

**Town of Bluefield  
Town Council  
Minutes  
November 22, 2016**

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, November 22, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall located at 112 Huffard Drive, Bluefield, Virginia.

**PRESENT**

Don Harris, Mayor  
Anglis Trigg, Councilmember  
Lee Riffe, Councilmember  
Donnie Linkous, Councilmember  
  
Ron Holt, Incoming Councilmember  
Chuck Presley, Incoming Councilmember

**ALSO PRESENT**

Mike Watson, Town Manager  
Matt Freedman, Town Attorney  
Shane Gunter, Police Chief  
Lesley Catron, Town Clerk  
Kim Hernandez, Executive Assistant  
Kris Williams, Zoning Administrator  
Billie Roberts, Comm. Dev. Coordinator  
Steve Arey, Former Town Attorney  
4 Members of Public

**ABSENT**

Steve Danko, Councilmember  
Jimmy Jones, Vice Mayor

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Harris called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Steve Branch, Destiny Outreach led the Invocation. Mayor Harris led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Councilmember Linkous made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilmember Trigg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilmember Trigg made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Councilmember Riffe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**CITIZEN REQUESTS & SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

None.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS & REPORTS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS & REPORTS**

***Resolution for Graham High School Cheer Team, VOTE – Lesley Catron***

Mrs. Catron stated that a copy of the Graham Cheer Team Resolution was in council's packet. She stated that they would be at the first meeting in December to receive it.

Mr. Trigg made a motion to approve the Cheer Resolution. Mr. Riffe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.



**TOWN OF BLUEFIELD**

**RESOLUTION**

**GRAHAM HIGH SCHOOL CHEER TEAM**

WHEREAS, the 2016 Graham High School Cheer Team consists of twenty-three ladies, ranging from grades ninth through twelfth, and two coaches; and

WHEREAS, the team completed an undefeated season in cheer competitions; three of which were at Invitational Competitions; and

WHEREAS, the team received a first place ranking for the Conference 39 Competition; and

WHEREAS, they were ranked first among eight teams in Region 2A West for the State of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the Graham High School Cheer Team were honored to compete among the top eight teams in the state of Virginia, and were selected during the second round as the 2A Virginia High School State Champions in Competitive Cheerleading; and

WHEREAS, this honor marked the first State Championship in Cheerleading for Graham High School; and

WHEREAS, this honor also marked the first State Championship in Cheerleading to be won by a school west of the Roanoke area since competitive cheer began for 2A teams in 1998.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA, hereby recognizes the members of the 2016 Cheer Team, which include Seniors: Halle Cook, Carson Cooper (Captain), Natalya Curto, McKenzie Lester, Makenzie Novinger, Ashleigh Nunley, and Cameran Sarver (Captain); Juniors: Sydney Bowman, Gabi Jackson, Lauren Poe, Laurel Romano, and Hannah Webb; Sophomores: Milan Brewster, Bethany Broyles, and Alexis Rhudy; Freshmen: Laken Chronister, Isabella Edwards, Tristen Graham, Shailis Joplin, Cheyenne Osborne, Paris Sandifer, Josie Stevenson, and Kaelyn Workman; Head Coach Debra Brewster and Assistant Coach Tammy Cooper.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT THE COUNCIL OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA, hereby recognizes the outstanding achievements of the 2016 Graham High School Cheer Team and congratulates them on receiving the title of 2A Virginia High School State Champions.

Adopted the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of November, 2016; presented the 13<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2016.

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Donald R. Harris, Mayor

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Lesley L. Catron, Town Clerk

***Simple Subdivision for Richwood Properties, Inc., VOTE – Kris Williams***

Mr. Williams stated that he had received a simple subdivision preliminary plat for Richwood Properties located on Bullet Bill Drive and that the proposed subdivision would establish new lot lines that would better serve the current property owners. He stated that it would be his recommendation to approve it.

Mr. Trigg made a motion to approve the Simple Subdivision for Richwood Properties, Inc. Mr. Linkous seconded the motion.

Mr. Riffe asked if Planning Commission had any questions concerning it.

Mr. Williams stated that since it was a simple subdivision that it went straight to council.

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

## **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

### ***Engineering Services, VOTE***

Mr. Watson stated that there was a list of 9 engineers in council's packet that were used on an as needed basis. He stated that these firms could be used without having to go thru the bid process. He recommended that council approve the 9 firms.

