

Minutes:

Date: 06/20/2023

Time: 1905

In Attendance:

Council President- Teresa Harrison **(TH)**

EVFD Chief- Cliff Kimble **(CK)**

Council Vice President- Josh Davenport **(JD)**

Town Clerk- Krystal Bien **(KB)**

Council Member- Greg Wells **(GW)**

Assistant Town Clerk- Shawna Powell **(SP)**

Council Member- Casey Laycox **(CL)**

DPW/WW Director- Billy Martin **(BM)**

Council Member- Garet Skipper **(GS)**

Town Attorney- Michelle Jordan **(MJ)**

Town Attorney- Jeremy Mutz **(JM)**

TH- Opening prayer, Pledge of Allegiance, and called meeting to order.

TH- **Meeting Called to Order**

TH- Consent to agenda items, previous council minutes, bills to be paid.

Motion - JD

Second - CL

All In Favor

Ben Tew (BT) – **Two-Toed Tom Festival Update**

Explains the first meeting was held at the Town Hall last night, 06/19/2023. Discussed setting a date, activities, logo, and other “start up issues”. Approximately 7-8 in attendance with 2 council members.

Mentions that while mapping the park for the TTT meeting, he noticed that the park is really starting to show it’s age. The park building is beautiful since it has been redone. The walking trail is cracking and has pop holes. The grass is becoming overgrown in some areas. All the ball courts are cracked and faded. Chain link is bend and broken. The concern is that with the current state of the park and need for repairs, it will bring attention to these flaws and take away from the festival and all the wonderful things the Town has to offer. Suggests that when looking at next year’s budget, or after the audit is done, investing in fixing up the park outdoors.

JD- States that there is a possibility of using some of the ARPA to invest in this.

KB- Reminds the council that the ARPA funds have been claimed for the audit, so now they are the Town’s to use as needed.

JD- Agrees that is a great idea.

BT- States that there are also smaller projects that will help with this project such as power washing the equipment and etc. Suggests turning unused tennis courts into an skate park. Also suggest disk golf equipment.

JD- Asks if there is liability with doing a skate park.

KB- Suggests signs.

JM- States that signs would be needed, but even then, there is a certain amount of liability.

GS- Asks what's the difference in someone biking or skating on the sidewalks.

JM- Explains that it defiantly a liability risk to have a skate park. He explains that if someone sprained their ankle playing tennis it would be very hard to prove liability with the Town, however, that is not the case if a child is hurt while playing on skate park equipment.

BT- States that the dock currently at the park also comes with liability.

JD- Yes, the dock does have some liability, however the skate park is intended for dangerous activity unlike the dock.

JM- States the if someone was to fall at the dollar store and break a limb they can still sue the store, however it won't be due to the design of the store. If a skate park is built, then in the case that someone is injured the design will be scrutinized.

JD- Suggests maybe a new or improved pavilion or seating area.

KB- Suggests hopscotch.

JD- Agrees that improvements are needed.

BT- Suggests disk golf.

JD- Agrees maybe something like that, that is lower in risk, but also improves the park. Suggests seeking grants for the park and possibly moving some of the left-over budget funds towards the park and making needed improvements.

GS- States that there is a lot of wasted space out there that can be utilized as parking. Also, stresses that nothing needs to be put in that can be easily messed up.

BT- Voiced concern about the community garden. Points out that the ground has been plowed and the grass killed, but nothing further has been done.

GW- Explained that there was not enough rain early on, and then when the rain did come it has been in excess which is not ideal for a garden.

BT- Suggests raised beds that are rented out to households or organizations. At that point it would be the renter's responsibility to maintain and care for. The town would only be responsible to supply the bed, dirt, and water.

JD- Suggests doing similar with the plowed area. Agrees that the raised beds do make it nicer, but suggests there may be other options.

BT- Expresses his concerns of it becoming a “town council project” and voices wanting to get the community involved and to have a sense of ownership.

JD- States that this has been a concern from the beginning.

CL- Asks if the EVFD will still be helping with the planning and execution of the TTT Festival, or if it will be turned back over to the town.

BT- States that he is currently the driving force behind the festival. He states that he feels that if the festival makes any money more than what will be needed to hold the next festival, those funds should be brought before the council to decide how they will be used or divided.

GS- Stresses that by default that if the fire department is involved that the town is involved and vice versa.

