

# TOWN OF SCOTTSVILLE

**Town Council**  
**Regular Session**  
Monday, April 21, 2014  
Victory Hall  
401 Valley Street  
Scottsville, Virginia

*Mayor*  
Jesse B. Grove III

*Town Council*  
Nancy E. Gill  
R. Daniel Gritsko  
Jeannette E. Kerlin  
Elizabeth M. Knotts  
Robert E. O'Halloran  
Ronald L. Smith

## MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Grove called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG
3. ROLL CALL of Town Council – Town Clerk Amy Moyer called the roll. Ms. Gill, Mr. Gritsko, Ms. Kerlin, Ms. Knotts, and Mr. Smith were present. Mr. O'Halloran was absent. Also in attendance was Town Administrator George Goodwin.
4. CONSENT CALENDAR
  - 4.1. Approval of Agenda
  - 4.2. Financial Report for March 2014
  - 4.3. Minutes – Working Session of November 12, 2013
  - 4.4. Minutes – Regular Session of November 18, 2013

Upon a motion by Ms. Kerlin, seconded by Mr. Gritsko, the consent calendar was adopted.

### 5. PUBLIC FORUM

Scottsville District Supervisor Jane Dittmar related that Liz Palmer and she met with Larry Jackson of AEP this week about customer service, including the non-cutoff policy in freezing months, and she learned that logs are left strategically in clear-cut areas to prevent erosion and create habitat. Ms. Dittmar and Ms. Palmer traveled with Joel DeNunzio throughout the district to look at maintenance and safety funding needs for VDOT.

Mayor Grove indicated that the Town Council would welcome a visit from Mr. DeNunzio.

Ms. Dittmar said that the request from the fire department for more security on July 4 will be explored. Mayor Grove commented that there has been good cooperation from the Albemarle County Police Department on busy nights since the meeting with Captain Jenkins.

Ms. Dittmar stated that the Board of Supervisors agreed 4-2 to raise property taxes by 3.3 cents but kept the rate under 80 cents. The Board of Supervisors heard the needs of the school board, and most of the increase is dedicated to school needs but does not fully meet the funding gap. The Board of Supervisors has asked the school board to make cuts but can look at one-time funding if necessary. Ms. Dittmar announced a broadband survey, with

distribution online and on paper, with survey copies available at fire and rescue stations, farmers' markets, and other public locations.

Samuel Miller District Supervisor Liz Palmer related that Ms. Dittmar and she are working on solid waste and recycling issue, and they are working hard to see what they can do in this community to make services available. VDOT can do 500-foot paving sections and some road surface projects without having to go through the Board of Supervisors, and VDOT is restoring gutters to deal with water runoff.

Tom Hanson, Director of Emergency Communications for Albemarle County, addressed the council. Mayor Grove noted that two months ago Mr. Hanson told him two months ago that all they had left to energize the repeaters was to dig a 30-foot trench that he thought could be done in a week, but they still do not have service in Scottsville because the local radios need to be reprogrammed. Mr. Hanson explained that the trench had to be dug by hand with a trowel, and there were snow delays, but the work is complete and the T1 line has been installed to connect the tower. They are now testing the equipment in town and in buildings, they still need to do a coverage check in the outer perimeter, and they are in the process of reprogramming and rebanding the 3,000 radios in the system. Mr. Hanson said Clear Communications does the programming, and they may be able to do some temporary programming for the Scottsville officers. Mayor Grove encouraged Mr. Hanson to do whatever he can to make sure that Scottsville officers are not on the street anymore without being able to call for backup.

Tom LaBelle, Division Chief of Volunteer Services for Albemarle Fire Rescue, related that the recruitment and retention committee is focused on increasing the number of volunteers county-wide and in the area. Mr. LaBelle is the former executive director of the New York Association of Fire Chiefs. He commented that recruitment and retention are more difficult than ever before, that is true nationally, and recruitment and retention are very different processes. Mr. LaBelle said that Fluvanna County seems interested in helping to get volunteers.

Mayor Grove asked Ms. Dittmar and Ms. Palmer to consider inter-county cooperation as they work on solid waste and recycling issues, as Fluvanna and Buckingham have facilities. Ms. Palmer replied that they have asked staff to contact Fluvanna and Nelson to ask about opportunities for that.

