

**Town of Bluefield
Town Council
Minutes
April 27, 2021**

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall located at 112 Huffard Drive, Bluefield, Virginia.

PRESENT

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

ALSO PRESENT

Trent Crewe, Manager/Town Attorney
Kim Hernandez, Town Clerk
Shane Gunter, Police Chief
James Hampton, Treasurer/Transit Dir.
Tara White, Receptionist
Don Scott, Planning Commission Secretary
4 Members of Public

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Linkous called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Don Scott, Retired Minister/Planning Commission Secretary led the Invocation. Mayor Linkous led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA & CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Linkous asked for a motion to approve the agenda and consent agenda.

Councilmember Presley made a motion to approve the agenda and consent agenda. Councilmember Trigg seconded the motion.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilmember Bailey:	Yes
Councilmember Holman:	Yes
Vice-Mayor 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.

CITIZEN REQUESTS & SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND REPORTS

None.

NEW BUSINESS AND REPORTS

None.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Diane Belcher, Bluefield VA stated she was interested in volunteering to be Chair of the Beautification Committee and she spoke with Mrs. Hernandez and Mrs. Roberts about her goal to get things cleaned up. She stated she would begin simple with weeding flower beds and with council's permission would begin cleaning up the area.

Mayor Linkous stated that she could get in touch with Mr. Crewe and he would line her up and thanked her for volunteering for such a big responsibility.

Mr. Presley stated he would vouch for her.

Mr. Crewe stated that he had already spoken to her and knew her heart was in a good place and felt she would be good for the job.

Mr. Holt stated he did not see too many people volunteering to do it and they should handle it then and felt she would be the one for the job.

Mayor Linkous stated that she was the person for it and that the contact for the town would be Mrs. Roberts and thanked her.

Mr. Presley stated that he would send some of his guys to help.

Mayor Linkous stated that if she needed anything to contact the town manager. He asked if there were any other citizen comments.

Dave Wohlford, Sedgewood stated this would be one of the last times he would be at a meeting for a while and for 46 years he had never been more comfortable or confident with a council than he was now. He stated that it was time for him to step back a little and just wanted to say that things had changed in a very positive way and he watched over the years and this council

had done a very good job. He stated that if they needed him to please let him know and asked them not to do any more crazy bids like they did with the roof again. He asked them to let him know and he would come and inspect it for them and that everyone knew him and that he was a big advocate when it came to licensed contractors and they should never work with unlicensed contractors. He stated that DPOR had no authority on an unlicensed contractor and the guy did 2 million dollars' worth of work, was out of Kentucky and did not do it right and that was not DPOR's fault but was the Town's fault and they have got to step up to the plate and fix it and could not have legitimate businesses on one side of the street competing with illegitimate businesses on the other side of the street. He stated that two former councilmember's that he would not mention but all knew who they were strongly opposed it and it was more like if you scratch my back I will scratch yours. He asked them to please take care of that and if they needed him to not hesitate to call.

Mayor Linkous thanked Mr. Wohlford and asked if anyone else had anything to say.

Lee Riffe, Pinehill Park thanked them on behalf of the Sanders House and stated that they appreciated all of the help the town had done with cleanup and clearing the whole bank for them. He stated that new signs had gone up and parties were beginning to happen since COVID restrictions were not as tight. He stated that they were excited about all of the new things that were happening and thanked Mr. Crewe and all of the town employees that came over and helped.

Mayor Linkous asked if anyone else had any citizen's comments.

There were none.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

None.

TOWN MANAGER'S/ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Crewe stated that he had spoken with the Public Works Superintendent Mr. Sleeman and there had been a major problem keeping and hiring new employees. He stated that once a month in council's packet that they received a copy of the monthly budget report and asked if they preferred to continue receiving it in paper form since they were currently receiving it via email.

Mr. Trigg stated he preferred a paper copy and all other councilmembers were ok with electronic copies.