Mr. Trigg made a motion to approve the following 9 Engineering Firms. Mr. Riffe seconded the motion:

- Anderson & Associates, Inc.
- Draper Aden Associates, Inc.
- Thrasher Group, Inc.
- Ayers Engineering, LLC
- Cardno, Inc.
- OWPR Architects & Engineers
- Thompson & Litton, LLC
- A. Morton Thomas & Associates, Inc.
- E.L. Robinson Engineering Services

Mr. Linkous asked in the past, had they not gone through and ranked them.

Mr. Watson stated that they did on those that were hired to do a specific project over \$50k using VDOT. He stated that these were 3<sup>rd</sup> party review.

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

### ***Tazewell County Airport Authority Representative, VOTE***

Mr. Watson stated that the Tazewell County Airport Authority Representative was set to expire and that Randall Hash had agreed to continue to serve as the Town's representative. He stated that it would be his recommendation to reappoint Randall Hash to continue to serve on the Tazewell County Airport Authority.

Mr. Trigg made a motion to approve Randall Hash to serve on the Tazewell County Airport Authority. Mr. Linkous seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

### ***BZA Member Recommendation, VOTE***

Mr. Watson stated that the Planning Commission had reviewed and recommended that Harry Kammer be appointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals to replace David Smith's position.

Mayor Harris stated that the recommendation would be sent to the circuit court.

Mr. Trigg made a motion to approve appointing Harry Kammer to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. Linkous seconded the motion.

Mr. Riffe asked if a new Planning Commission member had been discussed.

Mr. Watson stated that they would be discussing it in more detail at their next meeting.

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

### ***Town Offices Closed***

Mr. Watson stated that town offices would be closed on Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup> and Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup> for Thanksgiving. He stated that the trash pickup for the businesses would remain the same.

### ***Christmas Parade***

Mr. Watson stated that the parade would be on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at noon. He stated that the Tree Lighting was a good event and that everyone done a good job.

### ***Volunteer Christmas Dinner***

Mr. Watson stated that the Volunteer Christmas Dinner would be held on Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at Bluefield College.

### ***Employee Christmas Dinner***

Mr. Watson stated that the Employee Christmas Dinner would be held on Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at Bluefield College.

### **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

None.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mr. Riffe thanked everyone involved in the Tree Lighting. He stated that it was a cold day but everyone seemed to have a good time. He stated that there were RV's coming thru town carrying 4 wheelers who got lost and that they needed to put signs up showing them how to get to Pocahontas. He stated that he had noticed in the paper that the sheriff's department was looking for a raise and asked where the Town was on ours for the Police Department.

Mr. Watson stated that he had been going thru the budget so that they could talk about it. He stated that the money was not there but that they could all look at it when

they went thru the upcoming budget to see where the money could come from. He stated that they started at a certain rate but gave incentives as they went further along. He stated that he believed in merit raises and that this year's upcoming budget would be tight.

Mr. Linkous stated that they had been talking about this for 3 months and that Bluefield, WV started theirs out at \$31,500 and that our current chief was making less than the last chief. He stated that Greg Bailey left and went to a hospital making \$10k more. He stated that there was \$40k-\$50k that had not been spent in the past years and that the Town had no problem spending money on other things. He stated that he was ready to support it and to push it thru and suggested that they get \$5k across the board for the 18 sworn officers. He stated that they could do a \$2,500 raise now using the savings on those officers who had left the Police Department and that the new council could look at giving them the other \$2,500 to make it \$5k next year. He made a motion to approve an immediate \$2,500 raise across the board.

Mayor Harris stated that he agreed that they should be paid more but that the Town Manager was aware of the budget better than any of them and he did not think now was a good time to do this. He stated that they had 2 new elected councilmember's who needed to have a say in it and that he did not honor his motion.

Mr. Linkous stated that he could not deny a motion and that once a motion was made then it would proceed forward.

Mr. Riffe seconded the motion.

Mayor Harris asked for a roll call vote.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Councilmember Riffe:	Yes
Councilmember Linkous:	Yes
Councilmember Trigg:	No
Mayor Harris:	No
Vice Mayor Jones:	Absent
Councilmember Danko:	Absent

The motion was tied 2-2 by Roll Call Vote.

Mr. Linkous asked about the Welcome Center.

Mr. Watson stated that it should be ready in the next few weeks.

Mr. Linkous asked about council doing a resolution for David Smith.

Mr. Williams stated that the Planning Commission had planned to do something.

Mayor Harris asked to wait until the rest of council was in attendance.

Mr. Trigg stated that he agreed with Mr. Linkous concerning the Police Department raises but felt that they did not need to make a decision right then. He stated that he would like to let Mr. Watson look at it first to see what he could do and that he did not like to make hasty decisions. He congratulated the newly elected councilmember's.

