

Fries Town Council
January 6, 2015
Minutes

Members Present: Jo Ann Gunter, Nancy Hawks, Marie Isom and Dawn Patton.

Others Present: Richard Farmer, Mayor; Brian Reed, Town Manager; Kitty Barker, Virginia Tourism Corporation; Sheriff Richard Vaughan; John Brewer & David Sexton, Grayson County Board of Supervisors; 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. Marie Isom provided the second to the motion. All present voted Aye and the minutes and bills were approved.

Police Report: Sheriff Richard Vaughan gave a summary of police activity for December. He reported 2 DIP's, 4 warning tickets and 1 other arrest. He also reported investigation of 5 misdemeanors, and 3 follow-ups. Routine activities reported included: 369 closed business checks, 21 service calls, 57 church checks, 69 directive patrols, 48 open business checks, 41 forestry checks, 1 warrant service, 5 motorist assists, 1 first responder, 3 house checks, 1 vehicle k-9 searches, 1 civil paper, 2 prisoners and 10 open bank checks for a total of 210.20 hours. The council thanked the Sheriff for his report.

Organization Updates:

1. Fries Volunteer Fire Department- Chad Stanley announced that as of January 1st he would be serving as Chief of the FVFD. The Mayor and Council congratulated him. He then reported on their upcoming classes and certifications, their recent grant applications and their upcoming ISO Review. After some discussion, the Mayor thanked Chad for his report and Chad thanked everyone for supporting the fire department.

Tourism Presentation: Ms. Kitty Barker from Virginia Tourism Corporation gave a presentation on economic development through tourism. After much discussion, it was decided to pull together several "stakeholders" and set up a meeting with Kitty to work on marketing and develop a strategic plan. The Mayor thanked Kitty for attending and her presentation.

Old Business:

1. Depot Project: Dawn Patton reported that her understanding was that VDOT had unofficially approved the site distance solution presented by the Lane Group. An official approval from VDOT was expected soon.
2. Homecoming Crooked Road Project: The Tourism Committee reported that they were planning the event and completing the application. They planned to have it turned in by the January 15th deadline.

New Business:

1. Fries Recreation Center: The Mayor announced that the Fries Recreation Center Board of Directors had closed the center as of December 31st, disbanded the board and turned the building over to the town. The new board of directors would be having an organizational meeting on Monday, January 12th. He then proposed a new structure for the organization. Under the new structure, the new board would be responsible for the youth sports, programs and the pool. The tourism committee would handle the Jam Session and all festivals. District Three would continue to operate the Senior Program and Wythe-Grayson Regional Library would continue to operate the Library. After some discussion, Nancy Hawks moved to approve the new structure as proposed. Dawn Patton provided the second. All present voted Aye and the structure was approved.

Town Manager's Report:

1. Brian Reed announced that the town had received a \$50,000 planning grant from Virginia Department of Health that would hopefully lead to replacing the antiquated filters at the water plant.

Announcements:

1. Gary Sumner asked council to observe a moment of silence in memory of Christine Vuurmans who had served on town council, the recreation center board, as a District Three supervisor and had always been so giving of herself. The Mayor then asked that everyone stand and observe a moment of silence for Tine.

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

Signed: _____

Attest: _____