

# TOWN OF SCOTTSVILLE

**Town Council**  
**Regular Session**  
Monday, April 20, 2015  
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  
Graham N. Prichard  
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, Mr. Prichard, and Mr. Smith were present. Also in attendance was Town Administrator George Goodwin.
4. CONSENT CALENDAR
  - 4.1. Approval of Agenda
  - 4.2. Financial Report for March 2015
  - 4.3. Minutes – Working Session of January 12, 2015
  - 4.4. Minutes – Regular Session of January 20, 2015

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

### 5. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Grove reported that he has been spending a lot of time working on the Van Clief Nature Area, which he hopes is proceeding to fruition this summer. They have resolved the access issues, so they are ready to consider the bidding and contracting process. That means they must refine the scope, refine the bidding documents, get approval from the grantor, put the work out to bid, and then administer the contract.

Mayor Grove related that the Town Council heard at its work session from Police Chief Robert Layman that there was a complaint regarding an alley near Ms. Gill's house in the old Hayman subdivision. The alley runs parallel to Route 20. The concern was that the alley was not open. The question arose whether the town has jurisdiction over that alley. That issue arose in 2011, and Ms. Gill was correct in referring him to the extensive file in Town Hall concerning that alley. The facts are that the Hayman subdivision was created before the town annexed that area. Legal advice to the town in 2001 was that when the town annexed subdivided area the town can take jurisdiction over the alley and rights-of-way that are platted within the subdivision, but it takes an affirmative action of the town to do so, which had never occurred. The town considered whether it should or wanted to take jurisdiction of the alley or not, and the Town Council decided not to, which means that it remains a private

matter between the landowners as to what to do with the alley and whether it should remain open or closed or deeded over to the adjacent landowners. Mayor Grove stated that consequently it is his judgment that the town does not have jurisdiction over that alley at this time. It would take an affirmative action of the Town Council to exercise jurisdiction over the alley, which has not occurred, but it could occur if this Town Council wishes to consider it. Mayor Grove advised that as of today it is not a town alley, what is done with that alley is a private matter, and consequently Chief Layman need not respond to complaints about it.

## 6. PUBLIC FORUM

Bob Chambless, of Scottsville, noted that he is taping the Town Council meetings and posting them to YouTube, as many younger viewers do not have cable but do have internet. The challenge he has discovered in this past week in trying to upload meeting video is that the internet here could be improved. Mr. Chambless explained that the problem is “the last mile,” as there is fiber to the server hut but only copper phone wire from there to the houses. Ting acquired 70 percent of Blue Ridge Internet Works, which is bringing gigabit service to Charlottesville as an experiment for industry. Mr. Chambless suggested reaching out to them about pursuing a similar project here. Coax on the telephone poles would reach speeds of 50 megabits per second, which is 10 times faster than what is here now, or have them pull fiber. Gigabit internet availability would encourage companies to move here and improve educational access.

Mr. Chambless also expressed concern that County Supervisor Jane Dittmar has yet to visit Scottsville Elementary during daylight hours and see a class in session prior to voting on the budget that will affect the school. Mr. Chambless complimented the quality of the education and teachers at Scottsville Elementary, and he encouraged the town and the county to support the school.

Wayne Sears, of Buckingham, noted the difficulty in walking to and from Scottsville Lake for trout fishing, as there is a chain across the entrance road. He would be glad to volunteer to bring a chain saw and remove brush, but he will not walk back up that hill. He would like to know when the gate and lock will be removed for easier public access.

Mayor Grove replied that the answer is soon, but the committee determined some time ago not to open that access until they knew what they wanted to do down there and they were ready to fix the vehicular access routes and parking spots. For that reason, they instructed the town administrator not to open the gate until the committee was ready to proceed. He thinks they will be ready to open the upper access once they enter the construction phase on the first part of VCNA.

Mr. Gritsko commented that he is excited that Mr. Sears is coming to fish. There are a number of phases to develop the lake, and the trout came earlier than expected. They are not fully ready to have a handicap access, which they expect to have at this time next year. Access and a dock are part of Phase II. DGIF gave requirements for this season, which included making a parking area outside the gate and a plan for future development. He would like to see the handicap access open as soon as possible.

