

Town of Hurt, Virginia

July 9, 2019

The Public Works Committee held a called meeting Tuesday, July 9, 2019, at Hurt Town Hall in Council Chambers. The meeting opened at 6:37 p.m. and a quorum was present.

Members present: Watson, Doss, and Barksdale- Hill.

Also present: Johnson and Mayor Poindexter

Mr. Adams opened the meeting by first discussing a water rate structure proposal recently presented by Mr. Gary Hodnett, a concerned citizen. The proposal is to switch to a metered/volume-based charge that would be fairer to everyone. Currently, there is a base charge of \$70 quarterly for up to 6,000 gallons and \$5.50 additional charge for every 1,000 gallons over. Vice-Mayor Watson indicated he does not like having no base charge at all, because that covers daily expenses such as meter repairs, salaries, etc. that do not go away. Mr. Hodnett suggested setting a \$3/month meter fee in addition to the metered usage. Mayor Poindexter and Mr. Watson want to see a video presentation of the proposal to better understand it. Mr. Watson shared the water study provided similar information with lowering the base fee and lowering the 6,000-gallon overage threshold. He also feels that the \$3 minimum is too low, and the proposal would make it harder on the wealthy because they would be carrying the burden of the lower users. Mr. Hodnett explained that 56% of the households in town use over 10,000 gallons per quarter. Why make the people that use less than 1,000 a quarter pay the same thing as the "super users"? Mayor Poindexter asked if this would be going from one extreme to the other.

The second part of the meeting dealt with town nuisance ordinances. Mr. Adams referred to Sec. 10-17 (Condition of Premises) and Sec. 8-43 (Inoperable Vehicles). He feels that more needs to be done to enforce these ordinances to help clean up the town.

The biggest issue with condition of premises is overgrown lawns. The ordinance states that grass/weed vegetation should not be over twelve inches tall. He said there are numerous properties in the town that are unattended and should be given citations.

Another issue is with inoperable vehicles. Mr. Adams read the ordinance aloud, stated that it is self-explanatory, and asked why this is not being addressed. Officer Lovelace advised that the vehicles must be visible from the street, as officers cannot enter a property on speculation, which is trespassing.

Mr. Adams and Mr. Watson requested a detailed report from the PD at each Council meeting. They feel that will show accountability and can be followed up on.

Mr. Hodges updated the committee on several items:

- A) The grant application to move the water intake and remove Hurt from the Town of Altavista's clear well is being held up by VDH. They wanted to make some changes to the wording on the work order. Several attempts have been made to call them with no response. Mr. Adams suggested Mrs. Frazier and Mr. Hodges call them every other day until this is done.
- B) There are no issues on the main water line currently.
- C) The fire hydrants will be flushed mid to late August (around 51 hydrants).
- D) There are on-going pop-up leaks on service lines throughout the town.
- E) A wastewater study needs to be done this year. There are areas in the Town that are having sewer issues and need public sewer.

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Mr. Hodges is very concerned about East Hurt Road shifting. This has been happening over several years. The main water line runs along the right side going downhill between Darrell Lane and the pump station, and the shifting has already caused some of the line to be covered by pavement. If there is a break, the road will be blown to pieces by pressure from the tank before the water can be turned off.

Last, we need to move forward in establishing an emergency management committee to work on developing an emergency plan for the Town.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Susan Frazier

Susan Frazier, Clerk

Gary Poindexter

Gary Poindexter, Mayor