

Town of Hamilton

Special Call Meeting

March 13th, 2020

Present: Mayor Goodrich, Commissioners: Kerry Spivey, Linda Goodrich, Patricia Mooring, Judith Stewart and William Freeman.

Meeting called to order and welcomed by Mayor Goodrich.

Prayer by Commissioner Judith Stewart

Pledge to the flag by all.

Presentation to Anne's Catering was done prior to any other board business. A check in the form of \$4500.00 from the town of Hamilton and the Committee of 100, as well as a \$500.00 check from the business held by former commissioner Ervin William's was presented to Chevelle Summers the owner of Annie's Catering. A photo was then taken with Mrs. Summers, Mr. Spivey, Mr. Goodrich, Mr. Williams was done by the local paper.

Request to correct the previous minutes from the board meeting held on March 5th 2020 was presented from Commissioner Morring in the form of a misquote on Mrs. Morring as well as correction in the stating of the Hamilton Baptist Church's new pastor meet and greet was also requested. Motion by Commissioner Stewart, Second by Commissioner Goodrich. 5-0.

Rural waters then had a representative Alicia Melton, come to present to the board. During this presentation Mrs. Melton discussed the rate issues that we have with our current water and sewer rates. Mrs. Melton then went on to explain that we cannot base our budget, rates or information on any other town's information. That because we are smaller we have some guidelines that may differ from other Municipalities in regards to how we run our water system. We are expected to always make sure we are in compliance with permit requirements, community expectations, quality at point of entry and exiting of the lines, regulations, sop's and many other state regulations with our water. We then went over the distinguishing aspects of the funds and how the funds are responsible for being financially stable independently of one another. This was to go forward and bring awareness to the real issue that they wanted to discuss. Which is that our current rates are not bringing our numbers to where they need to be for our water and sewer fund to be financially stable on it's own without having to use our savings for this fund. And that at this rate if we continue to take out what we have been taking out of our savings that we will deplete that account within the next few years.

Mrs. Melton went through a spreadsheet with the board covering different aspects of how raising different parts of the water rates can affect the revenue we bring in and how much we would be looking at raising them to be able to get them to a point where the fund can be self sustaining and making the money it needs to continue yearly operations without

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having to use any savings that the funds may have at that time. She also warned the board that the state will come in to take control of the situation if it is not rectified in a timely manner before the fund depletes itself completely. It was also emphasized that the town needs to make sure that the water meter readings and the meter's themselves are being kept up properly because they are the way in which we register the use which directly affects the revenue that it makes.

It was strongly suggested to the board that the rates be raised for water and sewer. The rate table that Mrs. Melton brought showed us a significant decrease in the amount that we would need to use from savings in numerous scenarios. Ranging from a 3 dollar increase on the base for overall residents as well as a 10% overall increase across the board all the way to seeing what a 10 dollar increase on the base rate is with a 15% overall increase. During these different scenarios it was also pointed out that raising them too high would then have the opposite effect than what we wanted, that we needed to find a number that would be reasonable for the town citizens without making it too high. Because, if you were to raise the rate too high they would limit and monitor the use they are doing, which would roughly equivocate to the amount they are paying now which would leave us in the same scenario that we are in at the moment. She let us know ideally this would be done over a 5 year time span, but that because of the position that the new board is in with the current numbers reflected in our funds, that we are not able to do this gradually over the next 5 years that it would need to be done somewhat steadily over the next 2/3 years at most with the first being this next fiscal year in July of 2020.

Motion to end Open Session and move to open closed session made by Commissioner Moring, Second Commissioner Stewart. 5-0

Closed Session.

Motion to adjourn closed session made by Commissioner Stewart. Second by Commissioner Moring. 5-0

Mayor

Town Clerk