Mr. Sears asked about any alternative access before this development takes place. Mayor Grove replied that the lake can be accessed from below, coming through Jefferson Street and walking up to the dam, as there is a court decision that allows that. Mayor Grove said that for the moment, coming from above, people will have to park above and walk down.

Mr. Gritsko reiterated that they would like to make it accessible as soon as they can.

Ms. Knotts asked if Mr. Sears can schedule an appointment. Mayor Grove replied no, there is no parking down there, and there will not be until the development is done to allow automobile traffic. Mayor Grove said it is regrettable that it takes so long for these kinds of things to be done, but going through the process especially when working with grants is tortuous and long.

Mr. Gritsko noted that others have expressed similar concerns about accessibility.

Mr. Sears stated that he can appreciate the complications, but the game commission in Virginia is supported 100 percent by hunting and fishing license, with no general fund support, and everybody that buys a fishing license and particularly a trout stamp has paid for that trout in that lake and cannot get to it.

Mayor Grove agreed that it is annoying, but it is temporary, and he will eventually have excellent access to that lake. Mr. Sears stated that he would like to think that, but three months ago he heard it was coming soon, and three weeks ago he heard it was coming soon.

Mr. Gritsko said it was never part of the committee's overall plan to have that open before the summer. Phase I is below the dam and Phase II is above the dam, where the handicap access will come in.

Mr. Sears again expressed frustration that the lake will be stocked eight times by May, and he does not understand why the state bothers to put the fish in there if it is so hard to get down there. Mr. Gritsko noted other stocking locations such as the Hardware River have difficult access, and the town met DGIF's conditions for this season. Mr. Sears said he has fished for trout all over Virginia, and in some places you have to walk through the woods, but he has never had a steel cable keep him out, and he did not have to climb up and down a mountain to catch two or three fish. Mayor Grove explained that they need to keep restricted access until they are ready to open it up in a controlled fashion, with an understanding of the traffic flow, trailers, etc.

Charisse Andrews thanked Jane Dittmar and the other supervisors for all they have done for Scottsville. She read from a letter she has drafted to Ms. Dittmar regarding the disregard for the upkeep of Charlottesville and Albemarle roadways, especially as it relates to litter. She observes that Route 20 has been picked up some. The interchanges along the Charlottesville exits of I-64 are usually littered and overgrown with vines, which are unsightly and can damage or kill the trees, and this is not welcoming to residents or visitors. Ms. Andrews is concerned about Route 20 from Charlottesville to Scottsville, a designated Virginia Byway

and Constitution Route. In addition to problems with garbage and litter, a greater concern is the nearly two-mile stretch near Esmont, which a huge number of trees were removed for the installation of new power poles. Ms. Andrews is surprised that above ground poles were installed when studies show that underground is better, and she is appalled by the condition along the side of the road. She had assumed that the company responsible would return to clean and grade. While most long logs were removed, many logs remain piled. The work destroyed not just hardwood trees but also redbuds, dogwoods, and wildflowers. Weeds overtook the cleared area last summer, and the mowing that usually takes place along Route 20 during the summer cannot transpire because of the stumps, large limbs, and logs. A Virginia Scenic Byway deserves better, and the road as it stands now does not exemplify the designation. Ms. Andrews asked if Ms. Dittmar can look into this, noting the importance of Route 20 as an entrance corridor to Scottsville, which depends on tourism. Ms. Andrews also suggested enacting a ban on plastic shopping bags and deposits on cans and bottles to prevent litter, as the James River and the many creeks feeding it are part of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Additional litter signs are needed, as well.

Mayor Grove thanked Ms. Andrews for her comments, noting that they would all agree that their beautiful Route 20 has been unnecessarily and badly damaged, and whoever is responsible for the logging has failed to complete the work. Mr. Prichard agreed, and he asked if the strip of scraggly trees remaining was required.

Ms. Andrews said the strip was not required, and trees from outside of the cleared swath could still fall and hit the lines. She expressed concern that similar clearing is occurring near the former Augusta Coop location.

Mayor Grove noted that this type of work occurs without notice to the town or the opportunity to comment.