JD- Stresses that these two organizations are directly related and not separated. He states that the only separation would be the committee that is running the festival. States he would be comfortable with the EVFD having an entire section that is dedicated to donations for that department. States that the workload should be shared and that the town, festival, and EVFD should work together. Stresses that the EVFD is the town. The main concern is that the festival makes enough money to fund future years. Any extra can be discussed later as a town to see where those funds can make the biggest impact. The money that the EVFD brings in as separate donations during that event will be the EVFD's to decide on.

CL- States that he feels that the EVFD should have a bigger role in the planning and events.

JD- States if they want more say, then they should come to the meetings.

CK- Reminds that he was at the meeting. He then stressed that the EVFD was handed the TTT festival to use as a fundraiser by the town council because they said that they wanted nothing to do with it.

Heated discussion between JD and CK- The EVFD not holding it before now, when it was handed over to the EVFD, motivation shown by BT.

CK- States that he felt like every idea that the fire department suggested at the meeting was shot down. He felt uninvolved.

JD- Asks BT what his perspective on the situation.

BT- Explains that the TTT meeting was just a discussion meeting. There were no items on the agenda to be decided or voted on. It was just for information and open discussion. States that is the EVFD felt that their ideas were not accepted, it was not due to them being EVFD, but instead because other members there might have had counter ideas.

JD- Asks if everyone had a signup sheet and an opportunity to speak. Requests that future meetings follow the "Robert's Rules".

CK- States that he suggested this at the meeting.

JD- States to BT that he is expecting him to head the board up and to make sure that there are slots for discussion so that it's not a "free for all" and that everyone has a time to voice their opinion.

Group Council with BT Discussion- About how the meeting went, how some members felt, the structure, that the things that were "stopped" were not on the agenda, how the council could like the meetings to be held.

GS- Asked if these meetings will be recorded?

KB- States yes, it was recorded, and there will be minutes typed for each meeting.

JD- Asks BT if this is something he will be comfortable with.

BT- States that he had hoped it would be less formal and more community oriented. Since there are people who are unhappy with the format, a more formal meeting can be held in the future. He stresses that he does not want anyone to have hurt feelings or feel unheard.

JD- States that by following these rules this will stop any further issues.

GS- States that by default there will be some conflict. Some decisions made by the committee will make some people mad.

JM- States that this structure will help cut down on the time that it takes to hold these meetings. He explained that his church even follows these guidelines down to the agenda.

BT- States that he did have an agenda as well as detailed notes.

JD- Asks that it be more formalized. Gives examples of what is expected and how voting should take place. Expresses his gratitude for BT taking on this project and explains that he knows it involves a lot of hard work. Encourages the EVFD to work with the committee.

CK- States that he turned over all the TTT stuff over to BT. States they were going to donate several thousand dollars towards the festival but decided to pull back from that and allow the town to fund it. Since the town will be deciding where the money will go. States that he suggested covering where how the money will be handled before anything else. States he could easily get \$2000 in donations right now but needs a place to put the money.

JD- States that there is a place for the money.

KB- States that there are several bank accounts, one is just for the TTT festival. States that she just needs to get a motion from the council to open an account just for the TTT Festival.

JD- Motion to put the funding for the Two Toed Tom directly to the community fund.

KB- Clarifies that it is now called the Admin Fund and is for funds without allegation.

JD- Suggests that these funds will be tracked and available for the committee to monitor. This will keep them available and will have a place to keep the funds.

CK- States that anything that is purchased, gives the example of \$11,000 for a log roller, will have to be approved. He states that is what he was trying to avoid, suggesting this is why he mentioned TTT having its own 501 and checking account. Allowing BT to make those decisions and purchases without having to go through all the extra steps.

BT- States that he would not be comfortable with handling things that way. Even with the entire committee being in agreement, he feels that it still will need to be overseen by the council.

JD- Explains to CK that if the Town was a much bigger city then the things he was suggesting would make sense. Suggests maybe trying to include some of the ideas.

CK- States that in the past there were multiple issues with the TTT funds due to money and organizational issues that the town and clerk's office has had in the past.

GS- Explains that those people are no longer with the town. A lot of work has been put into turning things around and doing things the right way. Asks for clarification about the EVFD pulling back since the EVFD is apart of the town.

CK- Reinitiates that the EVFD is pulling back and will not be putting any funds into the TTT.

GS- Rephrases his question to say, why would there be funds that would be under the control of the EVFD but not under the town.

