

TOWN COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING  
March 22, 2012  
7:00 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, Chief DiMartino, Officer Doughty.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting of the Exmore Town Council was called to order at 7:00 pm 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.

DISCUSS HIRING PRACTICES:

Councilman Scanlan noted that it was his understanding that the Council was to get together with the Town Manager and the Town Clerk to interview the four of the twenty-eight applicants. Then at the end of the interviews, they would all discuss the applicants and come to a consensus as to who they felt was the best candidate for the job. He said that it appeared the Council chose a different individual by a majority than the one hired. Councilman Massey agreed with Councilman Scanlan, as did Councilman Ward. Councilman Doughty agreed with Mr. Miles and his decision. Councilman Metz agreed with the majority of the Council. Councilman Scanlan said that they were voted in to represent the public and the public wants the Council to make the decisions. Councilman Ward said he feels they are capable of making decisions for the Town. Vice-Mayor Greer said the Council is the leadership of the Town and they need to set guidelines on what they feel and expect. He said he feels that the Council is not involved enough in what is going on and would like to see things put in front of them that will benefit the Town in a positive way. Vice-Mayor Greer stated that the Council has lost faith in the leadership of the Town. Councilman Scanlan said that he feels the most important element has been left out and that is the public. He noted that years ago the citizens had a vision and they went after it. Councilman Scanlan stated that the Council needs to invite the people to tell the Council what they want. Councilman Ward Said that he feels that they do not have much of a say in matters. Councilman Scanlan stated that he thinks each Council member should be required to speak their opinion about a matter before they vote on it.

Vice-Mayor Greer stated that with two Town Managers and one Interim Town Manager the responsibility has shifted from the Council to the Town Manager and needs to be back to the way it was. After much discussion Councilman Ward made the Motion that from this day forward the Council is reassured to make all decisions according to the Charter of the Town of Exmore. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Scanlan. The Motion was passed by the roll call vote of Councilman Ward-Aye; Councilman Massey-Aye; Councilman Doughty-Aye; Vice-Mayor Greer-Aye; Councilman Metz-Aye; Councilman Scanlan-Aye.

#### DISCUSS NEED FOR NON-INTERIM TOWN MANAGER:

Councilman Scanlan noted that in the four years that he has been on the Council they have had an Interim Town Manager. He said that he suggested three years ago for the Town to hire Springstead to hire a Town Manager and write job descriptions. He stated that they will find someone to fill the position and if that person does not work out then they will find another free of charge. Councilman Scanlan noted that Accomack County, Northampton County and the 911 Commission use this company and they have had success with them. He feels that it is time to hire a non-interim Town Manager and they need to hire this firm to do it. Vice-Mayor Greer agreed with Councilman Scanlan. He said that they may not need to jump into it right now but at least take the initiative to look into it. Councilman Massey said that he thinks Cape Charles and Onancock are paying between \$75,000 and \$90,000. Councilman Metz said if they hire a Town Manager then they would have to pay for zoning as well. He also stated that Artie is the best Town Manager of all three that the Town has had. Councilman Scanlan noted that if they set the requirements for a Town Manager then Springstead would search for what they needed. Mr. Miles noted that zoning is not a huge job in Exmore right now but may be later on. He said that he feels that the County could take on the zoning for Exmore. They already do the building inspections. Councilman Massey stated that Mr. Miles has brought Exmore a long way in two years. He said that he feels that in time, and with the Council working together, Mr. Miles will do just as good a job as anyone else they could hire. Councilman Ward stated that Mr. Miles has done a good job helping the sewage plant out considerably. Councilman Doughty stated his only complaint was he does not get what he asks for. He noted that he has asked for who owes money on taxes and water. Mr. Miles said that those reports will be available for the next meeting. Councilman Ward asked Mr. Miles if he was in agreement to continue working on the present path with the adjustments they spoke of earlier in the meeting. Mr. Miles told him he was. Councilman Ward made the Motion to keep Mr. Miles on as Interim Town Manager with the adjustments the Council spoke of earlier in the meeting. It was the consensus of the Council that there does not need to be a Motion for Mr. Miles to continue doing what he is presently doing. There was no second to the Motion. Councilman Scanlan made the Motion to invite Springstead to the next available meeting to talk to the Town Council concerning their fees and structure and how they go about finding Town Managers and how they can aid the Town in a job description for that position. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Doughty. The Motion was passed unanimously. Councilman Scanlan noted that in the meantime Mr. Miles continues as Interim Town Manager.

**DISCUSS RESCISSION OF GEOFF MOORE'S TRESPASS NOTICE:**

Mr. Miles noted that initially there were three signatures on the trespass notice; Steve Elliott's, Doug Greer's, and Billy Moore's. Councilman Scanlan said that Steve's signature was not on the notice. Mr. Miles told Vice-Mayor Greer that a letter would have to come from him and Mayor Moore rescinding the trespass notice. Councilman Scanlan made the Motion to direct the Town Manager to draft the letter to Geoff Moore allowing him back on Town property. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Doughty. The Motion was passed unanimously.

**CONSIDER RESOLUTION TO PROCEED WITH GRANT APPLICATION FOR WELL REPLACEMENT PROJECT:**

Mr. Miles noted the Well Replacement Project Grant cycle is due to go on April 1<sup>st</sup> is a loan. He said that Dixon Tucker has helped him locate two sites on property that Bill Prettyman has promised them. Mr. Miles said that they have to pass the resolution in order to apply for the loan. Councilman Scanlan asked how much the loan was for. Mr. Miles told him the loan is for \$500,000 for 40 years at 0% interest. Councilman Scanlan asked if the \$500,000 would be enough money to do what needs to be done. Mr. Miles noted that the \$500,000 would be enough to replace two wells plus all the testing, and would possibly not cost that much. Councilman Scanlan made the Motion that based on the information received tonight, to authorize the Town to apply for the \$500,000 loan at 0% interest for 40 years to satisfy the Groundwater Withdrawal Permit requirements. T He Motion was seconded by Councilman Massey. The Motion was passed unanimously.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

Councilman Sacnlan made the Motion to adjourn. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Metz. The Motion was passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.

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Douglas W. Greer, Sr., Vice-Mayor

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Ethel Parks, Town Clerk