



Mayor Hodnett states we must approve this mowing contract for the town, we only had one respondent to that, do we accept and move forward with him, Mark Kidd at \$400 per mowing? Mr. Poindexter asked what are the specific terms of the contract, I didn't read it? Mayor Hodnett states he mows and weed eats all the town property for a year.

Motion: Mr. Johnson

Second: Mr. Poindexter

Passage: Unanimous

### **Opening Remarks**

Mayor Hodnett states I want to welcome everybody here and especially our new guest if you would please stand up and introduce yourselves. Hi, I am Kate Majure and this is my husband Bob, we live on Knollwood, actually in Nancy Lobrecht's old house so I'm sure you know her, she's very well known in town, so we're new we've been here for about six months, and this is our first town hall meeting. Everyone says welcome and to keep coming that we are always open to new ideas.

Mayor Hodnett states since we really have nothing else to move forward on at this point, Mr. Wickham I will turn it over to you for our audit review.

### **Scott Wickham (RFCA) Audit Report**

My name is Scott Wickham, I'm a partner and in charge of the town's audit. I'm here to go over the results with 21 fiscal year audit. I'm going to move briefly through the full audit report which is the thicker report you don't have that one right now, but I can give you some high points on that and then move to the handout I just passed out. Wickham states on page two of the auditor report you have the independent auditors report, the town has an unmodified opinion which is a good opinion is the best opinion you can get, that means the numbers presented here are accurate so that that's a good thing, it results to the town keeping books so that we can start with and get to a good financial number. Mr. Wickham states if you move to exhibit one on page 5, this is the statement of that position on the full accrual basis of accounting, so this includes all the towns assets and all the towns debt burden position across the bottom about \$2.3 million, of that about 1.6 is invested in capital assets, such as this building and your infrastructure in the ground, vehicles, and all this side items, leaving about \$700,000 available to you all to use. Exhibit 3 is on page 7, this is the governmental fund balance sheet, and again this is in the full audit report, not the handout I passed out, I will get to that in just a second. On exhibit 3 this is your balance sheet on a modified accrual basis of accounting, which is a short-term accrual basis, so if your cash plus short-term receivables plus short-term payables give you a fund balance across the bottom here network of the fund. The town general fund had about \$550,000 of unassigned fund balance available to the use as of June 30th, 2021. Exhibit 5, the general fund similar modified accrual basis of accounting, you'll see an increase to that fund balance of about \$66,000 during 2021, so good year for the general fund. Mr. Wickham states exhibit 7,8, and 9 are detailed exhibits of the water and sewer fund, exhibit 9 is a good place to look at to get an idea of the health of that fund, the statement of cash flows right across the middle you'll see the change in cash, the cash increase about \$94,000 this year which leaves about \$391,000 of cash in investments in that fund, so that fund is in a pretty strong position as well. Wickham states he does want to point out on that exhibit if you watch the net cash provided operating or the top of exhibit 9 it operated in the negative about \$60,000 this year. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated I want to know what the big boosts come from, we were in the negative and now we are \$94,000? Mr. Wickham responded some of the funds were used in your inner fund accounts, with the way you all transfer money between the funds, you all did receive some cares funding for your water and sewer purchases. Mr. Wickham states I do want to mention on page 34, your net pension

liability, so VRS assigns calculation to you all for a net pension liability, you all have about \$340,000 of liabilities in your books related to that liability. I want to point out this this estimate, nothing the town has done wrong, you paid what VRS asks you to pay, it's just a calculation of what they have on hand for you all versus what they expect to need in the in the process of retirement, so that's underfunded about \$340,000, nothing to really be concerned about I know that VRS did really well on their investments this year, so that will help bring down that number some. I'll move to the back of this report, page 76 is the gas report or pending on compliance internal controls. We did have three findings this year we've reported. During our audit we're required to propose material adjustments to financial statements, like prior years and very common in small towns to have to do that to get a full client with modified and full accrual financial statements. The second finding is segregation of duties, during the year the town started to work on getting better checks and balances in place but that kind of happened mid-year and was not in place all year, so I know we've worked on getting good checks and balances in place now with additional staff. I hope that that can be taken care of. The third one was maintaining monthly bank reconciliation, during the year the town got behind on reconciling the bank accounts, I do believe they were caught up right at the end of the year and I hope that they are still caught up, as far as I know, but we want to make sure that's important position to stay caught up on this. Those were the three findings, two of them were common to prior years, and the third one was a banker. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill asked what the first one was. Mr. Wickham stated material adjustments. Wickham asked any questions on that before I move to the handout? No comment. Wickham stated I'll move to the handout that you do have in front of you. I'll move to page 2 of that, hopefully you had a chance to read through the audit report, if not, later you can send an email with any questions. On page two we have 10-year trend information for the general fund on the modified accrual basis of accounting, towards the right there, there are some fund balances, revenues are growing about 4.2% per year, expenditures are growing about 2% per year, so that's a big gap to have revenues outpacing expense inflation has been around 2% per year so that's the right line with what you expect expenditures to be, so that's pretty good. I would caution that expected to increase quite a bit with current inflation, so keep monitoring that and doing a good job of keeping that inflation below. The real numbers across the bottom there, your fund balance, you'll see the increase about 2.65% per year, so very strong increase in fund balance over that time last year. You may see some increase in certain items, you all did have some increase intergovernmental led to the care funds this year. Certain expenditure categories did have increases as well as purchasing additional police equipment, purchasing different IT equipment to help with COVID mitigation as well. I believe some of the drop in the public works expenses were shifting expenses to the water and sewer fund for items that were related to water and sewer. Wickham states on page three you have that nice fund balance but what does it mean, you get a calculation of operating reserve and as you can see on the top line there is a general fund balance and then you have cash right below it the biggest difference there is the ARPA funds that you received right end of June, that's the big difference but overall you do have a really strong fund balance, almost have years of expenditures in the general fund, so very strong. Moving to page 4, 10-year trend here on your tax assessments, you see them varying by category, about a 1% increase per year in real estate, a little bit of a decrease in public service corporation which is going to be the railroads and power companies, overall vessel percent per year so it's relatively flat overall. Page 5 is a visual of that 10-year trend information. Page 6 is another visual, it kind of gives an idea of where the town's funds has come from and where they go, and then on page 7 is another 10-year trend this is the enterprise funds and this is on the full base of accounting so does exclude appreciation, but you can see revenues hit about 5.8% per year over the 10 year period, so pretty good growth there in your water and sewer funds. Operating expenditures have increased at 9.5% per year, I do want to caution that it was a big increase this year that led to purchasing the meters