CK- Explains that the EVFD has a fundraiser account. The EVFD does fundraisers such as boot drives to fund things like fireworks and the TTT festival.

GS- Asks if these funds are under the sole control of the EVFD.

CK- Confirms, it is.

GS- Starts to voice concern.

CK- Cuts off GS and reminds the council that it was the council that gave the TTT to the EVFD to begin with.

GS- States that most of those members are no longer on the council.

CK- Argues that they are.

GS- Clarifies that only 2 of the 5 current members were here.

JD- States that he was not a part of that decision.

CK- Argues that yes, he was.

JD- States that no, that is not what he said. Instead insists that he told CK instead that opening the account was not a good idea. He offers that maybe the minutes should be reviewed.

CK- Argues that this is not how it went.

JD- States that he was for the EVFD having a credit card until the town's name, but not this. He wants the EVFD to manage their own funds and the town does not want control of their money. Stresses that this is not the same council as in the past. He explains that he wants to help. The town wants to pay for EVFD's office supplies.

CK- States he does not want the town to buy their supplies.

JD- Explains that the town wants to support the EVFD. Stresses that the town does not want to touch the EVFD's donations, just wants to know they exist and for them to not be in someone else's name. He stresses again that the town will not take the donation money.

CK- States that is not the issues. The issue is not being able to access it when it is needed since they don't just work during business hours. So what happens when they need the money for gas or drinks on the weekend or after hours.

JD- States he wants the EVFD to have a credit card with a decent limit so that they can get gas and drinks whenever they need.

GW- States he thought that was already done.

JD- States he thought it was already done also.

GS- States that never should have happened. That the EVFD should have access to their account just like Water Works has access to theirs.

KB to CK- Asks if he has a credit card.

CK- Confirms he has it.

GS- Asks should the EVFD have a bank account that is not under the town.

JM- States that should not be an issue. Other cities have accounts to support Christmas events.

GS- Clarifies that he has been here since January and that this is a sincere concern. Asks again if this includes the EVFD. He stresses that he knows that there were a lot of things done previously that was not done correctly.

JM- Clarifies again that it is okay.

JD- States that he asked Michelle, and she said any entity that is a part of the town that the account must be under the town's control. Asks for further clarification. States that his understanding that the situation was not okay.

JM- States that it probably needs to be something that the town could audit, but it is allowed to have a separate account for donations. The town would still need to be able audit and oversee those funds.

JD- Asks if operational expenses can come from that account.

JM- Explains no, that in good accounting practices the town would have process to get those things.

GS- Stresses so that it can be audited.

JD- Asks CK if going forward if all the operational expenses would come out of the town-controlled account.

CK- Asks for clarification that all operational expenses would come from the general account.

JD- Confirms.

CK- Agrees. Goes on to say that the biggest issue was that in the past that when the EVFD needed to have a repair paid it had to come from the donation account because the clerk at the time was not willing cut the check to pay the repair man.

CL- Confirms that CK has a lot of issues getting the money that he needed when he needed it.

JD- Expresses his understanding and states that he is aware of the issues that were had in the past.

CL- States that those issues caused a sour taste in the mouths of the EVFD.

CK- Explains that when he needed ink for their printer, they were forced to use cash because the credit card has too small of a limit.

JD- Suggests adding to the purchasing policy that the EVFD have a higher limit.

KB- Suggests adding that those limits be set of certain things, like office supplies.

CK- Expresses his concern for how much it costs to fill up the fire trucks.

JD- Expresses understanding in the high cost of filling up the trucks and explains that this is were adding a bigger limit would be helpful.

KB- Explains this would help them not max out when they need to get things like office supplies on top of the other things they are already in need of.

CK- Explained that also AED pads are very expensive (\$160 each) and very unpredictable as to when they will need to be purchased.

JD- States that the town will raise the limit, so that the EVFD will be able to get the things they need when they need without having to pull funds from the donations to pay for operational costs.

KB- Suggests motioning for an amount to raise it to, possibly \$1000.

GW- Motions to raise the spending limit to \$1000 for the EVFD

CL- Seconds

All in Favor

CK- **inaudible conversation

JD- Tells CK that it is okay, and that the town trusts the way he spends money.

KB- **cut off conversation... as long as each purchase is not over \$300.

JD- Instructs to break up the purchases into \$300's with a \$1000 limit.

CK- Asks about buying t-shirts for fundraising.

JD- States that fundraising purchases may be made from the donation account and the funds raised to return to that account. Stresses again that operational costs need to come from the account held by the town.

