

Fries Town Council  
February 3, 2015  
Minutes

Members Present: Bill Davis, Jo Ann Gunter, Nancy Hawks, Carolyn Jones, Jerry McCormick and Dawn Patton.

Others Present: Richard Farmer, Mayor; Denny Brooms and Karen Snyder, Fries Community Center; Chad Stanley, FVFD and several citizens.

The Mayor called the meeting to order and gave the Invocation.

Minutes & Bills: Dawn Patton moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to approve the minutes and bills as presented. Carolyn Jones provided the second to the motion. All present voted Aye and the minutes and bills were approved.

Police Report: Officer Travis Jefferson gave a summary of police activity for January. He reported 1 DUI, 1 reckless driving, 3 traffic, 2 weapons charge, 1 drive suspended, 1 town decal and 5 warning tickets. He also reported investigation of 1 misdemeanor, 1 information only and 1 juvenile. Routine activities reported included: 288 closed business checks, 20 service calls, 84 church checks, 91 directive patrols, 42 open business checks, 64 forestry checks, 2 motorist assists, 1 first responder, 11 house checks, 1 vehicle k-9 searches, 3 civil paper, 2 ECO/ LE ECO, 1 PBT/Field Sob Test, 1 crime prevention presentation and 14 open bank checks for a total of 231.90 hours. The council thanked the Officer for his report.

Organization Updates:

1. Fries Volunteer Fire Department: Chad Stanley reported that in 2014 the fire department answered 107 calls and the rescue squad answered 513 calls. He also said that they seemed to be right on track for 2015 as they had already answered 9 fire calls in January. He reported that they would be hosting a Firefighter 2 class on Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup> and will also be hosting an Instructor 2 class soon. He also reviewed the departments 2015 events. They are as follows: T-shirt fundraiser through Booster.com in February, Ranch Rodeo & Teen Roping on June 12<sup>th</sup> & August 28<sup>th</sup>, Horse Show on June 13<sup>th</sup> & August 29<sup>th</sup> and the Annual Fiddlers Convention on August 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>. Teen Roping practice would be held one Sunday per month starting in April. As part of the ISO review, it was suggested that all fire hydrants in town needed to be tested for flow and painted by color code for pressure. Chad asked council for permission to proceed with the testing and painting, at no expense to the town. After some discussion, Jerry McCormick moved to approve. Dawn Patton provided the second. All present voted Aye, and the motion carried. After some further discussion, the Mayor thanked Chad for his report and Chad thanked everyone for supporting the fire department.
2. Fries Community Center Report: Chairman, Denny Brooms announced that the Board of Directors had voted to change the name to the Fries Community Center to allow

them to qualify for more grant funds. He reported the following upcoming activities: basketball was underway and the board was looking ahead to baseball with registrations to be held from March 1<sup>st</sup> thru March 15<sup>th</sup>. A Valentines Dance will be held on February 13<sup>th</sup>, gym and dining room rentals where to begin the following weekend. A college student group was also scheduled for March. He reported starting a Facebook page for the new center, and that his wife would be soon starting a newsletter. He also reported that the former center's 501C3 status was still active and he would be completing the forms necessary to change the name on the account to the current center. Treasurer Karen Snyder reported that they had gotten donations together and restarted the Thursday night Jam Sessions. She also asked that the Community Center be allowed to continue them instead of the Tourism Committee. Council agreed. She then reported that only 3 children had unpaid registrations for the basketball season and that donations were secured to cover those children. Registration funds were being kept in reserve to help out with the next season registrations. She reported that she had inventoried the sports uniforms and had found an abundance of baseball equipment and uniforms, but did not find equipment for tee ball. She also stated that they were currently trying to get all the new board members involved as well as volunteers. Denny stated that they would be scheduling clean up days in the coming months and would need volunteers to help. Karen then asked for permission from council to begin cleaning out the building. Council agreed. The Mayor thanked them both for their efforts.

#### Old Business:

1. Depot Project: Dawn Patton had nothing new to report.
2. Playground Grant Request: The Mayor reported that Kim Abernethy had recently contacted him concerning a grant opportunity she discovered through Lowes. After some discussion, Carolyn Jones moved to allow Mrs. Abernethy to proceed with submitting the grant. Dawn Patton provided the second. All present voted Aye and the motion carried.
3. Guard rail for Riverview Avenue: Jerry McCormick reviewed the response received from VDOT concerning a request to add a guard rail on Riverview Avenue. VDOT did not feel it was necessary to add the rail because there had been no accidents reported there. After some discussion, Jerry moved to send a letter to VDOT requesting that they reconsider. Carolyn Jones provided the second. All present voted Aye and the motion carried. Jerry stated that he would be contacting the Sheriff and the school for letters of support also.
4. Geese Issue: Jerry McCormick was concerned with the large number of geese that had been gathering on the big bottom and park area. He discussed how their droppings could be harmful to children and could cause illnesses such as bacterial infections. After some discussion, the Mayor asked that Jerry check into our options. Jerry will also discuss the issue with the school because of the risk for the children.

New Business:

Pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, Council by affirmative vote went into closed session as provided by Section 2.2-3711.A1. (Moved by Dawn Patton).

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Carolyn Jones moved to exit the closed session. Dawn Patton provided the second. All present voted Aye and the motion carried.

As required in Section 2.2-3712.D of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, Council certified that to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the closed meeting by Town Council.

Certified by: JoAnn Gunter, Richard Farmer, Dawn Patton, Carolyn Jones, Nancy Hawks, Jerry McCormick and Bill Davis.

Jerry McCormick moved to table the personnel issue until more information could be gathered. Bill Davis and Jerry McCormick voted Aye. Nancy Hawks, Carolyn Jones, Dawn Patton and JoAnn Gunter voted to oppose. The motion did not carry.

The Personnel Committee moved for approval to hire their recommendation, Alex Vuurmans, for the public works position. Nancy Hawks, Carolyn Jones, Dawn Patton and JoAnn Gunter voted Aye. Jerry McCormick and Bill Davis voted to oppose. The motion carried.

Announcements:

1. The Mayor announced that the tourism/marketing meeting with Kitty Barker had been scheduled for March 9<sup>th</sup> from 10am—2pm.

With no further business to discuss, Carolyn Jones moved to adjourn, Dawn Patton provided the second and the meeting was adjourned.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_