so that does increase quite a bit, otherwise it's more in line with the prior years. Net position across the bottom has grown about 2.65% per year, net position does include the full accrual, so it does include infrastructure, but overall that position is also in a very strong position. On page 8 and 9 we have the annual audit recommendations, these are items that are either not material to report in the actual audit report themselves or a best practice type of item, so a couple items here. I know a few of them are general repeats of items that are working on improving. The state and fire fund, that was a new requirement for us to audit a couple years ago for counties and started asking about towns, I just want to make sure we get those procedures in place. I didn't plan to go over all these in detail, so if you have any questions, we can talk about those. The next couple of pages, letter to governance we talked about, but there weren't really any new standards in place for the town this year, the lease standard will go into effect in FY22, and it will have a substantial change for a lot of localities. I do expect that to impact the town as well and I hope to be sending out a plan for you all to read through and kind of get idea of what you should be doing to get ready for the upcoming audit, so that'll be coming soon, but it will impact next year's audit. Also mentioned the normal estimates here the appreciation, flexible accounts, and the net tension liability, otherwise the template letter, no real issues the staff has been very helpful in the process of the audit, so I appreciate that. The last few pages here are the proposed adjustments, I did mention there was a finding of four closing adjustments, there listed here if you have any questions on any of those, please let me know. A lot of those are accumulated in the process of reviewing the town's financial records and importance with actual documents in hand, those are things that you've had here, I just had to help get them in the right spot. Overall looking at it, for a small town it is a pretty good audit especially one that's gone through so much change in the last few years. I see a good direction as far as moving to better controls and better processing financially the channels in strong positions so that's a good thing, and very busy and making a lot of federal funds here recently so overall a good audit. Mayor Hodnett stated thank you, does anyone have any questions? Mrs. Barksdale-Hill do we have processes already in the works to correct the three findings? Mr. Wickham responded yes, to be honest the adjustments is a challenge, accounting guidance and requirements is extremely complicated, some localities will hire an additional CPA to help prepare a pre audit consulting, the number of people available to do that now or even very few, so it can be challenging, we're continuing to work with the town staff to improve on what you have in the old records that may be a finding that recurs, we'll keep working on it though. Mayor Hodnett states but you are seeing an improvement? Wickham states yes, we are and with the new software I've seen improvement, that's been very helpful, and then with segregation of duties I know when we were here during the audit which was essentially the beginning of fiscal year 22, we talked about some changes to have some better checks and balances in place so I think that will help and may alleviate that comment and that finding. Mayor Hodnett states they have been implemented, we have the treasurer and the clerks position separated now. Wickham states I think that will help with that, and I haven't been here in a little while but hopefully the bank recs are fairly caught up? Mrs. Brumfield states they are all up to date. Wickham states great, then that would take care of those two. Mayor Hodnett stated thank you Scott, I know you got a long drive ahead of you. Mr. Wickham states my contact is on the front of this, I know I went over the audit report, and you may not have that in front of you, but if you have questions later feel free to shoot me an email. Mayor Hodnett stated we will call you in the morning, we have a few questions that we need to get resolved, and you know what those are, thank you.

**Board of Zoning Appeals (Kenneth Crews, Jeffery Blaesing, Brooke Gibson) and Planning Commission Appointment (Courtney Goins)**

Mayor Hodnett stated to Jeffrey Blaesing, Brooke Gibson, and Kenneth Crews who is not here, but you guys have been okayed for the board of zoning appeals, congratulations and we'll get your name to the judge, but we need to stagger the terms and all, so John you were talking about what? Attorney Eller stated yeah, we have three now, so one would be for a year, one would be for three years, and one for five, and then when the one year comes up, he/she would need to be appointed for a five-year term, and then three years, and five years, and everybody would be rotating on and off on a 5-year basis. Attorney Eller states you start out with one three and five so everybody doesn't come in and go out at the same time. Mayor Hodnett stated I know it's kind of putting you two on the spot, but do you have any choice of one, three, or five? Attorney Eller stated and you can be reappointed. Brooke Gibson states she will do the one year, and Jeff Blaesing stated anyway we wanted to do it was fine with him. Mayor Hodnett stated thank you, and I'll talk to Kenneth and see if he has any preference, and Brooke will get you down for one, thank you.

**Public Hearing**

Mayor Hodnett stated it is 7:05, so we can start the public comment period, Jason if you would please pass around a piece of paper and let everybody that would like to speak jot down their name. Attorney Eller stated if they are here for the hearing that we advertise that would be different from the general comments. Mayor Hodnett stated we will do the general comment first. Mayor Hodnett stated to the public please note on the paper if it is general comments or if you are here about the non-conforming use. Chief Lovelace stated now you must sign up if you want to speak. Mayor Hodnett stated if you got anything to say now is a good time to say it. Bob Majure stated hello everyone my name is Bob Majure, nice to meet everyone. I am new here in Town with my wife Kate, I just wanted to say hello to everybody. I have a couple things, first one, Hurt Road I've been seeing the emails and Town notices going out about the trash, and I would love to personally organize a community cleanup day, to clean up Hurt Road, specifically the eastern side going from Knollwood down to the market, and I think if I could have the Towns help with just blocking off one side of the road, I'd personally do it myself but I'm afraid of getting hit by a car, but I'd like to organize one for maybe the first nice weekend in May, and we could put signs up to invite anybody who would like, but if I could have the Town pay for trash bags that's really all I need as well as potentially having one side of the road blocked off while we cleared the trash. Mayor Hodnett stated we actually did this last year and it's in the plans, so we'll be more than glad to let you head that up we'll supply the vest, the trash bags, and block the road, we will do all of that stuff and if I remember right, last year we picked up with 55 bags of trash coming up that hill, so yeah we're behind you 100%. Bob stated yeah, I live at 120 Knollwood and every week or so I go and pick up my trash that is in my ditch, and it's just a lot to take care of. Mayor Hodnett stated we are with you, just leave me your number. Bob stated I'd like to propose reducing the speed limit on Hurt road between that mark and the tunnel to 25 miles an hour as it causes a large amount of noise to people that live along the road and also creates a feeling of that you would get hit by a car when your mowing your grass, there's other people that live much closer to the road, I would think if you live there you might be worried about the traffic being so close to your house at such high speeds, there's places very close by that are 25 mph with houses that are further away, so I'd like to propose that, I'm not sure what other people's opinions are on that, but I would love to see that reduced.

