

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Council of the Town of Blackstone, Virginia, held in the Council Chambers located at 100 W. Elm Street, Blackstone, Virginia, on Tuesday, January 20, 2009

There Were Present:

Mayor: William D. Coleburn

Council Members: L. Benjamin Green, John W. Hill, Jr., C. Duncan Quicke, Barbara Thompson, J. A. Wilson, Jr., Constance T. Wynn

Town Attorney: Kennon C. Walden, Jr.

Town Staff: Jennifer H. Beck, Director of Transportation and Community Development; David Dunn, Assistant Town Manager; Nicholas C. Kuzmiak, Police Chief; David Ostrander, Director of Public Works; J. Larry Palmore, Town Manager; Joan R. Palmore, Town Clerk; Charles C. Wells, Finance Director

Those Absent:

Council Member: Alfred V. Tucker

Mayor Coleburn called the meeting to order and Councilwoman Wynn led in prayer.

Mayor Coleburn stated that Councilman Alfred Tucker is still recovering from his accident back in October and he is in our thoughts and prayers.

Mayor Coleburn welcomed Clarence Simpson, Chairman of the Nottoway County Board of Supervisors to the meeting.

Chairman Simpson stated that he is glad to be here tonight and he hopes to continue a good working relationship with the Town.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Coleburn led those in the Chambers in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Coleburn opened the Public Hearing and asked the Town Clerk to read the Notice as follows:

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The public is hereby notified that there will be a public hearing held by the Town Council of the Town of Blackstone, Virginia, on Tuesday, January 20, 2009, at 7:00 p.m., at the Town Hall, 100 W. Elm Street, Blackstone, Virginia, to provide an opportunity for the citizens of the Town of Blackstone to comment on the Town's application for funding under the Federal Transit Administration's Section 5311 Rural Transportation Program. The FTA funding will assist the Town of Blackstone to recover a portion of the operating and capital costs for the Blackstone Area Bus System for the period of October 1, 2009, to September 30, 2010. A copy of the application may be examined at the Blackstone Area Bus System, 101 BABS Lane, Blackstone, Virginia, on weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m., and 5:00 p.m.

Mayor Coleburn asked for public comment.

Manager Palmore stated that the reason for this public hearing is so we can continue to seek Federal and State funding of the transit system. Due to budget reasons, we have to submit the application now.

There being no comment, Mayor Coleburn closed the public hearing and opened the regular meeting.

Mayor Coleburn asked how much money will we be receiving and how much will it cost the Town.

Jennifer Beck explained that this information is in the Resolution. She added that there is nothing new this year other than a feasibility study for Chase City, Virginia, and Chase City is paying for the study. The application is actually less money than we have asked for in the past.

Mayor Coleburn asked is the Town seeking \$410,000 and by doing so the Town would put up \$176,000.

Mrs. Beck explained that this includes all the systems and Blackstone has to file the application for all the systems. She stated that the Blackstone/Crewe budget is \$216,000 but of that Nottoway County pays \$10,000, the Federal Government pays **half of the \$216,000**, and the State kicks in about 35%.

MINUTES

Councilman Green made a motion to dispense with reading and approve as presented the Minutes of the December 15, 2008, and January 7, 2009, Council Meetings. The motion was seconded by Councilman Quicke and approved unanimously. Vote:

Councilman Quicke	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye
Councilman Wilson	-	Aye
Councilman Hill	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye

VISITORS

1. Lt. Col. Mike Starling

Manager Palmore thanked Lt. Col. Mike Starling and the other marines that have been stationed at Fort Pickett for all they have done for Blackstone and the surrounding counties. He stated that we have ordered a banner that will show that we support their mission. He stated that we just can't thank them enough for all they have done. He added that Fort Pickett is the place to train.

Lt. Col. Mike Starling stated that this training relies heavily on the community. He also thanked the Town for all they have done to welcome them into the area. He informed Council that they are deploying this marine expeditionary unit in another three months. He stated that he thoroughly enjoys coming to Fort Pickett and Blackstone and he appreciates the Town extending its generosity to them.

2. Will Bragg

Manager Palmore welcomed recently retired employee William Bragg, who worked for the Town for 18 years. He stated that Mr. Bragg was a very dependable employee and he thanked him for his service.

Mr. Bragg stated that he enjoyed working for the Town but for health reasons he had to retire.