Kimberly Renaud expressed concerns about the crosswalk marking and signage. Ms. Renaud and her son live at 455 Valley Street, and her three-year-old son was almost hit last week while crossing between Cutting Loose and Victory Hall. She explained that she has taught him road safety and he knows not to run out into the street. While crossing on his bike with no oncoming traffic, a driver came out of nowhere and stopped less than two feet away. Ms. Renaud asked that the town fix the crosswalks, including striping and moving the no-parking signs to ensure visibility. Mr. Goodwin said that it is on VDOT's list to fix. Ms. Renaud commented that drivers cannot turn left safely from Bird Street; it is a blind spot for both drivers and pedestrians. She reiterated her concerns that the crosswalks are not striped and there is no sign at the crosswalk. Mr. Goodwin stated that it is VDOT standard for the sign

to be 100 feet before the crosswalk. Ms. Renaud remarked that she feels safer crossing the street in downtown Washington, D.C., than she does here, and she implored that this be addressed quickly before someone gets hurt.

Mayor Grove stated that it has been of great concern to him personally and to this council that VDOT has refused to put bars in those crosswalks ever since Streetscape was finished, which is practically a year now. He has brought this to the attention of Ms. Dittmar and Mr. DeNunzio. VDOT has put them off continuously and recently said it will not be done until the street is repaved. Mayor Grove commented that he thinks it is outright negligence for that to happen, and he asked if the town can do the painting itself. He has written to Joel DeNunzio, his superiors, and the town's representatives in the state legislature, but he cannot get any action.

Mayor Grove asked when the paving project is scheduled. Mr. Goodwin said they do not know exactly, but it could be next week. Paving has started in Greene County, Albemarle is next, and this is first on the list in Albemarle.

Mayor Grove stated that just having those stripes does not do the job to let drivers know there is a crosswalk. Mr. Goodwin added that the town has also asked to be allowed to install flashing lights in the street, but the request was denied. Mr. Gritsko noted that these are VDOT's streets, not the town's streets.

Ms. Renaud commented that she has observed the amount of traffic, and people do not always slow down. People do not generally mean harm but drive too quickly because they are in a hurry or distracted.

Mr. Gritsko noted the pedestrian culture around Washington, D.C., and UVA, noting on the need to change the culture here, rather than drivers just trying to get through town. Ms. Gill also pointed out that these are the first crosswalks Scottsville has ever had, and she has been to towns with additional signage. Mayor Grove agreed that signage can be added, but there was also a concern about avoiding sign clutter. Mr. Goodwin related that he also asked for rumble strips but was told they are not allowed either because of the snow plows.

## 6. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Grove reported that he received a letter from FEMA indicating that the revised flood hazard overlay district ordinance brought the town into compliance with National Flood Insurance Program requirements. Mayor Grove related that the farmers' market opening went well. He has also worked on zoning issues, including unpermitted construction in a floodway, and together with the ARB he is addressing deteriorating buildings. He also spent time on Van Clief Nature Area access issues. The council decided at its work session to create the Arts and Culture Committee, to be chaired by Ms. Gill. The Government Services Committee is on hiatus until needed. He suggests adjusting the work session agenda to omit routine committee reports in favor of discussing only issues needing attention, instead bringing routine reports to the regular session.

Mr. Gritsko asked if everything related to the FEMA study is done. Mayor Grove replied that the core borings were done, which was the last bit. Mr. Goodwin said this has been submitted but not yet accepted. Mayor Grove explained that this will not prevent the town from participating in the National Flood Insurance Program, and towards the end the town got good cooperation from FEMA in helping the town meet the various requirements.

7. ADOPTION OF BANKING RESOLUTION FOR ARTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE ACCOUNT AT BB&T

Mr. Gritsko moved to adopt the banking resolution for the Arts and Culture Committee account at BB&T. Ms. Kerlin seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was conducted.

Ms. Gill	<u>Yes</u>	Mr. Gritsko	<u>Yes</u>	Ms. Kerlin	<u>Yes</u>
Ms. Knotts	<u>Yes</u>	Mr. O'Halloran	<u>Absent</u>	Mr. Smith	<u>Yes</u>

The motion passed 5-0.

8. APPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

Ms. Kerlin moved to authorize the Town Attorney to request that the Circuit Court make the following appointments to the Board of Zoning Appeals:

Barry L. Long (term ending 2/28/2019, reappointment)  
 Claire Christen Mellow (term ending 2/28/2017, new appointment)  
 Maria A. Morrell (term ending 2/28/2018, reappointment)  
 Lydia E. Wilson (term ending 2/29/2016, new appointment)

Mr. Smith seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

9. REPORTS OF CHARTERED COMMITTEES, PLANNING COMMISSION, AND ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD

*Planning Commission:* Mr. Smith reported that the commission did not meet. He is working with the Chamber of Commerce, SCAN, and the town on rack cards promoting activities and the Jammin' on the James concert series. The Chamber of Commerce will host a business-after-hours event to seek corporate sponsors for the concerts.