Football Boosters Donation, POSSIBLE ROLL CALL VOTE

Mr. Crewe stated that he had received a request from the football boosters asking the Town to pay \$8 a box for up to 150 people for the football team's picnic that celebrated the end of their season and would be provided by Fincastle. He stated that the picnic was held outside at Graham Rec Park due to COVID restrictions this past Saturday. He stated that because they had discussed in the past about helping teams and only having a certain amount of money to give and with that

money already being spent that he had denied the request. He stated that they had already had the picnic and it was a rainy day but Fincastle did provide the lunches for approximately 50 people who attended. He stated that he knew from watching online and that Mayor Linkous had also mentioned there were several other athletes that had gone to state and won state championships, etc. and he did not want to pick football over another organization which was the reason he did not approve it but ultimately it was up to council.

Mr. Holman stated \$8 a head at 150 was \$1200.

Mr. Crewe stated yes but they only had around 50 people that attended and that would have only been \$800.

Mr. Holman stated it would have been \$400.

Mr. Crewe stated that was correct.

Mayor Linkous stated they could go down the line and see what everyone thought.

Mr. Bailey stated that he did not have any comments that this was the first he had heard of it.

Mr. Holman stated he was not opposed to it if they had it.

Mr. Crewe stated it was not a line item and they had spent all of what was left at the last two meetings.

Mr. Holman stated that was right and given the success they have had in their athletic department and being a pillar of the community with it being the only high school they had that he was not opposed to it.

Mr. Holt stated he was not opposed to it either and they were right at the end of the budget year.

Mr. Crewe stated the problem was that there were others that could still request money as well.

Mr. Holt stated that he did not doubt that at all but no matter if they gave or not someone would always be asking. He stated that if it helped to keep the kids motivated and out of trouble then he would rather see them at a football banquet than out there in trouble and was not opposed to giving them the money for 50 people at \$8 a head.

Mayor Linkous stated that Lisa Watkins who has a son and attended the banquet had told him there were around 50 at the picnic but he was unsure how close to that number it truly was. He stated that it could have been 40 or 80 that he was just not for sure.

Mr. Presley stated that he was all for it.

Mrs. Payne stated the reason she was opposed to it was there were all those other teams that had done very well and asked how they would reward them if they did not have funds at this point to reward everyone. She stated her thought was to give Graham High School a certain amount of money and let them divide it up to the different teams or requests. She stated that there were many on the football team and that they had already gave to project graduation which was a lot of students and she did not want to leave some out which was the reason why she was opposed to it.

Mr. Trigg stated that his thing had always been that they needed to let the information be given and the town manager review it first. He stated that it was a great idea but they had the boosters to help them. He stated that there could be money pulled out of the budget for it but the problem he saw with it was he had a little team that could use the money too and that council needed to look at it, think about it and then make a decision. He stated that he felt like they opened themselves up too much and it should be taken to the town manager first that he knew the golf team had done well along with soccer. He stated that they needed to be careful about the money thing and that it was not something they should talk about in front of everyone that when he and his wife would buy a car that they did not just say yes right that they would discuss it in private and make a decision and he thought they had decided that was all they were going to spend for now.

Mrs. Payne stated that she thought that as well.

Mr. Trigg stated that he did not like when it was sprung on them. He stated just like the last time and that some people they just paid then others they would think about it and at the last meeting someone came in and it was decided that it was a good idea, and they went ahead and paid it. He stated that they needed to be consistent on the things they were doing.

Mayor Linkous stated that looking at the budget there was a section that showed \$5,000 that was there for the school.

Mr. Crewe stated it was \$6,000.

Mayor Linkous stated that there was a line item there that listed that money went to the school just like Mr. Trigg spoke of and there were other line items like wrestling that at that time needed extra help and it was his understanding that was why they put that extra money in. He stated the school could divvy it how they saw necessary.

Mr. Holt stated they did give to them and continued to do so but we did not want to tell them what they could and could not spend it on. He stated that they spent it on various things and a few years back they had a regiment project that Mayor Linkous was a part of and gave to and they used a portion of that and one thing they did say was when special events came up such as state championships and events like that, they did need to give to them. He stated that he understood that they needed to be fiscally responsible and careful, but they were going to get these requests for the next hundred years and was not going to be able to shut them down. He stated that was just his opinion and they would have to decide what they would or would not give to and

even if there was \$20,000 in a line item that there would eventually be someone to come back and ask for money.