Bob stated and the last one is one of my neighbors has it appears to be AC equipment, business equipment, in their yard and using it for business. It appears that it is zoned for residential, but he doesn't appear to be using it for that purpose. Bob states it's 10 trailers and one dump truck and I'll leave it at. Bob stated that is all I had. Mayor Hodnett stated thank you very much. Mayor Hodnett stated Lynn Huskey your turn, 3 minutes. Lynn stated I am concerned that rumors that I'm hearing. First, those trailers and all, they come down Knollwood drive and turn into that little, narrow driveway up the hill, right before you get to my house. Lynn stated and I agree where it should be residential, I see if that continues it's going to decrease the property value in our neighborhood and that's not good for the town, and it's not good for the homeowners, so that should not be up there, those trucks and all. When I walk out my door in the morning, the first thing I see are all of those, and I know Karen looks out and the Majure's look out the backyard and that's what they see. That's not why we're up there, we're up there because it is a beautiful place to live, with lots of wildlife, and you know we want to keep it that way. Mayor Hodnett stated thank you. Mayor Hodnett stated Lisa Blair. Lisa Blair stated hi I'm also with Bob and Lynn, on Knollwood drive, I moved here not quite three years ago at 100 Knollwood Dr, the reason I purchased the property was because I thought it was a residential property drive and it's a very small community, we have dogs, we walk our dogs up and down the drive, and for heavy machinery things like that coming in, I agree with Lynn, this is home devaluing our home value and it's a concern. Mayor Hodnett stated thank you. Mayor Hodnett stated Karen, it's your turn. Karen stated, hi new neighbors. I live on Knollwood drive, I'm here to address my neighbors parking all this construction equipment literally in my backyard. I can see construction equipment from every window in the back of my house every window, um so far, he's parked two trailers that I guess are used for onsite office, or storage of tools for when they go out on construction sites. It's a dump truck two, different lifts which I guess are called cherry pickers, a tractor, various attachments for dragging behind the tractor, hauling equipment, even larger equipment that I don't know what it is, but it seems to be more every week, and yes he does use the driveway that's right next to my property that goes back up in there and it also runs off onto Hurt Road, which I have another problem with I don't believe that drive should be legal. Karen stated when we moved here, we were told that the property, which was wooded at the time, was not to be developed, there is no access to it because it was too dangerous to have a driveway off Hurt Road into that property. It's just such an eye sore to see all that stuff up there, he's changed the landscape of our area forever first by logging it all, which I guess was his right to do. I always used to love driving up hurt Road and seeing the canopy of trees on both sides of the road, I just thought it was such a nice atmosphere, well that's gone. He put the driveway onto Hurt Road, which I think is against the recommendations. When we moved here, we were told that this could never be developed, no access to Hurt Road was possible, but he's got that driveway, he's put a sign for his business at that drive, and I understand he's leased the property temporarily to Vega Renewables to develop a solar farm on all 26 acres. This one would hit the wildlife in our area we have deer, bear, and Turkey, they'll all be gone. This is a residential area, this is not meant for development for solar energy, I have no problem with solar energy, but in a residential area it does not fit and if this continues, I'm worried all our property values will go down, not just ours in the neighborhood but all around Hurt. If that's developed into a solar farm you could see it from Main Street in Altavista, driving up Pittsylvania Ave, driving out on Grit Road, driving up Hurt Road, it'll all be covered with solar panels, and I think that's just unacceptable. Karen stated that's all I have. Mayor Hodnett stated thank you. Attorney Eller stated each person that spoke needs to give their full name and their addresses; we need them for our records. Mayor Hodnett asked Lisa what is your address please? Lisa responded 100 Knollwood Drive, and Karen Blaesing what's your address, Karen responded 112 Knollwood Drive. Attorney Eller stated ok just must have it in records.

Mayor Hodnett asked Lynn, "what is yours? Lynn stated 104 Knollwood Drive. Mayor Hodnett asked Bob his. Bob responded 120 Knollwood Drive. Mayor Hodnett stated thank you. Mayor Hodnett responded the only comment that I will make to you guys, you mentioned the solar farm, and there's going to be a meeting I think on the 22nd in Altavista at the train station on the solar farm, starting at five o'clock. Karen Blaesing stated I thought it was at six, and I made copies of the letter that you gave me and blacked out the name and address on it, about the solar farm, meeting, and at the train station so if anybody needs a copy of that letter, I didn't get one. Mayor Hodnett stated yeah, I'm surprised because you're an adjacent property owner. Karen stated yeah, so if anybody wants a copy of that letter I have it. Mayor Hodnett stated thank you, and now we will open the public hearing on the NCU. Attorney Eller stated well let me give a little introduction, this hearing is different from the usual ones that we have before the council, which are usually about a proposed action by the council, a rezoning, or passage of an ordinance or something like that and the council will seek the comments of the public to hear whether they're for it or not or what they have to say about. This hearing tonight is in the nature more of a fact-finding hearing where the Council and Planning Commission are looking for specific information about the uses that happened at 301 Prospect Road, which is a white building right at the top of Tanyard Road, which comes up the hill right here, and it's on the corner of Prospect and Tanyard. Attorney Eller stated everybody can see the colors are green on this map, that's a zoning district that indicates residential, R1 in that area, so the uses in the R1 are set forth in the Town Code, which I've given a copy to everybody, did you get one Jeremy? I gave it to the guys that were over there, and do you have the R1 district in your package? Attorney Eller states that commercial uses are not permitted in the R1 zone and that's where the building is, so this brings up the question whether a use was in place on this property at the time that these regulations were passed. The zoning ordinance in Hurt became effective December 15th I believe in 1971. I have a copy of it that I've giving everybody, so the ordinance went into effect in 1971, that does not permit commercial uses, and the code in another place in zoning ordinance states that in the event that a use is not permitted by zoning regulation at the time it's past but it can continue if it's shown that it was there in place before the passage of the ordinance and has continued until the present without being with no cessation of that use for period of two years. Once the zoning district has been shown as we've done here and the uses that are prohibited being commercial, then it becomes the burden of the person who's trying to establish the nonconforming use to show that what was in place at the time of the passage of the ordinance and that it's continued up to the present. The applicant Mr. Blackstock has requested that his property be certified as a legal nonconforming use for a construction business. I don't know if he is here, I didn't see him, but it would be his duty to put forth evidence showing what was on the property at the time and that it is continued forward. Now there is the Supreme Court of Virginia has set down rules for interpreting the zoning ordinances on nonconforming uses. I have given the Council and Planning Commission a memorandum that gives a detailed statement of these rules. The main point of it is that they use what's in place at the time of the passage the ordinance has to be continued all the way to the present and it has to be the same basic kind of business, not a category of use, for example if it was a store at the time of the passage, then it would have to continue to be a store, it could not just be commercial property in general commercial uses over the years that would not be satisfactory to prove a legal non-conforming use. These are rulings of the Supreme Court, so what we are looking for at this time to determine the council and planning commission whether to certify that the construction business is the legal nonconforming use from the time of the passage of the ordinance would be evidence to that effect.

