

**Town of Bluefield
Town Council
Work Session
October 25, 2016**

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a Work Session on Tuesday, October 25, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall located at 112 Huffard Drive, Bluefield, Virginia.

TOWN COUNCIL PRESENT

Don Harris, Mayor
Lee Riffe, Councilmember
Steve Danko, Councilmember
Jimmy Jones, Vice Mayor
Anglis Trigg, Councilmember
Donnie Linkous, Councilmember

ALSO PRESENT

Mike Watson, Town Manager
Matt Freedman, Town Attorney
Lesley Catron, Town Clerk
Billie Roberts, Comm. Dev. Coordinator
Kris Williams, Zoning Administrator
Steve Arey, Prior Town Attorney

ABSENT

Shane Gunter, Chief of Police
Kim Hernandez, Executive Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Harris opened the Work Session at 6:30 p.m.

Mrs. Roberts stated that the Revenue Sharing Program provided additional funding for the Town to do construction. She stated that locality funds were matched with state funds for qualifying projects. She stated that the Town had done projects such as College Avenue and would probably have a better chance of receiving money for construction of sidewalks vs. paving. She stated that the following were sidewalk projects that had been mentioned:

Pinehill Park to Parkview Drive
Mill Street to Depot Street Park
GHS to GMS
Bullet Bill Drive to Valleydale

She stated that a citizen had requested the one in Pinehill Park to Parkview.

Mr. Watson stated that this was past the water plant and was originally talked about on the lower section then was moved to the upper section.

Pinehill Park to Parkview Drive

Mrs. Roberts stated that it would connect with the sidewalks on Mountain View Drive and was approximately 1,000 ft which would cost around \$25k. She stated that it would only cost the Town half and the other half would be matching.

Mill Street to Depot Street

Mrs. Roberts stated that Mill Street to Depot Street would be approximately 1,500 ft.

Mr. Trigg stated that this particular one was a concern of his and that starting where Eva Saunders lived was dangerous with speeders.

Mr. Watson stated that it could be separated. He stated that the section at Depot where the "S" curve was needed to be kept on one side or the other. He stated that they could start on Vencil Street and work their way down.

Mr. Trigg stated that there was a lot of traffic there now.

Mr. Watson stated that the area could be broken off.

GHS to GMS Connection

Mrs. Roberts stated that a lot of kids walked over from the high school and that Officer Horn thought it would be a good idea to have a crossover. She stated that the sidewalk currently ended near the baseball field and that it would be approximately 415 ft of sidewalk needed there.

Mr. Watson stated that if there was money left from one project, that it could be transferred to another one.

Mr. Trigg asked if it would be done in house.

Mr. Watson stated yes.

Bullet Bill Drive to Valleydale

Mrs. Roberts stated that Bullet Bill Drive to Valleydale would be the largest project and would cost around \$200k. She stated that it would cost the Town \$100k and we would get a matching \$100k from the state. She stated that it could be phased out and they could start with Pemco to Hockman Pike which would cost around \$60k. She stated that by doing this project it would affect 4 different neighborhoods.

Mr. Watson stated that this was one that they had talked about before. He stated that what they would like to do is to limit it to 1-2 per year.

Mrs. Roberts stated that this would be approximately 8,040 linear feet for this project.

Mr. Riffe stated that some of it had already been replaced.

Mr. Watson stated that was correct.

Mr. Riffe asked if the Town had \$40k already budgeted.

Mr. Watson stated we had \$80k.

Mr. Linkous asked about a sidewalk from the little store to Town Hall.

Mr. Watson stated from the store to Valleydale and from the store to Town Hall could be another project they did.

Mr. Riffe asked if Officer Horn saw more kids going this way now instead of going across at the little store.

Mrs. Roberts stated that he was helping a lot of kids to get across the street.

Mr. Watson stated that they probably crossed there because of the Resource Officer being there.

Mr. Linkous stated that one day when Donna Lambert was walking, her dog Baxter had her in the middle of the road and someone had to stop and get her out of it. He stated that this would probably help her.

Mrs. Roberts stated that it was doable.

Mr. Riffe stated that the first 3 projects without Valleydale would be around \$33k so they could do those.

Mrs. Roberts stated yes.