Mrs. Payne asked what about the boosters club.

Mr. Holt stated he thought they were active.

Mrs. Payne stated that they were having a golf tournament in a couple of weeks.

Mayor Linkous stated that Katie Benson was 1st runner up at a state competition, the golf team who had many members did well at state, the swimming team had done well and not that it was a monetary gift but that they would like to honor Justin Fritz for his 5-time state championship wins and he would like to see that happen at the next meeting.

Mr. Crewe stated that not many of the coaches had responded and when he was mayor he always wanted to recognize those who had done well and there were a lot. He stated that they always wanted to get their name in the paper for doing something good and not for something bad and that we had a plate full of high school students who had excelled but that did not mean they were all getting money. He stated that was their decision and in the line items of the budget there was \$500 for project graduation that had been spent and \$6,000 granted to schools that had been spent and another \$500 related to the high school.

Mayor Linkous asked if they still had an all sports banquet.

Mr. Crewe stated that it was his understanding they did not have any banquets last year due to COVID but to remember those things were scheduled before restrictions with COVID.

Mr. Bailey stated he thought that would be a perfect way to celebrate in the future if they could figure out a way to do that.

Mayor Linkous stated they used to do that.

Mr. Crewe stated that the problem right now would be due to COVID that the seasons were all changed and split up.

Mayor Linkous stated they could talk all night about it and asked if they received a letter about the request.

Mr. Crewe stated he had an email from a booster who did not identify herself as an officer but was a contact for them.

Mr. Holt stated that they could approach them with what the mayor was talking about to recognize all of them and felt that was a good idea.

Mayor Linkous asked if that was ok with everyone and asked Mr. Crewe to contact the representative for the boosters to let them know that it had been tabled.

Mr. Crewe stated he would contact the high school and booster representative.

Mayor Linkous stated that he wanted to let everyone know and that Mrs. Hernandez could make a note that when they recognized the athletes and coaches that the athletic director for Graham High School Matt Dixon was stepping down and he would like to see him recognized as well.

Auction Items Sold, ROLL CALL VOTE

Mr. Crewe stated looking back that he thought they had approved for the auction items to be sold but could not find where it was approved.

Mayor Linkous stated they did vote and approved it.

Mr. Crewe stated what he needed was for them to declare it surplus for the items to be sold and since they had already been sold that he needed a motion saying it was declared surplus.

Mr. Holt made a motion to approve the items sold at auction as surplus. Mr. Presley seconded the motion.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilmember Bailey:	Yes
Councilmember Holman:	Yes
Vice-Mayor 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.

Mayor Linkous asked if there was a report on what they made.

Mr. Crewe stated that they did not have an official report but knew it brought in around \$40,000.

Mr. Presley stated they were selling like gold.

Budget Presentation

Mr. Crewe stated that they would put the budget on the screen and that Mr. Hampton would help with it. He stated there were 3 lines that had changed and that everything that had been given to council was private up until now which would be public knowledge. He stated the first thing was the 3% raise for the Police Department was already included in what he had previously given

them and if they looked at the first 4 pages down to the beginning General Property Taxes, Other Local Taxes, Permits, Fines & Forfeitures, Use of Money and Property, and Charges for services had no changes. He stated Miscellaneous Revenue was the start of the changes and that he had cut \$769,042. He stated that last year's budget was \$7,916,318 and this year's would be \$7,147,275. He stated that Miscellaneous Revenue was at \$265,419 last year and he cut it to \$185,000, Recovered Costs went from \$165,000 to \$135,000 with a cut of \$30,000 and overall the less projected amount for that line was \$110,419. He stated Revenue from Commonwealth – Non Categorical had no changes predicted on that and when they got to the Categorical part on Street Maintenance there was \$43,000 cut. He stated that what they had was a budget with no federal money in it although there were several things he planned to pay that would be added and paid with money from the federal legislation. He stated \$43,000 was in the Street Maintenance line for the purchase of new trucks, Miscellaneous Law Enforcement Grants was \$6,988 and the VDOT Revenue Sharing Grant deducted \$264,000 which brought the total deductions overall to \$214,012.