Anybody that knows anything about the uses of the property there, particularly back around 1971, would certainly be evidence we would want to hear. Any other use I suppose could be useful information, but it can't just be a category of commercial use it has to be the same basic type of business, so that's what we're looking for in this hearing, we're not really looking for your personal comments about whether they're ought to be a business there or not although the council will be glad to hear what you have to say about it, but the main thing we're trying to determine is just the fact of what was there when it was when the zoning ordinance went into effect and has it continued to the present. If it is not certified as a legal nonconforming use, then construction business cannot be operated there and would have to remove the things that are there that are supporting that operation. I think you can see if you've been up there there's a lot of trucks out there now or on the property, so that's what the hearings about. Anybody that has any comments now we'll be glad to hear them. Bob Majure stated I just want to make sure I understand correctly, is this a different property than the one along Hurt Road that's also being used for business purposes? Attorney Eller responds yes sir, just down the road a few blocks, more in the middle of Town. Bob responded I just wanted to make sure I understood, that sounds very similar to what we just talked about. Mayor Hodnett asked comments. Jeff Blaesing stated I can't go back to 1971, but I do know that Doris Daniels renovated that to be a hair salon 20 years ago, other than that it's pretty much been vacant. Lynn Huskey stated back about 1980, I think it was a ceramic shop as well. Attorney Eller states we have a statement from Council woman Keesee, that says that as a child she had memories of visiting this property when it was a grocery store and it was owned by a man named Russell Martin, he sold groceries and had gasoline as well, and it was around 1959 forward to what she is thinking to the late 60s, so that's a piece of information we got from Mrs. Keesee. Mayor Hodnett stated, I talked to Madeline Key twice yesterday. Madeline Key was one of the original council members when the town was incorporated, and she also wrote a lot of the ordinances that we still use today, so when she talks about something, she's very familiar with it. She said that the property we're talking about, she confirmed what Kathy is saying, that around 1967 maybe a little later that Martin's store was there. The date that we're looking for was 1971, so you know you can look at Martin's store was there in 67, it's not a stretch to say that it was there in 71. We can't definitively say that it was there in 71, but what we're looking at right now is more of a grocery store type thing with a gas pump out front, because back in that day they were multipurpose gas, and potato chips, and some of them sold meats within the store, and I think Mr. Martin did that, so that's the type of business that was there at that time. Attorney Eller states is there anyone here that knows or has any information that it was a construction business in place there in 1971. Mr. Merricks stated a gentleman named Roy Roberts, he ran after Mr. Martin, so when he ran it for number of years him his wife like a grocery store, and the beauty parlor, then Pete Daniels took it over and they used it for various things, and a bread used it as a bread distribute for bread. It's always been occupied but I cannot remember who all exactly was there. Attorney Eller asked, "was it a construction business there?" Mr. Merricks stated I just don't remember, I do know it's been maybe half a dozen or 8-10 things that it's been used for, but I just don't remember, you know someone was trying to get it as an exercise place, they were remodeling it before Michael took it and use it as an exercise area, you know lift weights and different things, and then Michael bought it from this other guy but I can't remember his name but it's always been something. I've been in the town for 45 years, so it's always been something there. Attorney Eller stated, always something there but was there ever a construction business? Mr. Merricks stated I just don't remember, it was used for storage for construction, but I do not remember, people used it to store. Attorney Eller asked was it being used for storage construction in 1971? Mr. Merricks states I doubt that no sir, I think it was still a grocery service station.



Mr. Boggs stated correct me if I'm wrong, but if a business ceases to do business for a period of two years, that no longer exists? Attorney Eller stated that's the other side of it, even if it were a construction business in 1971 it would have to continue to the present without ceasing for continuous period of two years. If it stops for two years and it can't be started back up. Mr. Boggs stated those businesses that's been in there all of them have been gone for more than two years, regardless of you talking about a grocery store, you're talking about an exercise place, whatever all of those are gone. Mr. Boggs states I don't see why we are going back to the grocery store, that should have been already done away with and gone. Just what's happened in the last two years looks like it would be the only thing that would apply in this case, and the only thing I know of in the last two years has been the storage facility up there for the Pine Acres Trailer Park down there. Attorney Eller states but we have to go back to 1971 because every commercial use after 1971 is an illegal nonconforming use, whereas the grocery store if it were in existence in 1971 it's a legal one and can continue so long as it doesn't stop for two years, all the ones that came after even if they were here two years or whatever they're illegal non-conforming uses, they never get the status that they can continue. That's why we must go back. Mr. Boggs states well now this goes back to another thing to with the business we have, B&B market for example, that's got to be a nonconforming use too and I don't understand how they can keep operating and they've changed hands about four or five times. Attorney Eller asked well was it there in 1971, that's the question? Mr. Boggs states it was there in 1971. Attorney Eller states it's a legal nonconforming use. Mr. Boggs states we have nothing to show us what nonconforming businesses we have in the town of Hurt, I don't know of anything, there's nothing listed, there's nothing in our files or anything else to show us that. Same thing with a special use permit, I don't think we can find anything on the special use permit as to what special use permits has been posted in the past, and it's something we need to look at I think to try to put that into the computer records or something, for instance and I know this is getting off course just a little bit, but I think we issued a gaming special permit over here and it fell through on count of state regulations that it didn't go through. Is that special use permit still good? Attorney Eller responded no it was conditioned on the gambling being permitted, and it was not permitted. Mr. Boggs stated but if something changed could he go back and pick up his special use permit? Attorney Eller stated no, he would have to get a new one. Mr. Boggs stated, and Jason brought up a thing too with him up here, he was asking about it, and I don't know. I can't say for sure one way or another, but he said he was issued a special use permit for his stuff that he stores up there, and it is very possible that he did, I don't know, but what I'm saying is we don't have anything to back up what we're saying. I could say that I had a special use permit issued 10 years ago to be lawn mowers in my backyard or something which I didn't have, and I don't have any special use permit, but there is nothing to prove that I didn't have that. Attorney Eller stated and it all ought to be reported and ought to be files on it. Mayor Hodnett stated in Jason Lovelace's case we do have something, we the document that was signed in November of 2016, what was pushed from the administrator through the Planning Commission recommending that it be approved. Mr. Boggs stated good, that's what we should have. Mayor Hodnett stated so we've got that but talking about B&B market and correct me if I'm wrong, but that's been a market like it is going back to probably the 60s, the only difference is it's changed hands, so if you buy or he buys it that don't matter, it's always been a market, the footprints are the same and it's always been in use. Mr. Boggs stated if it changes names, like I say it was Keesee's market and it's been J&W. Mayor Hodnett stated but it's always been a market. Mr. Boggs states yes, it's been a market, but they have changed the names of the business, so something should have happened after those two years. Attorney Eller well if they operated and started before 1971 and it was legal then, because there wasn't any zoning at all, then the zoning prohibited it, it was a legal non-conforming use and unless they closed that market for two years at any point, then they could keep going, no matter who's the owner.

Mr. Boggs stated even if it switches owners? Attorney Eller responded yeah. Mr. Boggs asked, they wouldn't have to change the business name or the business license that they get from the town? Attorney Eller stated the name doesn't matter, it's the use, if that use continues, and it was legal when it started then it can continue. Now in this case Mr. Blackstock has asked the council to certify that his use as a construction business is illegal nonconforming use. It's up to the Council and the Planning Commission whether you've heard any evidence to support that. Mr. Watson stated without any evidence to support that, then it's just a dead property then, can't do anything with it. Attorney Eller stated you can't do any commercial with it, it can be rezoned, and can put it to another use. Mr. Perdieu stated you could apply for a special use permit and if it goes through and it gets approved, then the simulations you can do whatever the use permit allows. Mayor Hodnett stated so it is not a dead property. Attorney Eller states at this point I guess the Planning Commission should meet in the back there somewhere and come back with their take on it and what they recommended, then the Council can discuss it and decide as to whether to grant this certification of a legal nonconforming use or to deny it. Mr. Adams asked, is our only purpose tonight to decide if it can be used as nonconforming or not, right? Attorney Eller states correct, and that was done by Mr. Blackstock's choice. If you recall, he was starting with a rezoning request and then after discussion, he switched over dropped that, and went for the nonconforming. Mayor Hodnett stated so planning commission, it is up to you guys. Mr. Boggs stated one thing I will mention to the ones on Knollwood Drive, for that down there for to be a solar farm, that must be rezoned, it can't be a solar farm without that being rezoned. That would have to come through the Planning Commission and the Town Council. Karen Blaesing stated she doesn't understand why they are wanting to do that. Attorney Eller states they know they must get it rezoned, and that will come to a public hearing, the Planning Commission will have a public hearing on it and after they hear any comments from the public, they will make a recommendation to the council and council will have a public hearing, and both times the public will have a chance to come and state feelings about it. There will be a sign put up on the property that notifies the public that zoning action has been requested.