3. Michael Day, 310 Irving Street, addressed Council and stated that he would like to use the Memorial Center on February 28th at 2:00 p.m., for a wedding reception and he would like to be able to stay in the building until 8:00 p.m., that night.

Councilman Hill made a motion to grant Mr. Day's request. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Thompson and approved unanimously. Vote:

Councilman Quicke	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye
Councilman Wilson	-	Aye
Councilman Hill	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye

4. Sam Moncure, addressed Council and stated that these are very unusual times, as we all know. The economy is going south in a hurry. He feels we need to take a look at our budget as early as we can this year and if possible we need to make a goal of having a zero budget. In other words, we need to live within the limitations of the budget. Times are tight and they are going to get tighter. He has a feeling that everyone is in the same boat. If we could just live within what we are doing now, he feels we will make a good head start at coming back.

Mayor Coleburn asked when do we start the budget process.

Manager Palmore answered usually around April 15th. He added that we have to wait on the General Assembly to see what they are going to do. He addressed Mr. Moncure and stated that we are below a zero budget right now in spite of the fact that our revenue stream has been cut severally.

Mr. Moncure suggested getting rid of our equipment and bid out some of the jobs.

Mayor Coleburn thanked Mr. Moncure for his concern and his comments.

5. Kirby Woolfolk, Dept of Forestry, addressed Council and thanked them for having him here tonight. He stated that he is advocating a new program, which is the Tree City USA Program. This is a program that provides direction, assistance and National recognition for community and urban forestry projects. In order to become a part of Tree City USA, a community develops a plan for promoting professional and sustainable urban forestry practices. He added that this is a way of unifying the natural landscape of your community which Blackstone is already doing in many ways. **He stated that this** program comes with a lot of benefits. It promotes cleaner air, more shade, and it will help to improve the quality of life in Blackstone. This program would help to further portray the kind of image that he feels this community wants to project. To become a part of this program, a tree board would need to be set up within the community. This board would then need to draft a tree care ordinance. He added that the cost would be \$2.00 per capita, so for a community this size, it would cost around \$8,000. He suggested that Blackstone may already be paying this amount per year now. The last stipulation would be the observance of Arbor Day. This could be something like having a event in the park or getting the schools involved. Once these standards are met and the application sent

in and accepted, Blackstone would become a member tree community. He added that Blackstone is in a great position because it is already in the process of doing a Downtown Revitalization project.

Councilman Quicke asked how long has this program been in affect.

Mr. Woolfolk stated that this has been in existence for the last 18 years.

Manager Palmore asked can leaf removal count as the Town's in-kind match.

Mr. Woolfolk answered, dead tree removal, stump removal, even door prizes at the Arbor Day event would count.

Manager Palmore stated that he sees no reason why we shouldn't move forward with this because we are already spending the money. It will be a plus for us.

Mayor Coleburn referred this to the DBI Board.

Council discussed this further.

Mayor Coleburn thanked Mr. Woolfolk for his presentation.

6. Cheryl Wilson-Sprinkle, Chamber of Commerce, addressed Council and asked that the Town agree to become a paying member of the Chamber of Commerce. She believes this will foster a good relationship with the Chamber, the Town and DBI. She is encouraged to hear about the banner the Town Manager mentioned earlier, welcoming and supporting the troops at Fort Pickett. Ms. Wilson-Sprinkle stated that the Chamber recognizes that Fort Pickett is valuable to the Town. The first week of January there were over 5,000 troops stationed at Fort Pickett. She stated that the second request she has tonight is for the Town to consider establishing a bus route that will go onto Fort Pickett so the soldiers can come off the base into Town. The Chamber Board feels this is important. She has spoken to many of the soldiers and they all want this.

Mayor Coleburn asked what is the cost of being a dues paying member of the Chamber.

Ms. Sprinkle answered that it would cost around \$100.00 a year.

Mayor Coleburn asked the Town Manager about the Chamber's second request to establish a bus route to Fort Pickett.

Manager Palmore answered that we have been working on this for over a year now. One of the issues is someone has to come up with a local match and another issue is that a public transit cannot be stopped at the gate which is what would happen in order to get onto the military base. He is very much in favor of a bus route to Fort Pickett, as he feels it would be a great thing for Blackstone. We just need to get these issues worked out.

Mayor Coleburn asked about referring this to the Airport and Transportation committee.

Manager Palmore would like to work further with the Fort Pickett Commander.

Mayor Coleburn feels that this may have to be a joint effort with the merchants association, and others.