Mr. Holman asked if the \$214,012 was included in the \$769,042.

Mr. Crewe stated yes and there were no changes in Revenue from the Federal Government that the only change on other Financing Sources was for the High Street Project and there was a \$264,000 change on that. He stated Transfers to the General Fund was taken from prior year reserves in the amount of \$180,612 and was budgeted with that. He stated looking at the expenditures side that most of what they would see were deductions and moving salaries around from place to place with an example being the managers salary which was in four different places and would have made sense if there were grants being administered by the manager in those four different places but they did not have that now and the salary was not split that way. He stated on Town Council looking at the bottom that they increased the total \$3,813 and most of that adjustment came from the fact that we had one more councilmember here than last year. He stated they had numbers on redoing the cell phones saving about 50% and that was why there was \$1,100 taken out of the telecommunications line.

Mayor Linkous stated that it said Mayors cell phone but the mayor did not have a cell phone paid for by the town.

Mr. Crewe stated that was correct and in the town managers line they had cut \$101,448 on regular salaries, \$2,000 on overtime, and \$5,300 on part time. He stated that the total cut was \$174,858 and most of that was salary and benefits for the Town Manager. He stated the next was for the Legal Department which was cut \$2,000 and that the audit did not change. He stated the Treasurer's Department they added \$2,000 for the 3% salary increase and FICA \$153. He stated Building and Maintenance they took out \$1,000 but added \$1,200 for telecommunications, office supplies added \$2,000, cut housekeeping \$450, cut auto license decals \$100 and replaced computer equipment \$400 and would probably be more but they were expecting Grant money for that but overall they added \$3,303 to the Treasurer's Budget. He stated that he went over the budget with every department head and got their feedback as well as Mr. Hampton's.

Mr. Holman asked if he planned to give the 3% raise across the board.

Mr. Crewe stated yes and that state minimum wage as of May 1st would be \$9.50 and that President Biden had issued an Executive Order for the federal minimum wage on federal projects to be raised to \$15 an hour which meant if they received grant money that they would have to make \$15 an hour. He stated that they had factored everything for May 1st at \$9.50 and the 3% by July 1st for everyone and if they made below \$9.50 which was only a handful of people they would be bumped up but would not also get the 3% as well on July 1st.

Mr. Holman asked if it was adjusted for if there was a federal project and would they cover that salary increase cost if the grant had those requirements.

Mr. Crewe stated that the short answer was that it depended on the grant and if we accepted a bid then we would have to accept the federal minimum wage and it would be reflected in the grant requiring them to pay the \$15 an hour wage.

Mr. Holman asked in that case would the burden of auditing fall on them.

Mr. Crewe stated it depended on who administered the grant and if they did then the answer was yes.

Mr. Holman stated that he assumed there would have to be some type of overseer.

Mr. Crewe stated that there would have to be a responsible administrator to administer the grant and that most of the grants in the past there had been someone else but he had been the administrator before that it just depended on how it was structured.

Mr. Holman stated that they should look into that because it was an important issue.

Mr. Crewe stated it would cost real money and the administrator would not be free either.

Mr. Holman stated it was red tape.

Mr. Crewe stated that sometimes you could not afford free money. He stated the next line was bookkeeping and there was only a \$34 change and that was due to the 3% increase in salary. The next was Vehicle Maintenance which was a more complicated category and they could see there was \$55,000 taken out of last year's budget but the big items were \$28,000 in salaries and most of that was engineers' salary and two \$10,000 lines that was for fuel, oil, tires, and parts. He stated that we would get back around \$44,000 from the auction that he would allocate for vehicles.

Mr. Holman asked if the increase was from the age of inventory.

Mr. Crewe stated yes from the age and the shape that they were in and from items spread throughout the budget, he stated if you went on down there were numbers added back and that was for tires, parts, fuel and oil that he cut \$20,000 but added it back in the other categories. He stated the net result was \$55,091 less than the previous year.

Mayor Linkous asked if there was a budget for salt.

Mr. Crewe stated not in that part but in another section.

Mayor Linkous stated he hoped it was increased.