CK- States that the main reason that they fundraise for it for the fireworks and Santa in the park.

JD- Clarifies, that is what the donations are for. He just wants to make sure things like drinks and operational costs are not coming out of that account, but instead the correct account.

CK- Asks if the town is sure.

JD- Confirms.

KB- Explains that the point of this is to show an accurate amount that it cost to run the EVFD, especially for when the town is making a budget.

CK- Confirms that he does log every purchase that the EVFD makes, even from that donation account in his computer. He explains that when they raise money, some goes to the bank and some stays in cash for things like drinks.

JD- Asks that the donation money be spent on charity things and events, not for operations. The town also wants to know exactly how much it costs to run the EVFD. Having real numbers to present at budget time will help plan moving forward.

CK- Asks if anyone read what he sent to the county.

JD- Explains that he understands he is trying to seek money and that having real numbers will help that happen in the future.

KB- Explains that in the future if the county offers X, but we have real numbers that suggest it costs XX then the town will have something to stand behind when they request more.

JD- Stresses that this will not be the EVFD's problem, this will fall on the town. Stressing that the town and the EVFD are one in the same and that goes for seeking answers from the county as to why we are not better funded.

CK- Explains that in the past someone went to the county and explained that the City of Bonifay would cease all calls outside of the city if they didn't get an increase in funding. Asks why Esto doesn't do this.

JD- Explains that due to not having the hard numbers they are not able to yet.

GS- Reintegrates that we cannot ask for what is not shown in the account numbers that is controlled by the Town.

CK- States that he sent them the number from just the general account that is controlled by the town and that amount is a lot more than they are currently providing.

GS- Asks how much is also being spent from the other account.

CK- Agrees that the logs do not show those amounts.

GS- States that if the amount is for example 20,000 now, but it is really 40 or 50,000 with those funds, then the EVFD will never be able to ask for the money it needs. With those hard numbers they would be forced to do more. As a part of the town, the town should go to bat for the EVFD to insure they are getting the fair amount of funding. The EVFD should not be surviving off only what the town provides and donations.

KB- Explains that in the budget she made, she included 30,000 to run the EVFD. She states that she will go with the EVFD to approach the county commissioners.

CK- Explains that 90% of his calls are for the county, but that the town contributes more money than the town does. States he would need a letter written by the lawyer and signed by the President and Vice President to send to the county commissioners.

JD- Stresses that the town wants to support the EVFD.

GW- States that the letter to the county commissioners needs to be sent.

CK- Explains that they are working on budget now, which is the perfect time to do it.

GS- States that as long as it is not against the rules, and everything is being overseen that he has no issues.

CK- Explains that KB is receiving all his bank statements.

GS- States that he is okay with getting a letter and sending it to the county asking for more funds. Stating that there are probably only 5% of the calls on the fire report in Esto.

CK- States it is more like 1%.

GS- Stresses in that case the county needs to chip in more. It would be different if the majority of the calls were in Esto.

JD- Reiterate that no one on the council wants to see the donation money going to operational cost.

CK- States that they are on lock down now is because they wanted to purchase long sleeves for all the guys since new ones have not been bought in over 3 years. There is currently an application for a grant open for a truck. Until that is cleared, they put all other spending on hold until the truck is purchased. He states that the grant is a match grant and that the portion that the EVFD was going to pay was going to come from the donations. Asks if that is no longer an option.

JD- Explains no, those funds do not need to be used like that. The county will need to pay their fair share and the only way to do that is if the numbers are accurate.

CK- States that he requested 27,000 from the county commissioners for that truck. He did not want the town to have to pay towards it. Explains that this would be mutually beneficial for both as they would in return give the county their old truck to use with the road department. The truck can no longer be used as a fire truck. He states that he will have to wait to see what they do. He feels that a letter from the town would help.

JD- Agrees that this is something he feels the town could do to help.

TH- Asks KB to write a letter for this and to call when it's ready and she will come to sign it.

JD- Agrees he will come up too.

CK- Points out that the example budget numbers for next year will pay the EVFD an extra \$1000 from the town.

KB- Confirms that it is and she intends to increase what is paid to the EVFD.

GS- Asks what is currently in EVFD.

KB- Asks for clarification as to if he is referring to the account balance.

GS- Confirms.

CK- \$9,000

KB- \$8,800

CK- Its \$8,952. Clarifies that this amount is to operate the rest of the physical year.

