

TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
OCTOBER 19, 2011
6:00 PM

Mayor Moore-Absent
Vice-Mayor Greer-Present
Councilman Ward-Present
Councilman Massey-Present
Councilman Doughty-Present
Councilman Metz-Present
Councilman Scanlan-Present

STAFF PRESENT: Arthur Miles, Ethel Parks, Connie Doughty, Chief DiMartino, Officer K. Doughty, Officer Campbell.

CALL TO ORDER:

The Special Meeting of the Exmore Town Council was called to order at 6:00 pm (misstated time) by Vice-Mayor Greer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

INVOCATION:

The Invocation was given by Vice-Mayor Greer.

Vice-Mayor Greer informed the Council that Mayor Moore is aware of this meeting and, according to the Charter, he does have the power to veto any decisions made if he chooses to do so.

Councilman Scanlan asked to make an amendment to the agenda to allow the public to speak before the meeting is adjourned.

Councilman Scanlan made the Motion to amend the agenda to allow public comment for line number 7 and move line number 7 to line number 8. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Metz. The Motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Miles read a memorandum, (attached to Minutes), to the Council regarding another potential choice for Chief of Police.

POTENTIAL SELECTION AND HIRING OF CHIEF OF POLICE:

Vice-Mayor Greer opened the floor for discussion by the Council. Councilman Doughty noted that He does not feel they should wait any longer and they should vote tonight. Councilman Ward agreed with Councilman Doughty. He said that they have thought enough about it and it will work out. Councilman Massey stated that he has read all the resumes and feels that they need to go with the one already mentioned. Councilman Scanlan stated that he feels we do not need to hire anybody

now until the audits are current. He noted that he is ready to hire from within. Vice-Mayor Greer noted that after much thought and research, he feels that this police department is capable of making a five-man police department work and that economically this is the best way to go.

Councilman Doughty made the Motion to accept Angelo as Police Chief. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Massey. The Motion was passed by the vote of: Councilman Charles G. Ward-Yes; Councilman Charles Massey-Yes; Councilman Brad Doughty-Yes; Vice-Mayor Douglas Greer-Yes; Councilman John Metz-Abstain; Councilman Dave Scanlan-Yes.

HIRING FREEZE ON ADDITIONAL POLICE OFFICER POSITIONS:

Councilman Scanlan stated that at this point in the budget and the current situation of the audits not being caught up, he feels that they should freeze the hiring on all positions in the Town unless the Council approves hiring for any position. Councilmen Massey and Ward agreed with Councilman Scanlan.

Councilman Scanlan made the Motion that they have a hiring freeze on all positions within the Town unless those positions are brought before the Council, whether they are in the budget or not, for Council approval, even if someone quits, Council will have to approve hiring someone to fill that position. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Ward. The Motion was passed unanimously.

AMENDMENT TO BUDGET INVOLVING POLICE OFFICER POSITIONS:

Councilman Scanlan recommended that they amend the budget to reflect a Chief of Police and four other officers for a total of five. He said that the additional monies that were allocated for that department could be used to pay Conrad Brothers, complete the T-21 grants, follow recommended pump-outs for the sewer tanks, set money aside to potentially hire someone with a waterworks operator's license and wastewater operator's license and the derelict structures need to be cleaned up. He asked how much money was available for a new business start up loan. The Clerk told him there was over \$30,000 in the Revolving Loan account. He recommended that the money be change to a higher interest bearing account. He also said that we need a new garbage truck. Councilman Scanlan noted that these are just suggestions to consider. Councilman Metz noted that we also need a backhoe. Councilman Doughty asked if we have received the tax money from the County. He stated that he will help if needed.

There was brief discussion about the utility tax from ANEC being sent to the County instead of Exmore. Mr. Miles noted that he sent the corrections to ANEC and hopefully they have been made. Councilman Scanlan stated that they need to choose which items for the funds to be allocated to. Mr. Miles asked what funds he was talking about. Councilman Scanlan said that they are eliminating three positions from the police department and they have to allocate that money somewhere. Mr. Miles explained that without a full force the officers will not be able to do the selective enforcement which will cause a decrease in revenue. Councilman Ward stated that he feels they can write tickets on their shifts and that the Sheriff's Office can help.

Councilman Scanlan made the Motion to amend the budget to reflect one chief and four officers. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Metz. The Motion was passed unanimously.

POTENTIAL TO REQUEST THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO FORCE A STATE AUDIT OF EXMORE'S BOOKS:

Councilman Scanlan stated that in light of the current situation that the Town is in, with the resignation of two officers, he feels that an investigation should take place and that the books should be brought current. He asked the Council to request the Commonwealth Attorney of Northampton County or go to the State Attorney General.

Councilman Scanlan made the Motion to request the Commonwealth Attorney of Northampton County or the State Attorney General's office, based on the information that they have, concerning the last two resignations, for an investigation be done and request that our books be made current. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Metz. The Motion was passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jack Sturgis stated that he has been away for better than a year and it is refreshing to hear the Council in session meaningfully and with purpose.

Barry Marsh stated that he has two concerns with the hiring freeze. He said that he is concerned that businesses will not get the coverage they need. Councilman Scanlan said that if there is a need for additional coverage then he feels that they can work with other departments and the State Police to provide the coverage that they need. Mr. Marsh said that his business was broken into before when the police department was down in number and the County was supposed to be covering the Town. His next concern is that the streets are filthy. There are piles of dirt in the gutters and he feels it is the Town's responsibility to keep the Town clean. Councilman Scanlan asked if the sweeper was out of commission. Mr. Miles noted that it does work but has holes in the holding tank. Councilman Metz asked Mr. Miles to get Jim to look into it.

G.W. Adkins stated that he agrees with Mr. Sturgis. He also stated that he has all the confidence in the world in the police force. Mr. Adkins said that there is talk about the ESO coming to Exmore in the old Peeble's Store, which is positive. He noted that with the audits up to date, we will be able to obtain grants.

Helen Hart commended the police department for the patrol in her neighborhood.

Chief DiMartino thanked the Council for their support. He noted that in 2007 when the department was down to five officers they were able to work the schedule out and at the time the chief filled in the gaps. He said also that he has talked to Sheriff Doughty and was told it is not a problem in helping out. Chief DiMartino assured the Council that the department will work with them. Councilman Scanlan noted that the Council would like to have a report every month of not just numbers but also where crimes are taking place.

Donald E. Kellam, Jr. thanked the Council for getting things in order.

Susan Metz noted that she grew up in Exmore. She expressed to the Council to keep an open mind to new ideas and to be open to change.

Councilman Scanlan thanked the citizens for their attendance tonight. He said that the Council needs to hear their input and support. He stated that they are here to serve the people and invites them to continue to attend the Town meetings.

Councilman Doughty told the citizens that he and the rest of the Council are here and available for anyone with concerns.

Donald E. Kellam, Jr. asked what the Public Hearing notice was about. Mr. Miles explained that it is Northampton County's Water Supply Plan. He said that it has been in the works for a couple of years and Northampton County is trying to get it passed. He noted that the Public hearing is on Monday, October 24th at 7:00.

Vice-Mayor Greer thanked the citizens for attending.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Councilman Scanlan made the Motion to adjourn. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Metz.

Douglas W. Greer, Sr., Vice-Mayor

Ethel Parks, Town Clerk