Manager Palmore feels that the Town, the Chamber of Commerce, Fort Pickett and the Merchants Association should all work together to make this happen.

Mayor Coleburn asked is there anyway we could get this done before budget time.

Manager Palmore answered that he will do all he can.

Ms. Sprinkle feels that this is something that we need to do.

Manager Palmore stated that he could not agree with her more but the Colonel has to agree that the bus will not be stopped at the gate.

Ms. Sprinkle stated there are some things that need to be worked out but, she added, this is going to happen one way or the other. The Chamber has already approached a non-profit group (STEPS) out of Lunenburg but the Chamber wanted to give the Town an opportunity to address this first.

Mayor Coleburn thanked Ms. Sprinkle and the others present from the Chamber.

Councilman Green stated that on Ms. Sprinkle's first request, he has some information that his wife compiled showing what other municipalities have done. Basically what this says is that half of the Chambers from other localities didn't want any strings attached with their localities.

Councilman Green made a motion to become a member of the Chamber of Commerce and to pay dues up to \$200.00 a year. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn.

Discussion:

Councilman Hill asked does the Town charge the Chamber for set up during the Arts and Craft Festival.

Manager Palmore answered, no sir.

Councilman Quicke feels that we need to work together and he agreed with Councilman Green's motion.

Councilman Green stated that the Town has done a tremendous amount for the Chamber. A lot of behind the scenes things have been done by the Town. He asked Ms. Wilson-Sprinkle doesn't this show that the Town supports the Chamber.

Ms. Wilson-Sprinkle feels that the Town becoming a dues paying member shows solidarity. She added that it is worth it for under \$200.00 a year.

Councilman Green stated that the Town may not have been an official member but the Town has certainly been very supportive of the Chamber.

Ms. Wilson-Sprinkle agreed and stated that she is very, very happy for all the Town has done.

The motion being made a seconded was approved as follows. Vote:

Councilman Quicke	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye
Councilman Wilson	-	Aye
Councilman Hill	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye

Manager Palmore stated that this is the first time that he has ever heard that the Town is not a member of the Blackstone Chamber. He added that whether or not the Council votes to pay the Chamber dues will not affect what we do for the Chamber because we will continue to support the them in anyway that we can.

Ms. Wilson-Sprinkle stated that the Chamber really, really appreciates all the Town has done.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Tony Bradford stated that unless there are questions, he doesn't have a report.

Councilman Quicke asked about the figures on the monthly report.

Fire Chief Bradford answered that they run from December 1st to November 30th. He asked Councilman Quicke to go back and look at the November 30th figure and that should give him what he is looking for.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Councilman Wilson made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$507,160.99. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hill.

Discussion:

Councilman Hill and Councilman Quicke asked several questions on the bills.

The motion to pay the bills was approved as follows.

Vote:

Councilman Quicke	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye
Councilman Wilson	-	Aye
Councilman Hill	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports.

ANSWERS TO SAM MONCURE'S QUESTIONS

Councilwoman Wynn made a motion to provide the data to Mr. Moncure, with regards to his questions at the last Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hill and approved unanimously. Vote:

Councilman Quicke	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye
Councilman Wilson	-	Aye
Councilman Hill	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye

Manager Palmore handed the information to Mr. Moncure right then.

COMMITTEE TO HONOR FOUNDERS OF BLACKSTONE FAMILY PRACTICE CENTER

Mayor Coleburn appointed the following Committee to honor the founders of the Blackstone Family Practice Center:

- Deborah Alder
- Chuck Beale
- William Clarke
- Jim Hasbrouck
- Dr. Charles Rosenbaum
- Dr. Steven Spence
- Jane Lee Wright
- Constance T. Wynn
- Frank Yancey

Mayor Coleburn asked for Council’s approval.

The motion to appoint the above committee was made by Councilman Green and seconded by Councilman Quicke. Vote:

Councilman Quicke	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye
Councilman Wilson	-	Aye
Councilman Hill	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye

DMA - RESOLUTION FROM TOWN OF KENBRIDGE

Manager Palmore stated that the Town of Kenbridge is going on record supporting Blackstone in its opposition to the Department of Military Affairs move to Sandston. A copy of their Resolution is in the Council’s packet.