KB- Confirms what CK said.

CL- Reiterates that is not a lot.

GS- Expresses this is why the county needs to step up.

KB- States that this year as soon as the budget was approved the town had only planned on giving them a quarter and spread it quarterly. The town ended up having to give the EVFD 75% instead, before the county's amount arrived. The county didn't even match what we gave them.

CK- States he believes it was \$3,000-4,000 less.

KB- States she thinks it was the town gave \$12,000 and the county only gave \$11,000. She explains she remembered because she felt it was an odd number, not a round number. They didn't even match the town even though 99% of the calls are for the county. The town pays more.

CK- States that Esto is the 2nd busiest fire department in the county.

KB- Asks who they are second to.

CK- States Bonifay. Explains that they respond to a lot of EMS and medical calls because approximately 6 of the firefighters at Bonifay are EMS.

JD- Clarifies that Bonifay is a completely different situation. Expresses wanting to fix the issues.

KB- States she feels the amount paid by the county should be closer to \$20,000 - \$25,000. Stating that would relieve a lot of the stress that the EVFD feels wondering where they will get the funds for the things they need.

JD- States that in that situation that the EVFD would be able to use the donations in the way they were intended. Reminds CK the town wants to help however they can.

GS- Suggests on the topic of the TTT, that if the if a department puts in a percentage towards the cost of holding, that if the festival makes money that department should be entitled to the same percentage from the profit. Clarifies that it would have to prorated at the point that the festival begins to make profit.

KB- Ask for clarification, stating that once we know the cost and the amount made, then the cost would be subtracted from the profit and the remainder would be divided between the departments according to their participation.

GS- Clarifies, yes with the amounts to be decided by percentage. This gives each department incentive to donate more. He also states that the first 2 or 3 years won't likely make money. Stresses to BT that moving forward to follow the guidelines set forth, record the meetings and in the event he feels overwhelmed to listen to them. Thanks, BT, for all his hard work.

CK- Suggests starting at the beginning and nail several things down before moving on. States that having meetings like the last where it is an open conversation with no decisions and only suggestion will not get things accomplished.

JD- Suggests holding public comment at the beginning or the end. If things get crazy you can limit the time to 3 mins or less. He stresses that it is important to do that since the public's opinion and input is important.

CK- States that the council put you, BT, over it. Suggests delegating below him and be the voice of reasoning.

BT- Explains that for the first meeting that he wanted to get people who were interested to come and share. He states that he had a lot of notes he wanted to share. With the next meeting the committee will be able to start to make some decisions now that everyone is up to speed. States that he hopes that the fire department will come back and share their thoughts. He wants them to be involved if they want to be. States that he wants them to have a big say, but by staying away from the meetings they will not be able to.

CK- States that at the meeting he said he would help in any way that he possibly can, and he is a man of his word. States that he will still help. With the funding and the fact that it was going to be a huge fundraiser for the EVFD, but if the town wants to shift the funds to them, he will continue to help in any way that he can.

JD- Stresses that the town is still going to make sure that the money is distributed fairly. Clarifies that he was not saying the EVFD would get no money, instead he was suggesting that the TTT festival needed to be maintained first.

GS- Asks if there is a full committee, where they can vote and etc.

CK- No.

BT- Explains that there were 8 or 9 people at the meeting with 5 or 6 of them signing up beforehand. He expresses that he does not know if that would be considered a committee, since it is not set up like the council where everyone is named.

GS- Recommends having a 4 or 5 person committee with, if CK is not interested then someone like CK, to represent the EVFD. Also, a council member so that the town has a voice. This allows for if there is a vote of no then everyone knows where they stand.

JD- Clarifies with 3 to hold form, explaining that not all 5 members have to be there every time, but that at least 3 need to be present to help a democratic decision. So a 5 member committee.

CK- States the first thing that needs to be done is a TTT committee.

Group Discussion- Joking and banter about voting and making mistakes.

KB- Asks what will happen when it's time to start hiring entertainment and things that cost a large amount of money, will those items need to be presented to the council first.

JD- States yes, a liaison such as BT will need to present those plans and proposals to the council. Then the council will approve for that money to be available to them from that

account. States that if needed to invite the council to attend in the event that the committee is not able to agree.

KB- Reminded the council that these meetings have been advertised a special meeting so that the council could attend the meetings if they choose to.

JD- Asks if the council is allowed to attend and that every meeting will be held as a special meeting.

