.

**ADJOURN**

Mayor Linkous asked for a motion and a second to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

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D.S. Linkous, Mayor

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Kim Hernandez, Town Clerk