GOALS

Mayor Coleburn asked what is Council’s pleasure on the list of goals as follows:

- Pursue Hospital in Blackstone
- Form a Committee to Honor Founders of Blackstone Family Practice Center
- Reduce Debt
- Reduce Littering
- Recycling
- Dilapidated Buildings

Oppose Department of Military Affairs Move

Councilman Hill agrees with these goals but he feels we need to take some action on the DMA move. He feels that we should partner with Nottoway County and he suggested going to Legislative Day on February 5th to meet with the legislators.

Manager Palmore feels that we need to have someone looking at this issue from the inside and not just rely on our Congressman's help. We just learned about a week ago that it cost over \$2.5 million just to move the headquarters here 10 years ago. Right now they are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on the headquarters building at Pickett– a building they are getting ready to leave. He added that this move is going to be costly to the taxpayers. He suggested hiring Barry Steinberg or someone who could get us the facts. This is one of the most important issues that we will be facing especially when you are talking about taking over 200 jobs away from this small locality.

Mayor Coleburn asked what does Council want us to do.

Councilman Green asked has the County considered a lobbyist.

Chairman Clarence Simpson stated that Nottoway County wants to partner with Blackstone. He added that this is a serious operation and we really need to partner together and get things moving in Washington.

Councilman Green asked how can we get together with the Board and get this going.

Chairman Simpson answered that he doesn't know how much it will cost but the amount of money spent will be well worth it.

Council discussed this further.

Councilman Hill feels we need to work with the County and we need to show up on Legislative Day and meet with our legislators.

Manager Palmore stated that this is Federal funding that we are talking about but the National Guard is going to have to ask for some things from the State. He agreed that we need to go to Legislative Day with Nottoway County and meet with as many of the legislators as we can.

Council agreed by Common Consent to have as many Council Members as possible to go to Legislative Day.

Chairman Simpson suggested that the Town Manager talk to County Administrator Roark as soon as possible.

Councilman Hill made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Thompson to adopt the goals as listed. Vote:

Councilman Quicke	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye
Councilman Wilson	-	Aye
Councilman Hill	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye

Councilman Green made a motion authorizing as many members of Council as possible, to go to Legislative Day on February 5th and for the Town to pay for the accommodations. The motion was seconded by Councilman Quicke and approved unanimously. Vote:

Councilman Quicke	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye
Councilman Wilson	-	Aye
Councilman Hill	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Manager Palmore informed Council that the Town received a Notice of Violation from the Health Department with regards to the violation of our yearly average of Halo Acidic Acids. We are trying to improve these limits by increased flushing. All Town water customers will be notified of this violation before February 9, 2009. He stated that our water is completely safe

ON-GOING PROJECTS

Downtown Revitalization - Everything is moving along. We are down to three buildings as far as the facades and we are continuing negotiations between the contractor and the owner on one of the facades. We hope one of the other owners will sign on tomorrow. A pre-construction conference is scheduled for Friday.

Castles Trailer Park - Things are going great. The first residents will be moving in very soon.

Medical Center - We are moving forward. He feels that by the end of April, first of May the building will be finished. He added that he can't say enough great things about Kenbridge Construction and their supervisor on site.

Council discussed the dental office portion.

Manager Palmore stated that Bon-Secours has to decide whether part of the building will be a dental office, physical therapy or whatever it may be.

REQUEST FROM BLACKSTONE LION’S CLUB

Mayor Coleburn stated that Richard Lee with the Blackstone Lion’s Club approached him recently about building a pavilion on either School Street or Lester Street. Mr. Lee proposes that the Lion’s Club would build the pavilion and there would be no cost to the Town as far as construction. He stated that this sounds like a good thing.

Manager Palmore stated that we only have a lease from the School Board and therefore this request would need to go to the School Board first.

Mayor Coleburn asked for Council’s thoughts.

Councilman Hill stated that he doesn’t have a problem with it but he feels that the whole plan needs to be laid out for Council to consider.

Council discussed this further.

Manager Palmore feels this would be a great thing but Councilman Hill’s concerns are right on target–this issue needs to go before the School Board.

Councilman Wilson stated that we might want to consider giving some input on where it will be located.

REAPPOINT MANAGER PALMORE TO THE VMEA BOARD

Councilman Hill made a motion to reappoint J. Larry Palmore, Town Manager, to the Virginia Municipal Electric Association Board for 2009. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson and approved as follows. Vote:

Councilman Quicke	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye
Councilman Wilson	-	Aye
Councilman Hill	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye

RESOLUTION - STATE AID FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Councilman Wilson made a motion to adopt the attached Resolution on State Aid for Public Transportation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Quicke.