KB- Clarifies, yes, with advertising, recording, and minutes.

JD- Reiterates that it is indeed a special meeting and that anyone from the public will be able to attend.

KB- Explains that it was done that way because JD & TH has expressed wanting to attend.

JD- States that is why he was concerned.

GS- Asks who would have the authority to name a TTT board.

JD- States that will fall on BT.

Group Discussion- Some of those being considered, joking and banter.

KB- Suggests contacted all those on the list and let them know that a board will be select3ed at the next meeting and encourage them to attend.

BT- Informs that the next meeting will be on July 10, Monday, at 6pm.

CL- States he thinks that the council should make a motion to open a bank account.

Group Council- Explains that this has already been done, that the TTT will have a separate ledger.

CK- Fire Report:

- 15: Calls
- 1: Structure Fires
- 2: Brush Fires
- 6: Vehicle Accidents
- 4: Storm Damage
- 1: Medical Call
- 0: Smoke Alarms
- 0: Special Detail

- 0: Smoke Investigation
- 1: Vehicle Fires
- 0: Landing Zone
- Gallons of Water Used: 2,600

TH- Asks if the FD tracks how many calls are for the county each month.

CK- States he is pretty sure.

TH- Explains that when the town writes the letter for the EVFD for the county she would like to include some evidence that the majority of the calls each month are outside of the town.

CK- States he will talk to Tom since he does all the reports and see if he can get some sort of list or report. Might have to go through reports and look at addresses.

KB- Suggests even if it is only for the last 9 months.

CK- States that since January 1 until now 106 calls total, and only 1 has been in the town.

GS- Asks what the typical cost per call is.

CK- Explains that would be hard to say. There are a lot of factors that go into that.

Group Discussion- How often the EVFD fuels up, how much that costs, the time spent at those calls (ex. House fire averages 4-6 hours).

CK- States that so far, he has spent approximately \$1200 on engine 4 and \$1600 on engine 1.

GS- Asks for clarification on the time frame.

CK- States that's since January and explains he has a spreadsheet he uses to track all of that.

JM- Asks if the town tracks the water usage.

KB- States that is a DEP thing.

CK- Explains he sent a detailed cost list to the county when he requested the money.

Group Council Discussion- Need to keep itemized lists of cost, the percentage of the calls are in the county, and small discussions and banter.

CK- States that the county supplies insurance on all the other fire departments in the county. Then points out that in Esto, the EVFD pays their portion of the insurance cost to the clerk's office. It is not covered by the county like the other fire departments. He states that he includes that in the budget request yearly.

KB- Asks if this is all the other fire departments.

CK- Confirms, yes, they pay for the insurance and still funds them \$8000 – 9,000.

JD- States that the town shares that cost burden with the EVFD since a lot of that cost falls on the town.

KB- States that a lot of the reasons why the amount that the town gives the EVFD is what it is, is to cover the costs of the insurances. Stating that EVFD's portion of the insurance is probably \$6,000.

Group Discussion- What the other fire department's get and what is being paid for.

TH- Asks what reason was given to why the county does not cover the EVFD's insurance like the other county fire departments.

CK- Explains it's because the county owns the trucks of the other departments, where Esto owns the trucks for the EVFD. Goes on to say that even though they won't pay for the insurance, they could still offer the money to help with costs since such a large percentage of the calls are in the county.

GS- States that if the county wanted to buy the trucks from the town, that would be an option.

CK- States that is a bad idea, because in that case, the county could take Esto's trucks and give them to a different department to use instead.

BM- Asks where the other departments get their water from.

CK- Explains that they have wells.

Group Discussions- Banter as well as more discussion about spreadsheets.

BM- Public Water Works Report:

States that he has had a rough time with the wells with the recent weather and reports a few broken waterlines. In reference to the park, reminds that there is no power at the park any more due to vandalism and that there is no water one side of the park. Due to no power or water, this does lead to an issue with power washing and some maintenance.

JD- States that when he mentioned spending some money at the park, that included fixing the water and fixing the electric.

Group Discussion: Needing water and power for the festival. Discussion about what vendors may need power and which might not, as well as who might have their own generators. Benefits of having those even for daily use such as parties, events, and other uses.

BM- States that they have priced getting the gazebo shingled and it was close to \$10,000. Voiced concern that if it is not fixed soon, it will fall in.

JD- Agrees that's too nice of a structure to let go.

CL- States that by offering electricity, the vendors could be charged more for those locations.