### **Consent Agenda**

Mayor Hodnett states we can go ahead and move to the consent agenda to approve the January meet meeting minutes and budget expenditures. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated I had a couple of corrections for the minutes, did we get that in? Kelsie responded yes.

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda with the corrections that were made by Shirley.

Motion: Mr. Poindexter

Second: Mrs. Keesee

Passage: Unanimous

### **Report from Legal Counsel – Attorney Eller**

Attorney Eller stated well I really don't have anything further, we're going get back on that zoning, Shirley and I are going to get back on our ordinances.

### **Reports from Staff**

Administrative –Ellen Brumfield (Treasurer’s Report)- Brumfield reported the general fund at the first national bank has \$363,748.92 of that is COVID relief funds, the ARPA amount, well actually we have \$226,057.00 that we're subtracting out of that for the ARPA funds leaving us the balance of \$137,691.92. The PD funds we have \$112.02 so when we subtract that we have an operating expense balance at first national \$137,579.90. We paid badger meters \$64,000 in October of 21, and we've made another payment yesterday to Bitter Creek for the installation of those meters and that was for 10,492.00 so we have spent a total of \$74,492 of the ARPA money that we've already received leaving us a balance of the \$266,057.00. The LGIP account (and this includes the infrastructure, general, water, and PD) we have \$647,769.70. We have received a grant of \$500 from VRSA to install or to go on the project for steps to go from this side of the parking lot heading down to the pavilion and of course we know that the project is going to be a lot more than that, but we've got \$500 that we received as a grant from them to help with that. Brumfield states the Anthem renewal I've already got the increase and that is 11.1% that's effective July 1. Everybody should have received their W-2's that are on council now, they went out so everybody should have received those. Mr. Poindexter stated did I hear you correctly that the health insurance for staff went up 11%, we will soon be in some discussions about that for the budget. Brumfield responded absolutely.

Administrative - Kelsie Sligh (Clerk Report)- Sligh reported the 2021 collection for taxes it's not where I want it to be, but it's 73.77%. I am running into a lot of issues with our personal property taxes we have a lot of residents that don't realize that we get our records from Pittsylvania County and it's a hit or miss with those records, so a lot of the residents that I'm getting for personal property taxes are outside of the town limits. I'm getting a lot of people on Grit Road, Danville, Rockford School Road. I don't know why they're in our records, but I cannot avoid those people, if I get them, I must send them a bill so when that happens, I just have to go through the county and get an abatement or a statement stating that that person is not living in the Town, but until I get that proof, I can't remove those out of my records. Sligh reports that is what is hitting our records hard. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill asked does the county also send you the exemptions for the elderly? Sligh stated yes, I do get those, and I got those late this year. I got those after I had already sent stuff out, so I did correct them, and I did reach out to a lot of people that were exempt for that and we got those straightened up. Next, we sent out water bills and we've started receiving payments on those. Sligh states we've received a lot of notices back for the phone and texting system, we did have a few that did not want to sign up for that, not sure why but that's their decision, but a lot of it we did receive back so that was good. Mayor Hodnett stated we think we've got a way that we can manipulated data we get from Chatham before we implement it into our software and that will hopefully be able to clean out 90 to 95% of all these names that we shouldn't have, so we're going to do that next year before we do the billing.

### **Public Works**

Joseph Smith reports that the rest of the 258 meters were installed, badger meters. Everything is up and running, I have problems with a couple of the meters regarding the software issues. I have the guy coming out tomorrow to work with me to try to adjust it. It's more or less a couple of them aren't reading from the meter to the computer and the others are in the wrong location. The longitude and latitude were marked wrong, so I must go back out get the longitude and latitude and reenter it. I had to fix a few pressure regulators when they did the system, because they started shutting off.

We had to fix 1 meter that collapsed and put the new meter in, the other one was the tower, they have received everything they need to build the system. They built the system they just received the AT&T chip that communicates with the satellite service and the alarm were having a couple issues with it communicating but they told us it shouldn't be too long now maybe a day or two and it should be resolved. Once that's resolved they said that they could put it in and that would take about 2 1/2 hours, they need to shut pumps down to activate the system. Once the tank is full, we have plenty of time to put that in and test/activate it, so it should be good. Mayor Hodnett stated and just to elaborate on this a little bit, this billing that just went out that you all received is the first time that we've had 100% cellular read meters. Mayor stated so he doesn't have to go out and physically read meters anymore, it is uploaded to the database in town hall, and we can bill right from that. It's all automated, and the good thing is these things help us find leaks and they are extremely accurate, so if you get a call and we tell you that we think you have a leak, if I were in your shoes, I'd pay a lot of attention. I've had that call, so it works. Mayor states thank you Joe. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill asked how are you coming on inventory, or some extra parts for repairs? Joe responded I have a list together; I still have some things I need to get with Gary on. Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated ok, so you are still working on it. Mayor Hodnett stated getting parts are a problem now.

### **Police Department Report**

Calls for Service:

Civil Complaints - 1

Suspicious Person - 1

Public Service - 1

Vandalism/Destruction of Property - 0

Shoplifting - 1

Suspicious Vehicle - 3

Arrest - 1

Alarms - 2

Assist Other Agencies - 2

Mutual Aid (LE) - 1

Traffic Stops - 1

Sex Offenses - 0

Motor Vehicle Accidents - 1 1

Animal complaints - 1

Trespassing - 1

Disorderly Subject - 1

All other Offenses - 1

Domestic - 1

Disabled Vehicle - 2

Other:

Miles Driven - 2099

Officer Sawyer was recently assaulted while handling a domestic call; suspect has been charged with multiple charges resulting from the call.

Use of Force:1

Department/Officer Complaints - 0

Department Updates

## Traffic Study for Spring Street

Chief Lovelace states we also did a traffic study, we're going to try to do traffic studies throughout the town or problematic areas. We have people that make complaints about speeding, so this is the reason why we are doing it. We started on our evidence supplies and working on the evidence room. A DMV grant is coming up, the deadline is the end of this month if y'all would be interested in the Police Department applying for this grant. This is more selective enforcement, speeding tickets, stop signs, and seatbelts, that's all it would strictly cover. What that is, is a reimbursement, so the town would match that, but we would match vehicle maintenance fuel and what would happen is, let's say officer Sawyer goes out to work he gets paid time and half, the town reimburse him, we would have to show it in our finances where we reimburse him and then we would apply for that money back.

