

The Board of Commissioners held a work session Tuesday, February 18, 2014, at the Town Hall. Commissioners present were Gerleen Pitchford, Sylvia Alston and Heidi Hogan. Commissioner Terry Newsom arrived at 10:10 am.

Mayor Bobbitt called the meeting to order at 10:07 am.

Commissioner Hogan reported she had spoken with the owner of the property surrounding the current Town landfill about trading the Town's three acres for 3 acres accessible to the road. The Town would pay attorney costs if the trade was agreed upon. She hoped to have a decision to present to the Board at the next regular meeting.

Commissioner Hogan advised the contract for street maintenance was up for renewal. She suggested cutting back on the number of pickups and having a set schedule for brush collection, perhaps two times a month. Discussion followed and the consensus was it would be a nice to have a schedule and Peter Decilles, the contractor, was in full agreement. The savings would be used for additional mowing.

In response to a question from Commissioner Hogan, the Board briefly discussed storm drains and Mayor Bobbitt advised that Superintendent Hamm had a plan to clean the storm drains when he had the time.

Commissioner Hogan advised 6 contractors had picked up plans for the Library renovation.

Commissioner Hogan reported some Powell Bill funds had been spent for snow removal and went on to say Shaw street was in bad condition and they could probably (afford to) do Shaw and another short street. She also wanted to look at sidewalks; there was a bad spot on Mosby. Other sidewalks in need of repair were discussed as well as ditches needing to be cleaned, especially along Hackett, Stokes and Kirkland.

The Board briefly discussed a meeting scheduled for February 25 on the possible tax increase if the Halifax County and city school systems were merged.

Mayor Bobbitt asked Commissioner Hogan to look at her list of streets needing work including Cherry and Mulberry.

Commissioner Newsom advised he had asked other Police Departments and the Highway Patrol about used cars; they were running their cars longer and the State Trooper had told him they had a car they would sell for \$10,000. The car needed a transmission. He hadn't been able to get up with Mr. White about the 2 program cars to see if the offer was still available. Discussion followed including looking into purchasing a Toyota, the project cars, 2 Malibus, would come with 100,000 mile warranty and had very good gas mileage and reserve funds (fund balance).

Commissioner Pitchford advised the police budget only had \$5,261.75 left for part time salaries for the next 19 weeks. Discussion followed on where to amend the budget.

Commissioner Alston reported she was looking at things that need to be done without free help. The deadline for cleaning up the cemetery (decorations) had been posted all over Town. The cemetery needed gravel put on some paths and she was working with Jay Myrick to see what could be done.

In discussion Commissioner Alston suggested having a smoke free policy for Town employees and Mayor Bobbitt asked Commissioners, if they had a question, to ask the appropriate commissioner before the meeting. Commissioner Hogan advised she had spoken with Clyde (Roanoke Valley Insurance) about the increased cost for the library upon completion of the renovation. He had said he didn't think it would a large increase.

Commissioner Newsom made a motion seconded by Commissioner Hogan, to adjourn the meeting at 11:04 am. The motion was voted and carried.

Clerk