KB- Reminds the council that the clerks office has already been in talks with the Holmes County Health Department about a grant to do renovations at the park.

BM- Voiced concerns about the community garden. States a bunch of equipment was dropped off at the town and is all piled up in the shop in the way. States that the shed still needs to be done so the stuff can be stored.

JD- Asks if BM thinks that he and Tony would be able to put up the metal.

BM- States he thinks he can and thinks that the county would possibly come out and help. States he still needs the lumber to do it though.

JD- Asks for BM to make a list of needed materials. Stating that the shed is needed to be able to lock up that equipment.

BM- States he will still need to get a volunteer to do the tool check out and inventory list. Also needs a few cameras for security. States that he does have some seeds. The plan is to grow it and allow people to come and get it.

JD- States that if we can get signups for people to claim ownership of small patches to maintain, he thinks it will be a good idea and asks for opinions.

Group Discussion- About how you would divide, what still needs to be done, concerns about participation, banter, about the last start to this year and hopes moving forward.

BM- States that something needs to be done with the ground at the tower. The people over the SCADA system are going to work up a price to get it done, or we can look into getting an electrician to do it. He is not sure what the solution will be, but states something needs to be done as there have been 2 lightning strikes. There was only minimum damage, but we are still awaiting a bill for what was done the other day.

Group Discussion- How many times lightning has struck recently and the continued damages, possible resolutions to the problem. Banter.

BM- States he would like to see the park get some funding to do the things needed.

KB-Clerk Report:

States she has purchased new surge protection for the computers. Only purchased 1, it was \$159.00 and should arrive soon.

When Version 3 came out, they said that we had a bad switch that she believes was bad before. A new one will cost \$279.00. Asks is the council would like for her to purchase one.

Group Response- Yes.

Trim is approaching. Sample budget given to council. *copy attached. It is a rough estimate since there are many unknown factors. Asks for it to be reviewed and any suggestions. States that she is being asked to go ahead and set the meeting dates for TRIM. Suggests going ahead and making advertisement so that is ready when needed.

Suggests for tentative meeting to be held on Thursday, September 7th at 6pm or Saturday, September 9th at any time.

GS- States he prefers Thursday.

KB- States that if Thursday is chosen then the second date will be September 21st at 6pm.

JD- Asks for dates again.

KB- Tentative will be Thursday, September 7th at 6pm and final will be Thursday, September 21st at 6pm.

Group Discussion- Why date is limited on options.

Group Response- Yes.

GS- Asked if last year the town went with the roll back rate.

KB- Confirmed, yes. States that the town was able to get more back by using the roll back than they would have with making changes.

Group Discussion: Banter, how the roll back works with best practices from past years.

KB- States that the 15% on the sample is wrong. States she forgot to update it when she was updating the numbers.

JD- Asks about payroll since both BM and KB are over 32. Will the larger number of hours be budgeted for?

KB- Confirms, yes. She factored in for those as well as the hours for SP even though she will not likely work as many hours.

GS- States that the accounting numbers are too low.

KB- Explains that is because it is split between departments, the sum will be the amount once it is combined. Krystal briefly explains how it's laid out.

Explains the issues that the town has been having with AT&T not applying the payments properly when mailed. Asks for permission to pay bills that are due every month for the same amount (AT&T, WFE, VERISON) online as a PAP expense so that it will still be reflected in the expense report that the council receives.

JD- Agrees but suggests that there be list of vendors that can be approved so that it covers everyone. The council would sign off on those vendors.

GS- Mentions blanket approvals to cover these types of situations.

KB- Regarding the lawsuit between the town and Hagans, the attorney wants to depose the HR representative next month. Asks who held that position during that time, TH or Randy Torrance.

JD- States at that time it was Randy.

KB- States that she received an email but didn't think much of it. Then I received a call specifically to come to a FMIT leadership course. Brief descriptions of the agenda of this course, stating that it will be held by FMIT, the insurance that the town has. This will be July 11, all day in Panama.

JD- Asks if KB considers this a training opportunity.

KB- Confirms, yes.

JD- Approves.

KB- Explains she will be out tomorrow due to a death in the family (significant other's grandmother). The funeral will be tomorrow.

Audit not much has been done this week due to preparing for the regular meeting.

JD- Asked about the AFRs.

KB- States that she has emailed April and Mark but has not heard back. Offers to call tomorrow around the funeral.

JD- States not too. To wait.

KB- States she feels she will need to call them to get a response.