*Town Maintenance Committee:* Ms. Knotts reported that the maintenance walkthrough is scheduled for tomorrow at 5:00 p.m. Ms. Knotts asked about the inmate training program. Mr. Goodwin replied no, not yet.

Mr. Smith commented on trash left at the ball fields after the games and weekend events. Mr. Goodwin will speak to the league sponsors and Albemarle Parks and Recreation about replacing the trash cans for the season.

*Public Safety Committee:* Ms. Kerlin reported that the committee did not meet. Mayor Grove related the Chamber of Commerce's request to expedite the police storage shed to get the materials out of the visitor center. Ms. Kerlin will follow up on this.

*Tourism Committee:* Mr. Gritsko announced that a VCNA work day is scheduled for this Saturday, and the Scottsville Sunrise Photo Contest runs to June 1. He reported that Lydia Wilson has completed a new brochure, and the committee is looking at printing options. Mr. Gritsko recently attended the Hatton Ferry opening. The ferry is open from April to October, and it is supported by the Albemarle Charlottesville Historical Society and donations. James River Runners will host the Chili Cook-off on May 3 to benefit the fire department's water rescue operations. DGIF will visit this week to check out the lake for fish stocking.

*Government Services Committee:* Ms. Gill thanked Tim Small, Bob Schwarz, Graham Prichard, and Patrick Tocci for serving on this committee.

*Arts and Culture Committee:* Ms. Gill reported that the new committee is getting a lot of positive attention. The Jammin' on the James Committee has representatives from SCAN, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Town Council. Ms. Knotts is coordinating volunteers. Ms. Gill is working on Community Day, Elizabeth Schoenborn is working on the Batteau Festival, and Barbara Coleman will plan the Christmas tree lighting.

## 10. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Goodwin reported that the engineering work and cleanup is in the process of being reviewed by FEMA. Mr. Goodwin asked that the tree lighting be coordinated with the other holiday events. Ms. Gill said the tree lighting is planned for the last Saturday in November, the parade is the next weekend, and the Festival of Lights after that. Mr. Goodwin related that he is looking at sidewalk improvements and repairs, such as the piece pushed up near Bruce Park and sunken brick near the doctor's office.

Ms. Kerlin asked that Mr. Goodwin also address the alleyway between Dena Radley and Gibson Carpet. She received another complaint on this, Ms. Radley is concerned about damage to her car, and the town has known about this for over two months. Ms. Kerlin noted that the blacktop by her house was scraped off in the snow removal, creating a drainage problem that still needs to be fixed. Mr. Goodwin replied that he asked the maintenance employee to fix the alleyway, and VDOT has been notified of the blacktop damage. Ms. Kerlin expressed concern about effectively using the maintenance employee's time.

Mayor Grove stated that he has spent a considerable amount of time studying the Charlottesville noise ordinance and its history, and he is convinced that it is not appropriate for Scottsville to blindly adopt that ordinance. He asked that council members be prepared to discuss the noise ordinance at the next work session. He noted that the council heard a report from James River Brewing on noise abatement plans at the work session.

11. CLOSED SESSION FOR DISCUSSION OF PERSONNEL MATTERS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH CODE OF VIRGINIA SECTION 2.2-3711(A)(1)

Ms. Knotts moved that this council now meet in closed session for discussion of personnel matters regarding employee salaries, as permitted by Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711(A)(1). Ms. Kerlin seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Upon returning to open session, Ms. Kerlin moved to adopt a resolution certifying the closed session. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The motion was approved, with Ms. Gill, Mr. Gritsko, Ms. Kerlin, Ms. Knotts, and Mr. Smith voting in favor and none against. The following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, this council convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712(D) of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the council that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the council hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act were heard, discussed, or considered in the meeting to which this certification applies; and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed, or considered in the meeting to which this certification applies.

12. AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FY 2015 BUDGET FOR PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Smith moved to advertise for public hearing the proposed Fiscal Year 2015 Budget as discussed at the work session last week. Ms. Kerlin seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was conducted.

Ms. Gill	<u>Yes</u>	Mr. Gritsko	<u>Yes</u>	Ms. Kerlin	<u>Yes</u>
Ms. Knotts	<u>Yes</u>	Mr. O'Halloran	<u>Absent</u>	Mr. Smith	<u>Yes</u>

The motion passed 5-0.

13. ADJOURNMENT – Upon a motion by Ms. Kerlin, seconded by Mr. Gritsko, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.