Mr. Linkous stated that the Pinehill Park area they were talking about was only one street and if they were to put sidewalks in that whole neighborhood, it would probably cost \$1 million. He stated that where Mr. Trigg was talking about on Vencil Street was not only a neighborhood but you had the people up in the Project Houses that were actually walking somewhere such as to Town and those people in neighborhoods were not going anywhere. He stated that their top priority should be Vencil Street because it was a safety issue, 2nd one would be the school which was also a safety issue and then from here to the little store because kids were walking home from school. He stated that another one he would like for them to look at would be going from the little store to GHS. He stated that he has never seen anyone walking from Pemco to Sedgewood and these others that he mentioned were safety issues. He stated that it may

encourage more kids to walk to school instead of drive and there may be money there if we promoted a healthy lifestyle.

Mr. Riffe asked if it would be around 1,000 ft or more to GMS.

Mr. Watson stated yes.

Mr. Riffe suggested doing Mountain Lane to the Middle School and Mill Street to Depot Street.

Mr. Watson asked if they wanted to do all of Depot Street.

Mr. Linkous stated yes because a lot of kids used that park.

Mr. Watson stated that it would be \$60k for both of those and suggested doing GHS to GMS and the one on Mountain Lane.

Mr. Riffe stated that it would be possible to do those 3 and to take away Pinehill Park for now.

Mr. Watson stated that the lady they talked too wanted to see sidewalks from her house and make an entire loop around Pemco past the benches and back to her house. He stated that a lot of people were starting to use that bridge now.

Mr. Linkous stated that from Pemco to our little park would be ½ of the project.

Mr. Watson stated to throw another kink into it that during Student Government day, someone brought up the area they were talking about near the Presbyterian Church and how they had to walk in the grass coming from the school.

Mr. Linkous suggested getting the school board to do the sidewalk.

Mr. Riffe stated that you would have to get permission from the school because we would be taking school property.

Mr. Watson stated that what would happen would be that we would expand off of the road.

Mr. Riffe asked if they would be voting on it tonight.

Mr. Watson stated that right now they just need their intent. He stated that they needed to vote to go forward with the sidewalks and to list the sidewalks they were looking at which could be changed at a later time before November 1st. He stated that staff would come back with a resolution attached to it.

Mr. Danko asked which ones they would be working on.

Mr. Watson stated that it would be Mill Street, the connection for GHS to GMS and Mountain Lane and Fincastle Lane. He stated that hopefully it would cost under \$80k and that we would receive the Revenue Sharing Money if approved in August of next year.

Mr. Linkous stated that they need to look at a contractor to do it and there was a group out of Roanoke who was good and cheap and could probably get it done within a couple of weeks.

Mr. Watson asked him to give staff the number so they could check.

Mayor Harris stated that Pinehill Park was annexed into the Town and that several of the residents who lived there when it was annexed stated that they were promised sidewalks when it was annexed.

Visitor's Center Update

Mrs. Roberts stated that it was almost done and showed council pictures. She showed the light fixtures that were purchased at the Surplus Store as well.

Mr. Riffe stated that Frito Lay was beating them up concerning light fixtures and how they had to be and asked about these.

Mr. Watson stated that they had to have plastic tubes over theirs because of the food. He stated now the government said that they cannot use the old timey lights but have to use the energy efficient bulbs. He stated that they would get together and go down together so that council could see it once it was cleaned up and finished.

Mr. Trigg asked why it was taking so long to move in.

Mr. Watson stated that they were not in a big hurry to get in and asked to move into the building in November or March.

State of Good Repair

Mrs. Roberts stated that the State of Good Repair was another VDOT program that helped with locally owned bridges and maintenance. She stated that the deadline for submission was November 1st. She stated that VDOT told us which ones were and were not efficient. She stated that we were applying for repairs for the Tazewell Avenue Bridge which would be around \$853,000 and was a 100% match.

Mr. Watson stated that this program replaced the one where they used to give us bridge money every year but it got to where the cost to repair overrode the amount we were given. He stated that Mrs. Roberts had been looking into a lot of these types of unmatched grants. He stated that it was basically free money and that once it got on the list, we could move up and hopefully receive the money.

Mr. Riffe stated that with the presentations and grant writings that we had already done in the past, it opened up eyes for our Town. He stated that staff had really stepped up.

Mr. Watson stated that all of staff had done a really good job looking into getting more grants.

ADJOURN

Mayor Harris adjourned the Work Session at 7:27 p.m.

Don Harris, Mayor

Lesley Catron, Town Clerk