Mr. Crewe stated they actually did by a little bit and on the Police Department they would see a \$38,000 increase for salaries, a cut of \$17,675 for overtime and \$700 for part time. He stated supplemental pay he cut \$29,900 and \$500 for overtime supplemental pay and just divided numbers up through all the categories and added \$368 on workers comp, cut \$1,000 on clothing allowances, cut \$3,000 on court appointed attorney fees, added \$3,000 on maintenance service contracts, cut \$1,120 on uniform cleaning, added \$1,850 on video managing, added \$3,000 for travel and training and they would see every department had an increase for travel and training because COVID prevented them from travel but this year they thought it would be available. He stated he added \$7,150 in membership dues and cut \$3,500 on uniform purchases.

Mayor Linkous asked about the supplemental pay and was that where they did the physical fitness training. He asked if by taking out \$30,000 if that meant it was taken out of the Police Department's pocket.

Mr. Crewe stated that it was taken out of that part of the budget and was allocated in another section.

Mayor Linkous stated that it meant that is was not going into their pockets this year.

Mr. Crewe stated that no not unless they changed the budget and yes it would not be going in their pocket with how that particular budget line read.

Chief Gunter stated he could elaborate on that and that money was going towards their raises and was allocated for that.

Mayor Linkous thanked him for that information and stated that was something they needed to think about in the near future and whether it should be put back into the budget.

Chief Gunter stated that he did not think so that it went towards the raises and the officers were getting the money.

Mayor Linkous stated that was what he wanted to know.

Mr. Holt stated that when he talked to the Chief they felt the officers would rather have the pay raise than have to go out twice a year and some of the guys were getting to the point it was too hard on them but the point they were trying to make was that the guys got the 3% and deserved it but there were some concessions they made that was not all money and some guys lost that and even though they got the pay raise it was not like they were benefiting because they lost out on that. He stated that also the council at the time did not consider that 3% to be a pay raise that it was actually an adjustment to bring them up to the standards that everybody else in the region was at.

Mayor Linkous stated that people took that wrong and thought they got a monster raise but they did not that it was an adjustment and he wanted to make sure the police department did not go backwards that it was tough on them and only getting worse. He stated he would like to have a lot of money and be able to keep moving them up farther.

Mr. Crewe stated that he was trying to get the budget to where he could find line items and if they looked at the first couple lines there that they added \$38,000 to supplemental pay which meant there was \$60,000 extra above this year's budget but it was in a different line item but that supplemental pay was put there for that line.

Mr. Holt stated something he wanted to discuss was structure not only for the police department but for all the employees. He stated that they did not want the same salary for someone that had been there 5, 10, or 15 years compared to those that just started and something they could work on as council would be a pay structure that someone could look forward to.

Mr. Crewe stated that he tried to do that across the board for each employee and he had discussed it with Chief and Mr. Hampton because there was no pay structure set and they did not want a police officer with 10 years' experience leaving to go somewhere else for \$5,000 or \$6,000.

Mr. Holt stated he did not want any employee at all to do that and he thought it was something they needed to look at on a broader picture and did not want to take away from Mr. Crewe's merit raises because he thought that was important and they did not see day to day operations nor did they see what people were doing and those were important too.

Mr. Crewe stated that based on evaluations with department heads that there were no more than 12 to 13 employees that were getting more than 3% and 2 of them were \$8.00 an hour and they were getting bumped up to \$9.50 and that was mandatory and more than 3%. He stated there were several that were getting more than 3% because they were doing the job of 2 to 3 people and if they were making \$12 to \$13 an hour now they would make \$14 to \$15 an hour based on merits but also wage compression. He stated that they were having problems with hiring and keeping mowing crews and that yesterday they had 5 mowing crew members quit and there was a real problem with hiring part time help and tried to factor all of that in.

Mr. Holman asked outside of general labor and that it was at Mr. Crewe's leisure how he sat up his own structure for a pay scale but was there room for advancement when they would talk about longevity. He stated that they needed a path that started at a base line and made room for advancement that it was important when they looked at contention and ways to keep the employees.