They will come in and audit all records and make sure that we're performing what we say we are doing. If we say we are writing tickets between this time and this time and they will come in and audit us to make sure that we're not making up stuff, I'm not looking to go to jail so I will be sure it is right. Also, we got some items in the basement that I would like Council to look at and donate to the Thrifty Fireman, we've got tables, an old office chair, and a bag of window curtains. I would love to get that out of the basement, I think it's three tables, and an old dot matrix table with a hole in the center of it. Chief states he would love council to vote on that to be taken out of the basement. The only other thing I have is that the deadline for that grant is the 28th and if we wait to talk about it, it will be passed by. Mayor Hodnett states I want to go back, you said Officer Sawyer was assaulted, right here in Hurt, small town, we had a police officer assaulted. That's probably a first for the town, maybe even second or third. Lovelace states and that's the reason why we need more police officers, and this was a very dangerous call that he went on and he handled it well, and I watched the bodycam videos he did excellent job, and I couldn't do it any better than what he did. Lovelace states that it was a call that was probably going to turn into a domestic.

## **Public Safety/ Assistant Town Manager- Mike Jones**

Mike Jones states that going back to that call, one of the things we can release is that call got started in Chicago IL, it started out as a stalking, the victim fled to Raleigh, and then fled to Hurt and the guy tracked her down to Hurt. This guy was serious about that, so Officer Sawyer did an excellent job on that. On another note, with the health care issue, those of you who are not familiar with good RX, it's a free program unless you get the good RX gold for \$10 a month, but it's substantially saving employees and anybody who wants to do it a lot on your prescription cost. The last thing, I'll be putting the notice that enforcement is coming of the nuisance inoperable vehicle specifically the nuisance ordinance full-time enforcements going to begin March 1, so everyone look around make sure you're in compliance. They received about three months of notice; a lot of this information was given out via Facebook. That's about the biggest thing, I would support the DMV grant. The DMV grant is also used by the insurance industry to help evaluate insurance rates for automobiles in your community and when you have an active DMV grant, it might only save the average person \$5 a month, but what it shows to town is

committed to public safety and highway safety specifically, and that also gives the officer an opportunity to keep up their skills, and since we are an officer short, the overtime helps with putting more officers on the street, because the public doesn't know whether they are on overtime or whether they are on their own regular duty, and that actually increases our police presence. I'm looking forward to using our newly adjusted ordinance to ensure and accept voluntary compliance so our town will become more appealing and cleaner, but if not then we will do what we must do and hear their appeals. We will keep everything ready, John, the mayor, Chief Lovelace, and I have talked about how things will happen, so council members just be aware that some people might not like it and you might hear about it. Mike states any questions just let me know.

Mr. Johnson stated so the cameras at the school, are those activated yet? Chief Lovelace states so I sent an email out and I'm waiting to hear back from them. I meant to send an email last week and I forgot about it. Chief Lovelace states we will go through a warning period before we do that. Mr. Johnson stated secondly is there any chance once a week or two weeks that an officer could come in at 6 in the morning and run radar, I'm out on the street at that time in the morning and I am going to tell you that we have some speeders coming through quick. Chief Lovelace asked where at? Mr. Johnson responded School Road. I would say 50 miles plus at times.

#### **Reports from Membership, Boards, and Commissions**

Administrative: Kathy Keesee stated I have a few things. I got an email from CivicPlus which is our website host and they have sent information regarding the emergency notifications specifically for the website. I'm going to be passing that on to you Gary and to Kelsie, our social media person, and have you guys look at it and we can decide where we want to go from there. It's going to be something that's going to help us in addition to already texting our citizens or calling our citizens, but it's geared specifically for the website. Mrs. Keesee states also I'll be making additional changes with photographs for our website, right now we're running two slideshows for all Four Seasons within the town, I'm going to be adding a pictures of mayor Hodnett, our treasurer, our clerk, our public works coordinator, our public safety director, and our police officers, so if I haven't already taken a picture of you, get ready I'm going to be taking one. I think I mentioned this last month, I want to go forward with an anti-litter campaign. I think there's a lot of things we can do using signage, using media, anything we can to try to combat this problem and I'll be contacting not only people on the administrative committee with me, but also community development and public relations. We can all get in touch regarding that, and we'll come up with a plan. For the last few years, we've been placing an ad in Discover Magazine, I don't know how many of you are familiar with that, but it's a small magazine that goes around to different locations and businesses and it provides articles about historical events, places to go, places to visit in this part of the community and the Town part is currently going to be running an ad with that publication and it'll be coming out 10 times a year. I have requested that they also deliver so many of the magazines here to town hall in case you're interested in it, at least once a month starting in March you could be able to pick up one of those.

### **Planning Commission**

Mayor Hodnett stated the planning commissions back, so we'll jump back to you guys. Jeremy states for everyone who does not know, I'm Jeremy Shelton; I live on Darrell Lane. I am the current secretary for the Planning Commission. After deliberation, there's no one who could produce evidence that there is or is not a nonconforming use for Mr. Blackstock's property. It's our recommendation that he submits a special use permit or apply for a special use permit for the council to approve or deny. Attorney Eller asked and a rezone request first? Mayor Hodnett states yeah, a request for rezoning first, then he will have to apply for the SUP. Jeremy stated well strike that, if it gets rezoned, he will not have to apply for a special use permit because construction offices are under commercial. Attorney Eller states but it requires a special use permit. Jeremy asked well why is that if it says we could use it for a commercial business under commercial? Attorney Eller states well the ordinance says that it requires a special use permit. Jeremy asked when was that passed? Attorney Eller stated last month. Jeremy states well I was not here because I was sick. Attorney Eller stated yeah it was added construction business was added to the uses but it's in the category requiring this special use permit. Jeremy stated okay well then, we recommend rezoned commercial and apply for special use permit. Gary Boggs stated we won't be able to rezone this commercial because the state will not allow us to rezone one lot that way, and it's on residential right now. Jeremy stated well that's the recommendation, so Mr. Blackstock can continue operating this business. We want them to be legal requirements and being that there is no evidence that it is or is not a non-conforming business operating since the 71, I mean I don't know if anyone in the town could say yay or nay, I guess the recommendation must be rezoning and special use permit. Mayor Hodnett stated thank you, the carveout John that Gary addressed, talking about singling out? Attorney Eller states yes, the spot zoning, that is an issue. Attorney Eller states I am not aware of a state law that states you can only rezone one lot. There's a general zoning context and it is not a good zoning practice to do that, but it doesn't mean it's never possible. I don't believe it's prohibited. If the council would be able to find that it would not interfere with the comprehensive plan and the things that you must go through to determine whether it's appropriate for the community, it's not a sure fine thing, but it's not impossible. Would just have to look at it and hear the public comments as well, because there's going to have to be a hearing. We've got to the point where we were about to have that, and then that's when Mr. Blackstock withdrew his request for rezoning. He had one filed and a special use permit and withdrew it. Mayor Hodnett stated so what Michael will have to do is re file for zoning ordinance change, then it would have to be a public hearing on that when it would come up about the spot zoning. Attorney Eller stated yes, and it would all be handled at the same time, he could file for the special use permit, which would be considered immediately if the rezoning gets passed. The special use permit could have restrictions on the use of the property that is determined by the council. Mayor Hodnett asked so at this point in time what we have to do is wait for Michael to reapply for his rezoning? Attorney Eller stated well we must report to him that his request for Certification has been denied, and he is operating a business in a residential zone that is not legal, so the next step is on him. Gary Boggs states this brings up one other question I'd like to ask, in that case with Jason's business up there, do we need to rezone that at the same time, now his is operating under a special use permit and you're saying you need to change it to commercial for Blackstock's, so we need to change Jason's to commercial as well? Mayor Hodnett stated John that's a question for you because Jason has a duly authorized SUP, and he paid his fee for that.