GS- Suggests calling Rodney first. States that the sooner the call is made the more feasible the request might be since all of them are facing the June 30th deadline. States he feels Mark does not want to do it.

KB- States it might not be something he typically does. Stating it might not have been included in the budget he gave us.

JD- Reminds that we are already under budget, so if it costs more, just to get it done.

GS- Asks if he is referring to the auditor or bookkeeper.

JD- Bookkeeper.

GS- States that make sense since they are way under budget.

JD- States he does not feel that with the deal that the auditor cut us that it can be expected of him to tackle more.

GS- States he has got it cleared that in the event the bookkeepers are not able to, then the can work on it.

KB- States that she received an email stating that it is due in 2 weeks.

GS- States that someone with experience will only take a few days to do 2 years' worth, where if someone inexperienced did it would take about a week. States the sooner we reach out the better, and plans can be make arrangements.

GW- Asks for clarification about the lawsuit. Was it an old lawsuit that he thought was already thrown out?

JD- States no, this is not the ethics commission lawsuit. It is another one.

KB- Explains that this one is an FMIT lawsuit, for workman's comp. She states she was laid off because she filled workman's comp.

JD- Explains that the FMIT lawyers have suggested settling not because of right or wrong, but because they have a budget set to defend. If they can settle for less than the budgeted amount, they would prefer.

Group Discussion- Personal settlements, the irony of the situation at hand.

JD- States that no one who voted to terminate was notified that she was on worker's comp.

Group Discussion- Previous clerk failing drug test, banter, communication between the different people working on the case, why the lawyers want to depose, more banter, who has been deposed and who is still possibly going to be deposed, who is working the case, legal jargon.

JM- Explains that it is not uncommon to settle out of court and that it is still very frustrating for the city or county.

Group Discussion- How this is decided and that the council will have no say, benefits of having the insurance, other similar experiences, banter, lack of knowledge that she was on it.

KB- States that \$13,162.50 is the total for CRI currently. A check has just been made. So less is owed, it may be closer to \$10,000 owed.

GS- Asks is 2022 has been started.

KB- Confirms that she has started it on her end, but is unsure how much the bookkeepers have done, or if they have started on it. States that the weather has caused issues with the internet slowing the process.

Public Comment:

BT- Mentions that he seen the Chipley DOT is having a training for beautification grants, that is also being held on July 11th.

JD- Tells KB if she is available to attend.

KB- Reminds that she will be at the other class on that day.

Group Discussion- Conflicts and positivity expressed about idea.

Open Agenda:

CL- Reminds that his Mother-in-Law recently passed. He and his wife will be moving into the home. States he will be moving from Esto to Graceville. Asks that the process is with the council.

JD- State he can wait until the next meeting to resign, or he can this meeting if he chooses. Clarifies that if you don't live in the town of Esto, you can not be on the council.

Group Discussion- Banter.

CL- States he feels he should go ahead and resign and not keep the spot held when he will not be able to serve much longer. States he hates to resign, but the move will be positive.

Group Discussion- Thanking CL for his service, well wishes, benefits of moving, being missed.

JD- Asks KB to please arrange for the council to look at some benefit packages at the Thursday meeting. Clarifies this is for health insurance that the town will pay for. Stresses those numbers need to be in before TRIM.

KB- States that most of the places will require a request to be filled out, so there might not be a lot of information on Thursday.

JD- Verbalized understanding, states he really wants to know if there is any questions, or information (documentation) that will need to come from the council to get those requests.

TH- Asks with CL resigning, will there be an issue with the checks that he signed tonight.

KB- Explains it will be okay since he didn't resign until the very end. She states that signature cards will need to be redone again to remove him from the account, and again when someone fills that seat. Asks for motion to remove CL from the bank accounts.

JD- Motion to remove Casey Laycox from the bank accounts.

Motion- JD

Second- GS

All In Favor

Group Discussion- Banter.

TH- Explains to BT that she felt that the meeting last night went well. States that people want to be heard and with the suggestions from JD, she feels that is will allow for that. Compliments the turn out.

Final Call

Meeting Adjourned

- Typed and prepared by Shawna Powell, Assistant Town Clerk

Council President- Teresa Harrison (TH) - _____

Council Vice President- Josh Davenport (JD) - _____

Council Member- Greg Wells (GW) - _____

Council Member- Casey Laycox (CL) - _____

Council Member- Garet Skipper (GS) - _____