Mr. Crewe stated that there was no formal written policy that said that was how we did it but in speaking with all department heads they discussed all areas and no one was doing a bad job but some were doing a better job than others and that was reflected in what he proposed with this budget and felt that was needed and even some sort of wage chart to show a merit raise but there were situations it was frowned upon because they ran the risk of being sued if there was someone that had been there 10 years and was a lousy employee and they were fired but there were some kickbacks to it but no, there was no formal policy. He stated public works was an example in right

now they have had a couple of mechanics quit and they found two but a good mechanic was hard to find and their bigger problem was on the smaller scale like part time and temporary help at Fincastle and their record was someone that worked 15 minutes and quit then had a couple work 2 days and quit.

Mr. Holman stated that he was talking about long term employees for that specific plan.

Mr. Crewe stated that was why they would find him in local shops pestering people and asking who they were and what area they worked in so he stayed informed on everyone and they knew who he was. He stated that the Town had good employees across the board but they did not know it and that was what they were trying to do. He stated that if they skipped to the bottom line for the police department they added \$25,568 total. He stated for the Fire Department there was not much change and they added \$1,493 total and \$5,000 was added for air packs and that would not cover the full expense of those that the total cost would be around \$153,000. He stated that he expected grant money for that but they were not optional and had an expiration date on them.

Mr. Holt asked how long it had been since call pay was adjusted.

Mr. Crewe stated about 7 years he thought but there was some room to change and most of those guys were working in more than one department.

Mr. Holt stated that was the beauty of what they did and hoped it would continue and that he would allow people on a wreck to do the job that it was instrumental in keeping and attaining good firefighters and maybe that was something they could look at for future budgets that it had been that way for a longtime.

Mr. Crewe stated that there may be some federal money for that as well.

Mr. Bailey stated that his fear with that would be that it was harder and harder to get people to work now days and we had people working on a volunteer rate like that and asked what would happen if they lost them.

Mr. Crewe stated that they could look at Smith County that they were working through alternative services because they could not get volunteers and we did not want that to happen here.

Mr. Holt stated that it would be nice to have a projection of how much it would cost to increase that.

Mr. Crewe stated he could do that.

Mr. Holman stated that he was sure Mr. Hampton had that information.

Mr. Crewe stated moving on to Building Inspection there were a few line items changed and the total change was \$3,333 deducted from what they had last year but not a lot changed. He stated Street Department had a few changes and there was \$63,000 less in salaries, \$15,000 more on part time, \$3,000 less on snow removal, \$3,902 less on FICA, \$400 less on IMCA, \$168 less

Hybrid/Retirement, \$1,000 less on health insurance. He stated that it was cut \$10,000 and that was from not using all the salt from last year and bottom line was that they cut a total of \$62,602 from that budget. He stated Refuse Collection that they cut \$5,000 out of salary and a couple hundred here and there with a total cut of \$7,804. He stated that the Town Hall Buildings and Grounds they had more and covered more than what he thought and it was cut in total by \$452. He stated there were a lot of changes to the Recreation Department and had lost an employee and gained a new one and there was \$4,000 cut for summer crew and director changes, \$10,000 for part time and \$4,000 part time over time and on those lines that show cuts for insurance that no one was losing insurance benefits that they had several employees that had family members that were married and did not need single and went to family or did not need insurance. He stated that overall on the Recreation Department the cut was \$35,831 total. He stated the Cemetery fund had an overall addition from shifting over time and part-time of \$6,459. He stated the rest was basically an estimate of what they were going to do and they could not take a line item out and HMGP Planning Project fell under that and there was no change on Planning Commission and Community Development only had a change of \$3,000 for landscaping and beatification which brought it to a total of \$2,800. He stated that donations were not changed and that was what they were talking about with project graduation and donations to schools. He stated that the Brain Injury Services called about their budgeted amount and there were still the same amounts for the high school at \$6,000, and band boosters stayed the same but he wanted to change BVLL.

Mr. Holt stated that he figured out where that was and he thought it was around \$5,000 to \$6,000 and they could take that \$2,500 out of the AAU which would bring them up to where they needed to be.

Mr. Crewe stated that was basically what had been done.