After further discussion, the motion was approved as follows. Vote:

Councilman Quicke	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye
Councilman Wilson	-	Aye
Councilman Hill	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye

POLICE DEPARTMENT - NEW OFFICERS

Manager Palmore stated that as you can see in Council's packet we have three new police officers. He added that as Council knows by now, two of these officers had been working for the Town of Kenbridge. He stated that Kenbridge and Blackstone are great friends and we will always remain that way. Dicky Harris, Mayor of Kenbridge has worked untold hours in Southside Virginia and he could not have a better friend than Dicky Harris. Manager Palmore has spoken to Mayor Harris and he totally understands our position. Manager Palmore assured the Council that we did not cherry-pick the candidates from Kenbridge. We conducted interviews and chose the best candidates for the job. He explained that we cannot contact a current employer of an applicant unless the applicant gives us permission and he added, we will continue to follow the laws as we understand them. He realizes that he should have called Mayor Coleburn so he could have called Mayor Harris, after the hires, not before. Manager Palmore added that he should have called Mayor Harris himself, after the hires and he dropped the ball on that end. He stated that in the future, we will be informing the Council Members of new hires in all positions, not just in the Police Department, as soon as we possibly can through email or phone calls. He added that he has much admiration for our Police Chief who has worked long hours over the last four months covering all the positions in the Department. He hopes everyone understands the decisions that were made.

Councilman Wilson stated that he is surprised that Mayor Harris from Kenbridge got upset about this, especially with the economy like it is he certainly couldn't fault anyone for trying to better themselves.

Mayor Coleburn stated that this is a great point and the good old days of calling an employer certainly don't exist anymore. He feels that there were some facts that were in dispute and he is very comfortable with how it was handled. We certainly didn't call anyone up and try to recruit them from Kenbridge. He added that maybe we should have called Mayor Harris just to cushion the blow a little.

Manager Palmore stated that he understands Mayor Harris' and his Town Manager's feelings about being a training ground for someone else because Blackstone has been a training ground for other departments in the area for many years. He added that Mayor Harris has helped him tremendously over the years with grants and many other things. He has spent many untold hours with the fire department. He stated that we stand ready 24 hours a day to help the Town of

Kenbridge and Mayor Harris in anyway that we can . Manager Palmore added that our Police Department absolutely did not do anything wrong and he is very proud of our Police Chief. He makes us prouder every day.

Mayor Coleburn stated that he would like a little more information on the employees when they are hired such as where they came from and how many years experience they have. He informed Council that he was at a New Year's Eve party and a Kenbridge official asked him when did we start going after their police officers and Mayor Coleburn told him that he didn't know that we had even hired any new officers and he sure didn't know that they were from Kenbridge. He feels that he should have been notified. He stated that for clarity, he doesn't feel that the Employment Committee needs to be involved in all hires, only for the police department. When we hire a police officer, we give them a gun, a night stick and pepper spray, we send them to school, give them a uniform, and a police vehicle. He asked could we consider having the Employment Committee involved because that way they would know when a new officer is hired.

Manager Palmore stated that this is totally up to the Council. He explained the history on the Department that several years ago a study was done and one of the recommendations of that study was for Council to put the police department under the Town Manager. He explained that if the Employment Committee wants to be involved with hiring, the members would need to be willing to give up eight to ten hours a day to do these interviews. He added that if the Council doesn't trust the Police Chief enough to make the decisions on hiring and firing, then it is time to replace him.

Mayor Coleburn stated that this is not about not trusting the Police Chief. He asked don't the citizens expect the Council Members to have some input on hiring a police officer.

Manager Palmore stated that the employee who works at the Water Plant could do far more harm than any one police officer. He reminded Council that we paid thousands of dollars to get the police department straightened out and before this study was done, the police officers used to go to the Council Members and complain about their problems. He added that he doesn't think that the Council has had to worry with this since that time.

Mayor Coleburn stated that he doesn't have an ax to grind, he just wants clarity because if the Council had been involved in the hiring, then the Council would have been the first to know that we just hired two new officers.

Councilman Hill feels that the Council should be informed when a police officer is offered a position.

Councilman Quicke stated that if the Employment Committee is going to be involved at all, they should be involved with every hire, not just with the Police Department. Although, he doesn't know that he agrees with the Employment Committee being involved with all hires.

Manager Palmore stated that many hours are involved in hiring. The last time the Police Department interviewed for officers, they started at 9:00 a.m., and didn't finish until around 6:00 p.m. He added that's a long day and a lot to ask of the Employment Committee. If it isn't broke, we shouldn't be trying to fix it.