Attorney Eller stated well I would like to look into that and see the minutes from the meetings. Attorney Eller states that's what we want to do first. Mayor Hodnett asked Gary does that answer your question? Gary Boggs states that will be fine, I'm just curious as to why you would request a rezoning in one, but you don't request it in another. Mayor Hodnett stated you know my perspective would be he got one from the Planning Commission and council and paid for it, so he's kind of got that in hand and you know that carries any weight, a previous decision made by council and Planning Commission, so that's why John wants to look at what the minutes say. Gary Boggs stated I was thinking if Blackstock pays to have a special use permit and then they do decide to give him a special use permit, but he still would have to have it rezoned? Mayor Hodnett stated he must have it rezoned first in his case. Gary Boggs stated if it is not rezoned, it is still residential in his case. Mayor Hodnett stated I can't answer what council did in 2016. Gary Boggs stated Jason didn't have that land in 2016. Mayor Hodnett 11,22, 2016 showing Jason Lovelace on it. Attorney Eller stated well it's something we are going to look at Gary. Gary Boggs stated the lady was the nurse at the Lane Company and her and her husband lived in the house where Jason was at, and they owned it at that time. He passed away and when he passed away, she sold the house and moved. Chief Lovelace stated I bought that house in 2009. Mayor Hodnett states we will pull the minutes. Mr. Poindexter asked now that we have a recommendation for the SUP, what do we need to do as a council? Attorney Eller stated you must act on the recommendation, you got to find that there is no legal non-conforming use for construction business, but somebody's got to make a motion to decline to certify the non-conforming, and then that would be reported to Mr. Blackstock, and he can act from that point.

Mayor Hodnett asked can we make a motion to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation? Attorney Eller stated the recommendation would be for Mr. Blackstock apply for rezoning and it's not appropriate for the Planning Commission to recommend that the rezoning take place now because there hasn't been a public hearing held by them or by the council to grant the rezoning. It's got to be restarted, Mr. Blackstock filed and then he withdrew it on December 21st and went with the NCU request, which is now declined, so now he's back to filing for the rezoning. Mayor Hodnett asked, do I hear a motion? Mr. Adams asked if we need a motion that would say that council has made the decision that he cannot use it as a non-conforming use? Attorney Eller stated we have said that he has applied for certification of a legal non-conforming use, so the council if you find that there was no evidence to support that, you will say that you declined his request for certification. Mr. Perdieu asked, do we also say we recommend that he goes through the rezoning and special use permit? Attorney Eller said I don't know if you would say you recommended, but you might say the next step would be for him to apply for rezoning and a special use permit.

A motion was made that we decline Mr. Blackstock's request to certify the non-conforming use at 301 Prospect Rd and recommend that Mr. Blackstock apply for the rezoning.

Motion: Mr. Perdieu

Second: Mr. Adams

Passage: Unanimous



### **Reports from Membership, Boards, and Commissions**

Community Development- Mr. Johnson stated its time for everybody to ride by the big park over here and see what's taking place as far as development, they have poured concrete and things are looking good. I'm excited and it looks nice. Mr. Poindexter stated every day or two when I ride by, I see more concrete and it's attractive. Mr. Poindexter stated how long did it take to get to that point, the 19th, which is this Saturday, marks six years since the initial conversation in this room. When the new owners had just bought the SPMP property and we had a pretty much an all-day brainstorming session in here, and Donney and I, and I don't remember how many others were here, but it was quite a day when we started this process on what to try and do with this piece of property. This is a testament to how long and arduous, expensive, and sometimes frustrating that the economic development process is, but it also shows proof of perseverance.

Mr. Adams states he also wants to make a comment on the community development, has anybody been by the Hurt Elementary school and seen that nice fence around the playground? It looks nice.

Finance- Gary Poindexter stated before I get into finance, I just want to say I'm delighted at the interest that is in this room tonight and addressing the litter problem along East Hurt Rd, that is a source of frustration to me and is to a lot of us. Mayor Hodnett stated that since it looks like we're going to be having another pick-up on East Hurt Road, I assume that each council member will be available to help with that pickup. Mr. Poindexter stated I think we should all at least try. Mr. Poindexter stated I want to go back to the situation with the Personal Property Tax, I don't know the details of that but that is a longstanding problem, certainly I don't think that is an issue within the house but what I'm not understanding is how the information, and the names and addresses are getting here to start with. Many of these people have a Hurt mailing address but they don't live in the town limits, the zip code is several times the size of the corporate limit, and that's what's generating that. To me that issue most likely lies within the county's database, so maybe there needs to be a conversation with the county. Mayor Hodnett states we have had multiple. Mr. Poindexter stated how can we get it separated by address; it's already done that way for voting, as county people don't vote for town offices.

Mayor Hodnett stated what they say is when people fill out their registration when they go to the DMV, there's a block to check if you live in the Town of Hurt, most people see a Hurt address, they check that block. That information that gets loaded into the Counties database that they are residents within the Town of Hurt. Mr. Poindexter stated there must be some way for the system to separate. Mayor Hodnett stated, like I said while ago, I think we've got away and we're going to implement it when we get it next go round, but we can't do anything until we get their database and then when we have theirs to look at then we can manipulate that data to take out every, what we would call unknown resident to the Town of Hurt. We can isolate those and take them out and that's what we intend to do before we load it into our system. It's not going to be perfect, but it'll be a lot closer than where we're at now. Mr. Poindexter stated it just seems like to me, between the way the databases are administered with the County and even the State to some degree, most of those filters should be captured to some degree before even making it to us. Mayor Hodnett stated I'm not going to argue that point, but they aren't.

Mrs. Barksdale-Hill stated some of that stuff is just manually selected wrong, when I bought my last car in Danville, I had my address on there and when it got registered, it had me registered for the county and I didn't realize what had happened until you got a bill. Mr. Poindexter stated so its multiple layers for that. Mr. Poindexter stated looking over the first page of the report, it is a pleasure to see the Real Estate and Personal Property taxes more than 100% collections of what was budgeted. 103% for real estate, 132% personal property, and 135% for late penalties, that is some of the best financial years I've seen in quite a while. I want to appreciate the folks here in the office that are making that happen, the time and energy and the details, that is not an easy thing to do and its good news for us, for a municipality because it a long-standing issue of being owed a lot of money, but we can't use the money until it is in our pocket. It is finally in our pocket and will enable us to do things, money owed is money owed. We can do things that we need to do and not talk about a tax increase to get them done.