Scottsville District Supervisor Jane Dittmar commented that with regard to trash, she called about Route 20. She explained that they used to use manpower from the jail on work release, so it was not cost prohibitive, but the program was shut down after someone walked off the job. There are other roads in addition to Route 20 that used to benefit from that. Now they call VDOT and adopt-a-highway volunteers. Last year she checked on the logging issue and was told that the right-of-way belongs to VDOT and they were looking at habitat sheltering by leaving logs there. Ms. Dittmar will revisit this, and she is concerned to hear that the town is not notified of this activity. She will also look into what kinds of systematic cleanup can be expected and litter signs.

Ms. Dittmar related that she would like to bring the new county economic development director, Faith McClintic, and the new health department director, Dr. Denise Bonds, to visit Scottsville. The county passed its budget, with the majority of the board voting for an additional penny beyond the dedicated fire and rescue to avoid future tax increases. Ms. Dittmar voted against this final penny, preferring to address the issue when the need arises. The final county budget includes the funding for additional hours on Wednesdays and Thursdays at the Scottsville Library starting July 1. Ms. Dittmar stated that they continue to support the emerging daycare programs in the area, and the Boys and Girls Club will soon

celebrate its first year. Ms. Dittmar noted the upcoming work session and public hearing on the six-year road plan, and input on project ranking is welcomed. New FCC mandates with regard to wireless went into effect in April, requiring changes to county ordinances.

Ms. Gill noted that Bob Chambless spoke earlier requesting that Ms. Dittmar visit Scottsville Elementary. Ms. Dittmar replied that she has been there, but not this year, and she is happy to go back. Ms. Dittmar said that SES principal Sharon Wilcox spoke at the recent town hall about peeling paint and linoleum, and Ms. Dittmar asked the school board about budgeting for this and learned that this sort of work can be done by maintenance personnel outside of budget consideration. However, the school board must prioritize any expansions, fields, or other capital needs, and the county then gives the funding.

Mr. Chambless asked about the state funding shortfall. Ms. Dittmar explained that the county has a revenue sharing agreement with the schools, where 60 percent of revenues go to the schools and 40 stays for general government and other obligations. Ms. Dittmar noted that the county has exceeded its allocation this year to ACPS by \$2 million over the revenue sharing agreement, in part to make up for the reduction in state funding, and the school shortfall has been closed to \$250,000. Ms. Dittmar described the school district's achievements in class sizes and awards, commenting that great things are going on, but they need to work on capital needs.

Mr. Chambless asked if the Bright Stars program that was cut last year has been reinstated. Ms. Dittmar clarified that the school board defunded Bright Stars and the Board of Supervisors picked that up.

#### 7. AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FY 2016 BUDGET FOR PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Grove noted that the draft budget may well be adjusted based on public input or council members' concerns. A significant increase would need to be re-advertised but decreases would not.

Mr. Smith moved to advertise the FY 2016 Budget for public hearing. Ms. Kerlin seconded the motion.

Mr. Gritsko commented that he has since had further advisement from the Tourism Committee, and he would like to increase his request by \$500. Ms. Kerlin said that she and Chief Layman will review the draft again. Mayor Grove stated that the budget can always be fine-tuned; and once adopted, adjustments and supplemental appropriations can be made, but its purpose is to provide a forecast.

The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

#### 8. RESOLUTION REGARDING RESCISSION OF APPOINTMENT OF STEVEN MEEKS TO THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD

Ms. Kerlin moved that the council resolve that the services of Steven Meeks are no longer

required on the Architectural Review Board and that his appointment to the board is hereby rescinded. Ms. Gill seconded the motion.

Mr. Gritsko asked Mayor Grove to state a summary of their view as to why they should do this. Mayor Grove stated that the view of the council as he understands it is that Mr. Meeks is not an appropriate member of the ARB for a couple of reasons: expressed antagonism towards the town and town projects and perhaps more importantly the allowance of the deterioration of 135 Warren Street in direct contravention of town ordinances that are significantly to be enforced by the ARB, a conflict of interest.

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. Prichard	<u>Yes</u>	Mr. Smith	<u>Yes</u>

The motion passed 6-0.

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

*Planning Commission:* Mr. Smith reported that the commission did not meet this month.

*Government Services Committee:* Mr. Prichard reported that the committee will meet next Thursday, April 30, at 5:00 p.m.