Mayor Coleburn wants to know what Council thinks.

Councilwoman Wynn stated that she can see where the Mayor is coming from.

Councilman Wilson stated that we are better off not knowing everything.

Councilwoman Wynn feels that the Council needs to be notified early enough so that this situation doesn't happen again.

Councilman Hill changed what he stated earlier and asked that the Town Manager notify the Council when the officer has accepted the job.

Mayor Coleburn stated that he is not trying to usurp any authority but when people are elected to Council they have certain expectations.

Manager Palmore stated that he understands and he reminded Mayor Coleburn that at the last Council Meeting, Council asked him to notify them of any new hires at the next Council Meeting and to include a photograph and that is what he did.

Mayor Coleburn agreed.

Manager Palmore stated that it is hard to do that when you read about it in the newspaper first. He added that he understand where Mayor Coleburn is coming from.

Mayor Coleburn stated that once John Doe from Kenbridge knows that Blackstone has hired two new police officers, he finds it odd that he, in his private capacity, had to beg to find out who is serving the public in Blackstone now. He understands that the elected officials want to know first, but the people are the ones who are going to be pulled over by these officers. He is not challenging the capabilities of the police department, he is only looking for prompt notification.

Chief Kuzmiak stated that he has a three page written response for Mayor Coleburn and the Town Council with regards to the issue of us hiring two Kenbridge police officers. He stated that he would get that to Council within the next few days. He added that as far a notification to the paper, he felt that it was his responsibility to notify his Council before he notified the paper.

Mayor Coleburn stated that he agrees with Chief Kuzmiak and he feels very comfortable with how the police department handled this.

CHANGE FEBRUARY COUNCIL MEETING TO THE 17TH

Councilman Quicke made a motion to change the February Council Meeting to Tuesday, February 17th at 7:00 p.m., because of President’s Day on the 16th. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson and approved unanimously. Vote:

Councilman Quicke	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye
Councilman Wilson	-	Aye
Councilman Hill	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye

Manager Palmore thanked David Ostrander, Director of Public Works and the other employees for all their hard work over the last few weeks getting up leaves, helping with frozen water pipes, repair to one of our generators, etc. They do a great job 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and he appreciates all their hard work.

BPOL TAX LEGISLATION

Manager Palmore handed out information regarding a Bill that is being presented to legislators which if passed, would do away with the Business Professional Occupational License tax.

Councilman Wilson made a motion to go on record opposing House Bill 2205. The motion was seconded by Councilman Green. Vote:

Councilman Quicke	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye
Councilman Wilson	-	Aye
Councilman Hill	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye

MAYOR’S MINUTE

Mayor Coleburn gave some information to the Town Manager about a town in New Zealand that is known as the “town of murals.” He was given this information by Danny Sheffield who recently visited New Zealand. Mayor Coleburn feels that maybe this is something DBI could look into.

POLICE REPORT

There were no comments on the Police Report.

MISCELLANEOUS

David Dunn reported on Carolina Transformer.

He asked does Council want to put up three to six thousand more dollars and then have to come up with more later.

Council agreed by Common Consent to cut our losses with Carolina Transformer and not to put anymore money into this.

CITIZEN’S COMMENTS

Sam Moncure asked about the dog warden and the amount that we pay him, which is one of the questions he asked at the last meeting and the answer was provided to him. (\$18,616.16). He did not feel that there is any way possible that we could get a dog warden for that amount.

Manager Palmore explained that the dog warden is a part-time employee.

CLOSED SESSION

Councilman Quicke made a motion to go into Closed Session according to the following:

- Virginia Code Session 2.1-344
- Sub Section A.
- 3. Economic Development

The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn. Vote:

- Councilman Quicke - Aye
- Councilwoman Wynn - Aye
- Councilman Green - Aye
- Councilman Wilson - Aye
- Councilman Hill - Aye
- Councilwoman Thompson - Aye

Mayor Coleburn declared the meeting back in Open Session.

Councilman Wilson made a motion to certify that to the best of each member's knowledge only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements and 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. The motion was seconded by Councilman Quicke and approved as follows. Vote:

Councilman Quicke	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye
Councilman Wilson	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Hill	-	Aye

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Coleburn declared the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

MAYOR
OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA

APPROVED AND ADOPTED

TOWN CLERK
OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA