

Town of Hamilton  
Regular Monthly Board Meeting Held at the Morris Lynch Center  
March 7, 2019 @ 7:00 PM

**Present: Mayor Matthews: Commissioners Everett, Jackson, Williams, Staton and Freeman.**

**Prayer by: Commissioner Williams**

**Pledge to the Flag: by all.**

Reading of March 7, 2019 minutes by the Mayor. A motion to approve the minutes as read with no corrections or addendums by Commissioner Williams and second by Commissioner Staton. Approved 5-0.

**Old Business:** Commissioner Williams report Archer Development is talking with contractors and has extended it out to Pitt County to compare competitive prices.

Commissioner Williams also report that the Hamilton EMS was notified by the state that they have been approved as ALS and Mr. Swearingen informed him that they made their first call to start an IV. Mr. Swearingen will provide Board with a itemize list of things the Town may able to assist the Hamilton EMS.

**New Business:**

**Public Comment:** Mayor informed those that signed up for public comment that they would be limited to 3 minutes to comment to the Board instead of 5 minutes because February 7 2019 meeting went on too long and that as mayor he has the discretion to make this change and that it did not need to be put to a motion and a vote.

**Ms. Linda Goodrich-** voiced concerns again about the \$500.00 deposit not being returned to customers unless they move out of town; that Hamilton does not have good cell phone service and what could be done to get the Town's ditches cleaned out and would like to know from Commissioner Williams the companies that expressed interest in buying the old Southern Bank building.

**Ms. Susan Youngman:** Voiced concern about water being turned off without advance notice to the citizens. She states she was told by the Environment Quality Div. of Water Resources that the Town is to notify customers before water is turned off. She states she has reported this to the State.

**Ms. Patricia Morring:** Expressed her concerns about the fire ants and mosquito in the Town; why citizens can't use town hall WiFi; why her Uncle's security deposit has not been returned.

**Ms. Judith Stewart:** Questions why the bookkeeper salary increase was not listed under new business; was not aware that the children has to pay \$30.00 in order to participate in the basketball program; where does the money from concession go and the monthly cost to rent the building.

The Mayor stated Utility Services, Inc is under contact with the Town that they're the company that cleans the tower and they are ones to market for a cell phone tower. If a cell phone company sign on then the Town would receive payments from them.

**Commissioners' Report:**

- **Commissioner Everett** nothing right now.
- **Commissioner Jackson:** Expressed his concerns over the constant applauding and outburst from the citizens during the public comments. He further stated that during the last Commissioner's Workshop on March 5 2019 that the Board discussed the Mayor's suggestion that the 5 minutes given to citizens to make there comment be cut to 3 minutes. He



stated that going forward this would be enforced and applauding and excessive talking by anyone while someone on the agenda is giving their comments, that person will be asked to leave the meeting as outlined in the rules set for the Town Board meetings #3-4 which states:

3-"No talking, outbursts, or comments from the audience will be allowed while the Board is conducting their meeting. If this occurs, you may be asked by the Mayor and Commissioners to leave the meeting".

4-"Monthly Meetings are for the Mayor and Commissioners to conduct business for the town and will be handled in a professional manner".

**Commissioner Freeman:** States Maintenance Department is removing old transformers 2400 and upgrading to 7200. The Town has an accumulation of used and new 2400 and is asking the Board permission to sell them.

He states he attended the Mitigation meeting on February 27, 2019 at the TeleCenter in Williamston. There was an issue with the power point presentation so they rescheduled it for the next meeting. However, they did discuss needs of towns when a major storm hits like generators, water and ice etc.

**Commissioner Staton:** States some ditches do have standing water in them which may be caused by the excessive rain fall this season and leaves clogging drainage pipes. Commissioner Freeman said that we may need assistance from the state and that he would call and have them look at the drainage situation on Glasgow Street.

**Commissioner Staton** read a statement that after the meeting on February 7, 2019, she was confronted by Ms. Susan Youngman, citizen, in a verbal and hostile manner which continued to be directed at her as she entered her vehicle to leave the Town Hall. Her statement is filed with the March 7, 2019 minutes.

**Commissioner Williams:**

- The Board needs to set a date for the Budget Workshop. Board is in agreement that April 16, 2019 6:00 PM @ the Town Hall Building.
- Hamilton EMS going Advance Life Support that's a great move for them and the Town has always tried to support them in the past and would like to continue to support them.
- Last year the Town placed a small monument at the Gazebo and spoke to the veterans at the American Legion about maybe having a service there maybe once or twice a year.
- talked with Mr. Parker about holding off on the groundbreaking because of the weather and he is still currently reaching out to engineers in other; counties along with Martin County and is comparing engineers and prices.
- In reference to our bookkeeper due to the 2010 audit the auditor recommended that we hire a bookkeeper, which was Terry Chappell who passed away. Ms. Karen Shook, formally of CRI, who was our auditor at that time recommended to us Ms. Kim Cockrell who works full time in Jamesville as their clerk.

**Action Items:**

- **Electric Rates:** Commissioner Williams states that the Town received a letter stating Electricities had a meeting in Wilson that the rates were going to go up. We stress that we are not sending the rates up Electricities are voting on this and notifying us of this. It was suggested that we have someone come in and do a rate study. Commissioner Everett and the Board agree to have the same company we got a couple of years ago.

Commissioner Everett states that last April they thought it might be a 2% increase but looks like it will be around 1.3% instead.



Mayor states we are 8 months into the budget and the electric receipts are at 68.3%.

**Commissioner Freeman:**

- **CIP** for Water/Sewer NCRW did a rough draft of figures which consist of removing old pipes and installing new pipes; slip line for sewer collection system; raising manhole lid pipes on Penco Drive that's in the ditch and one that's in the right of way behind the cemetery will look at slip line in those pipes.
- Also smoke testing and camera. There is money out there to do these projects. They will look into what type of grants we can get 50 or 75% to do these studies. He said that we should qualify for 75% to do a big part of the job. He will be coming back with Mike Hill to do more study they will be contact Raleigh about the grants so we will just wait to hear from them

**Utility Service Protocol Commissioner Williams** states it was discussed in the workshop that if a person buys a property and pays \$500.00 deposit and then buys another property the deposit would be \$150.00 for the second property which would be for water/sewer/electric but nothing was decided.

**Commissioner Freeman** states that perhaps the Board could look into maybe crediting back to homeowners the \$500.00 dollar deposit if they have made 12 consecutive payments (15<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>) for 12 months to be credited over a 6 to 12 month period owner must show proof of purchase. The starting point would be from 2012 before that the record keeping wasn't too good. Mayor asks if there would be a distinction between the homeowner and renters and asked Commissioner Freeman if he would look it this further.

**Town Policy for Committee Volunteers:**

**Commissioner Williams**-States he has checked with surrounding towns and they have basically given this power to the commissioners to appoint and remove people (volunteers) to various committees for a time period.

It was also discussed in the workshop on suggestion by the Mayor that the public comment time be changed from 5 to 3 minutes as the March 7 2019 Board Meeting went on too long.

No further regular business was discussed. A motion by Commissioner Williams for Board to go into closed session with Town Attorney to discuss real property and second by Commissioner Everett. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion to come out of closed session by Commissioner Freeman and second by Commissioner Staton. Motion carried 5.0

No action taken in closed session. No further business discussed. Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Williams and second by Commissioner Jackson. Carried 5-0. Meeting adjourn

*Annie B. Jones* 4-4-19  
Clerk

*DG Madden* 4-4-19  
Mayor