

Hurt, Virginia

July 13, 2016

The Town of Hurt Public Works and Relations Committee held a called committee meeting Wednesday, July 13, 2016 at 3:30 p.m. at Town Hall. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the possibility of obtaining water for the town from the former Burlington site, and any other issues that may come before the committee.

Meeting opened at 3:30 p.m.

Committee members present were Kevin Hines, Glenn Mitchell and Norman Bivens. Also present were Donney Johnson (Councilman), Ed Hodges (Public Works Director), and Susan Nichols (Clerk).

There was a brief discussion about possible miscommunication between the Planning Commission and Council regarding the special use permit request filed by Mr. Walter McCormick, dba McCormick's Riverside Arena, to add "Special Events and Exhibitions" to the list of approved uses for properties within the town that are zoned commercial. Everyone agreed Mr. McCormick should not have to present to Council each time an event is scheduled. It was decided that after the first event is held, and assuming that the event goes well, Council will revisit the matter.

Mr. Hodges shared that when he started working for the town (2007), average daily water usage was about 86,000 gallons/day, but that since then the figure has climbed to about 106,000 gallons/day. He added that Hurt's current purchase contract with Altavista was made about 15 years ago and allows for 250,000 gallons/day, but that some potential economic development opportunities for Hurt will cause a significant increase to the daily usage and surpass the limit. Thus, if the water plant at the Burlington site was up and running, it would benefit the Town of Hurt.

Councilman Bivens said this needs to be done in phases. Altavista would not be able to supply Hurt with such demand, but if the water plant were operational, it could serve the Town of Hurt and be able to provide businesses with water.

Mr. Hodges advised that in the next three to four years, he expects Hurt's water usage to reach between 300,000 and 350,000 gallons/day. He does feel that if Hurt approached Altavista with a request, Hurt would be able to get an additional 100,000 gallons/day. However, he does feel that the time has come to form a steering committee to work on getting a plan together to ensure that there would be enough water for citizens, existing businesses, and also potential new businesses.

Mr. Hodges went on to explain that when Mr. Hurt brought the textile company to the town and the water treatment facility was built, there was an agreement that the facility would provide water to the town, and for a time they did so for certain areas. However, as the company grew and thus its demand for water, treatment of water for drinking purposes stopped and wells were drilled. If that facility can be revived, brought up to standards and begin producing potable water, then the Town of Hurt may even be able to sell water to Altavista or Campbell County.

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Councilman Bivens shared that one of the owners of the old Burlington property wants the Town of Hurt to run the water facility if it becomes operational.

Mr. Hodges also said there are several citizens in the town that would also like public sewer. He has discussed this with the owners of the Burlington site; permits are still in place to provide such service, and so there is an opportunity for Hurt with that as well. He added that since there is a limit on how much sewage Altavista can accept without having to do an upgrade, then why not try to keep that within Hurt's town limits as well? But, he advised, the water is the most important thing right now.

Councilman Bivens and Mr. Hodges met with the forester who is evaluating the Key Industrial Park for prospective timber sale, and were advised that the next step is to go to Chatham and obtain a copy of the plat so they would know the boundaries. He will come back, check and flag those boundaries, determine how much timber is there and estimate its worth, then send out to 50 - 80 bidders. If the town decides not to proceed in an arrangement with him, then it will be billed about \$2,000 for his services to date.

Councilman Hines said he felt that any meetings pertaining to the water should include the Economic Development Committee, and all agreed.

Mr. Hodges will discuss the meeting with Mayor Poindexter and let him approach the other towns if he feels it is the time to move forward with a steering committee/meeting.

Southern Air met with Mr. Hodges on Friday to look at repair work that needs to be done in the water vault. Now, almost a week later, and after calling and leaving two messages, Mr. Hodges has not heard anything from them. Today, he got a call from F.L. Showalter indicating that Southern Air had reached out to them, asking if they would call regarding the repair work. The repair work needs to be done soon.

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

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Susan Nichols, Clerk