Mr. Holt stated he appreciated what had been done for the league and they wanted to be transparent about where it came from versus throwing it in there and then people wondering where it came from.

Mayor Linkous asked why they had \$5,000 for Bluefield Orioles when they were not there anymore.

Mr. Crewe stated it was what was going to be used to pay for the mascot for the Bluefield Baseball Club that he did not change it. He stated under the Zoning Administrator that he added \$3,000 to his salary and overall had \$3,600 added. He stated Non-departmental basically was a catch all and on the 7th line down it showed drug testing for all departments except transit because they received federal funds to do their own. He stated Non-departmental was exactly what it read and was there to put items that were left over for the budget. He stated that he budgeted high on the expense side and low on the revenue side so there was a cushion there and they had a total of \$48,460 added to that side. He stated the next line was Transfers and there was no change on that, the next line was Capitol Projects and the only thing being taken out was for the High Street Project and that was \$528,000 that was already in the budget. He stated FEMA and Capitol Projects had no changes, Debt Service Active added \$11,065 for the utility truck that they had approved to purchase and other than that there were no other changes. He stated that they were \$769,042 less for this budget compared to last year's budget and that was the general revenue side. He stated

that the water was on a separate section and was a preparatory fund in which they cut \$2,040,674 for the industrial park construction and the other were minor adjustments.

Mr. Holman stated that he wanted to look back at the revenue side.

Mr. Crewe asked if anything caught his eye and that it was grant money that had already been done.

Mr. Holman asked if they had completed that.

Mrs. Hernandez stated that it was almost done.

Mr. Holman asked about meters.

Mr. Crewe stated they had some extra money left over to buy meters.

Mrs. Hernandez stated they had about \$86,000 left and VDH did not want the money back and allowed them to buy the larger meters.

Mr. Crewe stated that Mrs. Hernandez was the grant administrator for that grant.

Mr. Hampton asked if there was any other expenses they would like to see.

Mr. Holman stated there was not.

Mr. Crewe stated that the Cemetery fund had perpetual care funds and there was no change. He stated they were very fortunate for the Transit representative that took care of that and they did not have to buy new buses this year but would next year. He stated the numbers were slightly different than the papers they had in front of them and the bottom line showed a cut of \$158,900. He stated that the buses had to be 4 years old and 100k miles so they would be adding two more next year. He stated that Fincastle was what was left and was a big puzzle. He stated there was no track record and what they had was golf and restaurant until the pool was up and running. He stated the difference now was they added \$168,000 on the revenue side because they would make more money on golf and if they continued to stay where they were then they would be able to generate \$609,000 in food service income and \$459,000 in golf income which was larger than previous years. He stated that they had reviewed it thoroughly.

Mr. Holman stated that was if no restrictions happened.

Mr. Crewe agreed that if COVID went away and the governor moved in the right direction to open up more.

Mr. Bailey stated that was very encouraging.

Mr. Crewe stated that comparing to what they already had brought in they were doing well and an example was a tournament of 135 kids and there were one or two parents that would have

rented golf carts but they did not have enough to rent. He stated there was a shipment scheduled to arrive any day and hopefully would be there soon and they had increased the rental rates by \$2.

Mr. Bailey asked if there was a reason they did not increase the pro shop revenue seeing that business was growing.

Mr. Crewe stated the merchandise was higher than they could sell it for and there was not a huge need for it.

Mr. Bailey stated that the profit margin would be tight.

Mr. Crewe stated that he did not know how many people would buy Fincastle gear and hoped they would and the two big changes was that they added \$194,180 for golf and \$230,000 on the food side. He stated that was their budget and if there was any questions to let him or Mr. Hampton know.

Mr. Bailey asked now that it was public if he would email them a copy of the budget.

Mr. Crewe stated yes and it was very promising and was a good start realistically looking at it all.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Bailey had none.

Mr. Holman had none.

Mr. Holt stated they talked about a resolution earlier and would like council to consider one for Mike Goins. He stated he had been a BVLL volunteer for years and was the president for some time and was now the umpire and chief and was an exceptional umpire. He stated that he was a district umpire and made it all the way to the little league World Series and was very good. He stated that he was a tremendous person that had donated 30 years of his time to the community in a non-paid position and he would really like to recognize him as the Little League was in its 40th year.