Mayor Hodnett stated to the new guys in town and everybody else we don't typically have a crowd this large so just to update you on that, a few years ago our delinquent debt was six figures upwards of \$150,000 on water bills and taxes, and if you've got that much delinquent debt it ultimately falls to the people that are paying their bills, to make up the difference. Our staff here in, the last 12 months has brought that number down by 85%. We have collected 85% of that delinquent debt. Mr. Poindexter stated the only other thing I have tonight for finance, is I did spend several hours this past weekend continuing to construct the excel document for the upcoming budget cycle, it is nearing completion and I have just maybe a couple more hours. I'll be ready to share it with our treasurer and our mayor so that we can all work freely on it. It was some things in there that took a little while to clean up that will make it flow more smoothly. We should be able to start filling in some of these things and of course more of these will be forward coming, like you just got the insurance increase. We are going into budget season so it will be busy for the next couple of months. Mayor Hodnett stated, and you all were here to hear the audit report on the town, that's a greatly improved report from the past and it will be better next year because the checks and balances that they were looking for have been implemented, so expect a better report next year than what you got this go round.

Mr. Poindexter stated along that same line, after hearing the strength of that report, that was encouraging, one can live with that, it would be easier for someone who has not seen the whole picture to draw a conclusion, oh the Town has so much more money that it ever has ever had, oh let's cut taxes and utilities, because they are bringing in so much money, we have to be careful about that because even though it is better than it's been in a long time, we need not to get to comfortable. One major easy breakdown with the water system, one major project that needs to be done will easily wipe all of that out. We are better now than we used to be, but we still have a long way to go to where we need to be.

Public Works: Mr. Adams stated I did contact my guy that I talked to before about the barrier down at the pump station. I thought he could give me some ideas and me, Joe and Tom have talked about it and digging holes down around all the water lines is not a good idea, but he is supposed to call me back. The other thing is, I don't quite understand why people are throwing out all this trash on East Hurt Rd. I think there's a solution somewhere, I don't know what exactly it is, but me and Gary were talking about it the other day, but I would love to hear what y'all think about it to the ones that was talking about trash and how we can address the problem. I thought about several different things, and it is a hard thing to stop. Anyone can throw trash out in the middle of the night. We picked up all that trash in April of last year and two days later, it's trashed. I would love to hear some input next meeting, just give some ideas. Mike Jones stated Collin I've got a suggestion for us to consider, the town can write to the general District Court judge, who happens to be my brother and request community service when they impose sentences on folks found guilty of littering, that part of the community service would be X number of hours picking up trash within the confines of the Town of Hurt. Mr. Adams stated catching them is the problem. Mike states well there's a couple of things we can do, I mean if we if we want to make a real initiative, we can use cameras and we can try to identify the person who's doing it, we can do selective enforcement, that's one of the things that the DMV grant would help on setting up.

Once you catch them, our \$25 fine doesn't really mean much, 22 hours of walking up East Hurt Road picking up trash has more of an impact in my opinion. A lot of localities use that in the litter world and of course you have the information, you got litter pickup in progress, the sign says county community service, that's not something somebody really wants to see their neighbors doing when they're going up the street. Mayor Hodnett stated, Jason we picked up what, two or three bags on the hill and brought them down here to town hall and I hate to say that we dissected the bags to get names of people that Jason went after. Mayor Hodnett states, I think you guys can see we are big on the littering as well.

#### **Report from Mayor Hodnett**

Mayor Hodnett stated we started receiving letters from bond council on the closing of the loan for the consent order work down between the water treatment plant and the pump station, so we've got those coming in and I think they've got to the end of the month to get them in and then we'll decide. If we go ahead and close that loan within, I think six months, we get a 2/10th of a percent discount on the interest rate, so we want to do that save every step we can.

Tom, this will be a little bit toward you, we've got five engineering firms that have answered our request to sign up with the Town of Hurt, so that we can use them as we need them. Mayor Hodnett asked if we can bring on all five of these firms and kind of have them in the stable? Tom responded once council has had the opportunity to hear the recommendation after we reviewed that, you will make a proposal to council to accept 1, 2, or 5, however many council wanted. At that point that is your legal document with the health department that you went through a process that you made it Statewide, trying to reach out to any engineering firm that wanted to apply and you're in compliance with their funding and construction loans, so you choose which one of the five that you would want. Mayor Hodnett stated alright thank you.

Mayor reported we spoke earlier about the mowing contract; we've got this settled and I'll notify Mark Kidd tomorrow. Going back to just information for you guys, I can't tell you how fortunate we are and I'm going to brag every chance I get if I'm sucking air on this earth about the good job that these girls and Joe do for the Town every day. The money that they bring in and save is just unbelievable. Tom states just one more thing about Joe, he did take the course back in November and I am very proud. Joe scored a 98 on that transmission test which is no small feat, 7 chapters, and his lowest score was a 96. I was working with a small town like Hurt who has been without water, it is important that Town Council is aware of these problems. Therefore problems like this need to be addressed, like Mr. Poindexter already said if you're not looking at one problem at a pump station or a major failure over here it costs a lot of money. That town had to spend \$60,000, they've had a lot of people come in from water authorities to help them resolve their problem. I found out about it last week and I thought they had resolved that problem and they still hadn't on Sunday. I'm going to work towards trying to get you all to be a member of what's called Virginia Warn, it is an emergency system that allows for other localities to come in and help you. I saw the emergency request come in through Rockbridge County for them, so I drove up there Sunday just to see the lay of the land and I called the guy that had been working on it and I told him these are the things that you need to do. At 1:30 PM the next day I showed up and told him I would meet him at 2:00 o'clock when everybody was back because they let everybody off on Super Bowl Sunday, but I can't imagine being in a community that don't have water for 20 days, so that's why I went up there and when I got there at 1:30, I started walking up to the fire hydrant and the engineers that were standing there I said I don't believe it, and I said what, he said you show up and the pressure goes from 35 to 85, "what is going on" I said well I might have scared it into submission, I don't know, but I told the guy the day before what the guys needed to be doing as far as turning valves and looking at narrow valves, and one of them found the right one and they're back in water. They still got things to fix, but you all have been doing that and I've been watching for the last five years how your town has just improved and improved and been more caring about what you're doing for your citizens and your community and I'm proud of you, just want you to know that. Mayor Hodnett stated well elaborating a little bit more on that, Tom and Joe have been working on locating every meter, valve, cut off valve anything to do with the water system in this town and they are logging it into Google Earth, on the map, by colors, so now we be able to go in if we've got a problem anywhere in town, immediately isolate where the cut offs are, what needs to be done, and take care of it a lot quicker than we've been able to do it in the past so that's what they've been doing and great job. That's what I mean about the people that work for this town now. Unless anybody has anything else I want to thank you guys for coming, we appreciate your comments and look forward to seeing you here in the future.

**OTHER**

A motion was made for Jason to apply for the DMV grant for next year.

Motion: Mr. Perdieu

Second: Mr. Poindexter

Passage: Unanimous

A motion was made to haul off any miscellaneous stuff in the basement.

Motion: Mr. Perdieu

Second: Mrs. Barksdale-Hill

Passage: Unanimous

Mayor Hodnett stated thank you for coming, looking forward to seeing you again.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 PM

Kelsie Sligh, Clerk

Gary Hodnett, Mayor