*Town Maintenance Committee:* Ms. Knotts reported that 140 bags of litter were collected during the fifth annual cleanup, with thanks to the volunteers and in particular Kim and Gene Yoder. The next meeting is April 28 at 5:00 p.m.

*Farmers' Market:* Ms. Knotts reported that the farmers' market committee met last Thursday to consider commodity items as a supplement out of season.

*Public Safety Committee:* Ms. Kerlin reported that the committee discussed the private alley behind Ms. Gill's property and a USDA grant for a police car.

*Tourism Committee:* Mr. Gritsko reported that the Tourism Committee will meet Sunday, April 26, at 7:00 p.m. The next VCNA planning meeting is Thursday, April 23, at 3:00 p.m. Mr. Gritsko commented that the bottom line is to create a park that is accessible, and that is why they have worked on the four access points. An intern is helping to complete the park master plan. Ms. Knotts and Mr. Gritsko expressed appreciation to Lydia Wilson for her help on the Tourism Committee.

*Arts and Culture Committee:* Ms. Gill reported that Scottsville Second Saturdays kicks off May 9. This monthly event will include an art walk with artworks hosted at several businesses, beer and wine tastings, Jammin' on the James, and movie showings. The Batteau Festival is June 24 and will be held at the riverfront this year at the James River Reeling and

Rafting Campground. Ms. Gill thanked Michelle Gagliano, Elizabeth Liebermann, and Claudia Pinto for their work on Scottsville Second Saturdays.

#### 10. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Goodwin noted that May 2 will be a busy day, with six bands at the Music of the Piedmont event and the Chili Cook-off to benefit the Scottsville Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Goodwin said an additional 48 bags of litter were collected on the Buckingham side, for a total of nearly 200.

Mr. Goodwin explained that the police car is approximately \$36,000 outfitted and will qualify for 75 percent cost-share with USDA. Additional OAG funding is not likely at this time. Chief Layman's car is slated for replacement due to its age and mileage. The town match would be \$9,000 if the grant is received. Mr. Goodwin requested permission to proceed with the application process. He encouraged that they not delay a purchase to the point that all three vehicles have to be replaced at the same time.

Mayor Grove commented that problem is that the budget forecast for 2016 does not have an extra \$9,000 in it, so they will have to consider where to find the money in the context of the upcoming budget hearings.

Mr. Prichard remarked that public safety is the largest portion of the budget, and a significant amount of resources go outside the town limits. They had talked before about the county offsetting some of that. He proposed that they revisit the cost-share discussion.

Mayor Grove replied that it is not a one-way street. The county police give the town great support; it is a cooperative effort.

Mr. Goodwin noted that USDA offers a low-interest loan that could be used for the match, with no prepayment penalty. Mayor Grove asked Mr. Goodwin to send council members an email on that to keep in mind as they study the budget.

Ms. Gill asked if they need to give permission to move forward. Mayor Grove replied yes, at some point. He asked if it is the sense to of the council to move forward with the grant process, reserving final decision. Council members agreed.

Ms. Gill asked if anyone is opposed to US Cellular's use of the council chambers on June 5 and 6 for a promotional event. Mr. Prichard explained that they previously set up a one-day store here, as they do not have a store in the area. Mayor Grove commented that he is not interested in giving free use of town hall to a business concern. Council members agreed to direct Mr. Goodwin to negotiate a fee for the use of the space.

Ms. Knotts complimented Nancy Bruce on the appearance of the flower boxes. Ms. Bruce noted that Kingsland Greenhouse donated the plants and the bulbs were sponsored by the Virginia Creepers.

Ms. Bruce noted the need to remove the no trespassing signs at the Jefferson Street entrance to VCNA.

Mr. Smith asked Chief Layman or Mr. Goodwin to address a problem with food delivery trucks parking on the wrong side of the street.

Chief Layman asked about the music event on May 2. Mr. Smith explained that the Piedmont Virginia Fiddle and Banjo Association is having its spring membership drive under the farmers' market pavilion, six local bluegrass bands will play, the event is free and open to the public, and it is the unofficial kickoff for the farmers' market season. Chief Layman asked if security will be needed. Mr. Smith replied no, there is no alcohol, just family entertainment.

11. ADJOURNMENT – Upon a motion by Ms. Kerlin, seconded by Ms. Knotts, the meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.