Mayor Linkous asked if they wanted to do it at the next meeting.

Mr. Holt stated that they could vote on it during the next meeting. He stated that there was a tremendous problem with bears getting in the trash at the baseball field and asked if something could be done about it.

Mr. Crewe stated he was aware of it and had talked to Greg and they were working on getting a cost for bear proof trash lids.

Mr. Holt stated that there were three and the DWR would not trap them that the only other option would be to euthanize them and he did not want to do that. He stated that he had a veteran

contact him inquiring about getting the flag changed at the fountain because it looked rough as well as the ones at Fincastle. He stated that he has had a couple of questions about the special election and felt they needed to get some information out about it so that the citizens knew what was going on.

Mr. Crewe stated that the judge had not signed it as of yet but he anticipated it would be November.

Mr. Holt asked if they could check on that.

Mr. Crewe stated he would.

Mr. Presley thanked everyone for coming out and said that we have the best Police Department. He asked that staff look into a camera system and strategically placing them in certain areas especially with everything going on in the town. He stated that the Sanders House was looking good and that he had talked to Charlie today and that Joe Dales was going to pay to have the fence line cut and would be talking to VDOT. He gave a shout out to Town Employees.

Mrs. Payne thanked the workers for what they were doing all over town and at the Sanders House. She thanked Chief Gunter for going to Bluefield College and stated that she had heard so many positive responses and thanked him for taking his time to do that.

Mr. Trigg thanked everyone for coming and stated that he really like seeing the project and activity sheets that they were a good thing and should continue. He stated that when you went towards Macados the pot holes were horrible and he would like to have them fixed.

Mr. Presley asked if there was any way to acquire that street.

Mayor Linkous stated they did not want it.

Mr. Presley stated that he knew they did not want it but it was a major street.

Mr. Holt stated that he had one more thing concerning the car wash over by Food City. He stated that the guy that used to run it took great pride in it and there had been a ton of complaints about how horrible it looked and trash was blowing everywhere.

Mr. Crewe stated that he had several calls and complaints about it and sent them a letter and would try to get more done about it.

Mayor Linkous stated he had a couple things and one was the street Mr. Trigg spoke of and that several years back there was a letter sent that told them they had to fix the street or we would fix it and we would send them the bill. He stated that maybe the next step was to close it if they did not fix it. He asked if they had started on the swimming pool yet.

Mr. Crewe stated not completely but they did come and inspect and changed the wiring.

Mr. Holman asked if they were going to make the deadline.

Mr. Crewe stated that yes hopefully.

Mr. Holman stated that we were down on their list.

Mr. Crewe stated yes but we should be next because two had come off of that list.

Mayor Linkous asked if the old Riley's building had been purchased and if they were working on the vaults for the cemetery.

Mr. Crewe stated the building had not been sold and that Mr. Shrewsbury was working on the vaults.

Mayor Linkous stated that it would be a shot in the dark but coming up from Subway it would be nice to build the sidewalk there all the way to the shopping center.

Mr. Crewe stated that he had some information that the college wanted them to be involved with and part of that would be finishing that sidewalk.

Mayor Linkous stated that he would like to see that finished and wanted to thank everyone for coming out and thanked Mr. Crewe for the budget presentation. He stated that he hated he would not be seeing much of Mr. Wohlford anymore.

Mr. Wohlford asked if there was something that could be done about the huge pot hole near Sam's Club at the tire center. He stated that it had been dug out and fixed multiple times that it was 2 foot deep and needed to be fixed completely.

Mayor Linkous stated that BVLL had their opening day which he was unable to attend but had been out there on several other occasions and encouraged everyone if they had the opportunity to go out and support them. He asked if anyone had anything else.

Mrs. Payne reminded everyone of the grand opening for the Falls Mills Dam was on May 7th at 2 p.m. and the Adult Day Care Center in Falls Mills was on May 8th at 10 am.

ADJOURN

Mayor Linkous asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Holt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 p.m. Mr. Bailey seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

D.S. Linkous, Mayor

Kim Hernandez, Town Clerk