Mayor Harris agreed with Mr. Trigg and stated that they had both worked really hard and that he looked forward to serving with them. He stated that he was not opposed to the pay hikes but felt that it was important that the new elects be involved and hearing the specifics so that they could understand more of how the Town operated.

### **ATTORNEY REPORT**

#### ***Sewer Franchise Ordinance, VOTE (1<sup>st</sup> Reading)***

Mr. Arey stated that there was one bid for the Sanitary Board and asked the Mayor to open it. He stated that the franchise was what they had seen and that they accepted all of the changes but 1 which was that our 2 members on their board were members of the Town. He stated that the Sanitary Board said that could not be. He stated that he needed to make an appointment with the Sanitary Board, Inc. to get them to approve the franchise and that Matt was working with Jerry to prepare the lease and if council was ready, we could do the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the Sewer Franchise Ordinance that was prepared by Mr. Freedman.

Mayor Harris asked if there were any further bids. There were none.

Mr. Riffe made a motion to approve the one bid. Mr. Linkous seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Freedman read the Sewer Franchise Ordinance.

ORDINANCE      INDEX      NUMBER

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VIRGINIA: AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA, HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE TOWN HALL IN BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA, ON THE 13TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2016.

**AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A FRANCHISE AND EASEMENT AS DESCRIBED IN THE DOCUMENT ATTACHED HERETO AND ENTITLED "AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA FOR FRANCHISE AND EASEMENT WITH THE SANITARY BOARD OF BLUEFIELD, INCORPORATED AND THE SANITARY BOARD OF BLUEFIELD".**

WHEREAS, a descriptive notice of this ordinance, a descriptive notice of the document attached hereto and entitled "AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA FOR FRANCHISE AND EASEMENT WITH THE SANITARY BOARD OF BLUEFIELD, INCORPORATED AND THE

SANITARY BOARD OF BLUEFIELD”, and an invitation for bids regarding the said attached document, as required by section 15.2-2101 of the Code of Virginia (1950) as amended, were duly published in the Bluefield Daily Telegraph, a newspaper having general circulation in Bluefield, Virginia, on November 4, 2016, and November 12, 2016.

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA, that the Council of the Town of Bluefield, Virginia hereby grants the franchise and easement as described in the document attached hereto and entitled “AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA FOR FRANCHISE AND EASEMENT WITH THE SANITARY BOARD OF BLUEFIELD, INCORPORATED AND THE SANITARY BOARD OF BLUEFIELD”, and hereby authorizes the Town Clerk to enter the effective date(s) on the said attachment and execute the said attachment as a true and exact copy.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA that this ordinance, with the said attachment, shall be recorded among the land records of the Clerk’s Office of the Circuit Court in Tazewell County, Virginia and indexed therein in the names of the **Town of Bluefield, Virginia; The Sanitary Board of Bluefield, Incorporated;** and **The Sanitary Board of Bluefield.**

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA, that the Council of the Town of Bluefield, Virginia adopts this ordinance on the 13th day of December, 2016.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA that the Council of the Town of Bluefield, Virginia authorizes Donald R. Harris, the Mayor of the Town of Bluefield, Virginia to execute this ordinance on behalf of said Council.

IT IS SO ORDAINED this 13th day of December, 2016.

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PUBLIC HEARING:	NONE		
ADVERTISEMENT(S):	11/04/2016 AND 11/12/2016		
FIRST READING:	11/22/2016		
SECOND READING:	12/13/2016		
ADOPTION DATE:	12/13/2016		
FINAL RECORDED VOTE:	_____		
MEMBERS PRESENT:	_____		
MEMBERS ABSENT:	_____		
RESULT OF VOTE:	_____	_____	_____
	AYES	NAYES	ABSTENTIONS

COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
DONALD R. HARRIS, MAYOR  
TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
LESLEY CATRON, TOWN CLERK  
TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

Mr. Riffe made a motion to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading of the Sewer Franchise Ordinance. Mr. Trigg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Arey stated that it would take effect 30 days after the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.

Mr. Riffe asked if they had found anyone to fill the vacancy on the Sanitary Board Inc. yet.

Mr. Watson stated no.

Mr. Linkous asked why the Christmas Lights were staying on all the time.

Mr. Watson stated that we paid a flat unmetered fee.

### **ADJOURN**

Mr. Linkous made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Mr. Riffe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

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Don Harris, Mayor

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Lesley Catron, Town Clerk