

Fries Town Council  
September 1, 2015  
Draft Minutes

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

Others Present: Richard Farmer, Mayor; Karen Snyder, Fries Community Center; Officer Carrico, Grayson County Police Department; Chad Stanley, Fries Volunteer Fire Department; Shaina Stockton of The Declaration and several citizens.

The Mayor called the meeting to order and Jo Ann Gunter 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. JoAnn Gunter provided the second to the motion. All present voted Aye and the minutes and bills were approved.

Police Report: Officer Carrico gave a summary of police activity for August. He reported 1 warning ticket, 2 traffic tickets and 1 other arrest, investigation of 2 misdemeanors, 1 traffic accident, 2 follow-ups, 1 property recovery and 1 closed investigation. Routine activities included: 338 closed business checks, 18 service calls, 73 church checks, 74 directive patrols, 24 open business checks, 38 forestry checks, 2 warrant service, 1 house check, 1 prisoner transport, 5 motorist assists, 1 court on duty and 11 open bank checks for a total of 175.90 hours. The Mayor thanked the Officer for his report and the department for their service.

Organization Updates:

1. Fries Volunteer Fire Department Update: Chief Chad Stanley reported that the department had answered 41 EMS calls and 2 fire calls in August. The department had held their annual fiddlers convention and also a horse show in August and both were a great success. He reported their upcoming events included: a boating class on September 26<sup>th</sup> (register on the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries website), a beauty pageant at Fries School also on September 26<sup>th</sup> and a church service (9am) and poker ride (10am) on September 27<sup>th</sup>. He also reported that the department would be continuing their education with upcoming courses that included a driver operator course and a technical rescue course. They would be hosting a water rescue class on the river here in Fries also. He then presented council with Fries Volunteer Fire Department t-shirts. The Mayor and Council thanked Chad for his report and for the shirts.
2. Fries Community Center Report: Karen Snyder reported that the Community Center would have 2 to 3 football teams and two cheerleading groups this year. She thought that they had enough equipment for the kids, but did have to order pylons for the field. She reported that Elmo Moore had held a football camp and had a good turnout. The lobby at the center was being opened on an as needed basis,

but the board planned to hold a meeting for volunteers sometime the next week to organize a more concrete schedule to have the lobby open. Marie Isom inquired as to the date and time. Karen stated that she would let her know when the date and time had been determined. Dawn Patton inquired about the method of advertisement for the meeting. Karen replied that she would be advertising on the internet and possibly putting an ad in the newspaper. Dawn asked that she also contact the town clerk so an email could be sent to all council with the date and time. Karen agreed. She also reported that the next FCC Board meeting had been moved to next Tuesday (September 8<sup>th</sup>) at 7pm. The Mayor thanked Karen for her report.

3. Tourism Report: Marie Isom reported that work on the new Information Center under the pool was still ongoing, but they hoped to be open within the next week or two. She asked council if she would need approval to include a small gift shop that offered merchandise provided by local artisans, as well as tourism related materials. After some discussion, it was determined that she did not need council approval to continue with her ventures. The Mayor did suggest that she get with the clerk and open a separate account for tourism to make tracking funds easier. Marie thanked council and the Mayor for their cooperation. Next she reported that the Christmas ornament for the Governor's Mansion was being created by Mrs. Betty Perkins, who designs miniature scenes as a hobby. She and Mrs. Perkins had decided to create an ornament that included the old depot to represent Fries. Dawn Patton asked if she had considered making several ornaments and selling them in the gift shop. Marie said that she would check to see if that would be feasible. Marie then reported that in August she had attended three tourism workshops and seminars, distributed 10,250 rack cards, submitted the verbiage for directional signs that the New River Trail State Park will be providing, continued working on the portage above the dam, completed the Mountains and Music DVD's and placed them in Town Hall and the Theatre for purchase (\$5.00), placed the new rack card in the Lambsburg Welcome Center and reported that she may be able to place cards in the Rockingham and Bastian centers as well because they were now offering a reduced rate. Next, she reported that she and Brenda Rose had been at the Lambsburg Welcome Center all day setting up the displays for the September Tourism Blitz. She stated that pictures of the displays would be on the Virginia Facebook Page. She also mentioned that the Farmer's Market was doing well and that she expected around 6 vendors for the upcoming weekend. She asked that everyone support them in their efforts. Last, she thanked VDOT for the repairs they were making to the old ferry road. The Mayor thanked Marie for her report.
4. Festivals & Events Committee: Cynthia Grant reported that the Festival by the River would be held on Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. She and her committee were working on last minute details. She reported that they had several entertainers and vendors and were working to get more. The Mayor thanked Cynthia for her report.

### Old Business:

1. Y Repair Project Update: The Mayor reported that the balance on the renovation account was up to \$18,141.40. He also reported that he had placed an ad in the Gazette on Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup> and Monday August 31<sup>st</sup> requesting bids for the siding work on the Y building. The deadline to bid would be September 30<sup>th</sup>.
2. Depot Project Update: Brian Reed reported that he had received a response from VDOT on August 18<sup>th</sup> that stated Lane Group needed to address 14 items before the bid process could begin. Dawn Patton reported that she had spoken with Kevin Heath who told her that the timeline to respond would be 30 days "more or less". Dawn Patton asked Brian how we stood on the funding for the depot. He replied that we were fine, the money was there and that he planned to draw down some to pay invoices to the Lane Group for recent work that had been completed. He stated that there could be a problem with the trail project concerning the 20% match that was no longer available due to the length of the project. He also stated that the plan for now was to use remaining depot funds, after completion, for the match for the trail.
3. Bell Relocation Update: Brian Reed reported that he had reviewed the plans for the depot, which provided a location for the old mill bell. He suggested that Marie hold off on erecting the bell until the depot plans are approved through VDOT. He stated that any changes in the plans could start the whole approval process over with VDOT, which could lengthen the project even further.
4. Park Grant Status: The Mayor reported that Kim Abernethy had received notification from Lowe's that we were not included in the playground grant funding for this year. The Mayor thanked Kim for her work in submitting the application.
5. Park Trash Can Status: The Mayor reported that three cans and three lids had been ordered and should be placed in the park soon.

### New Business:

1. VDH Resolution: Brian Reed read a resolution that authorized him to continue work on a grant application to rehab the town's water tank and allowed him to sign as a representative of the town. Jerry McCormick moved to approve and Dawn Patton provided the second. All present voted Aye, and the motion carried.
2. USDA Resolution: Brian Reed read a resolution that asked for approval to close out the Chestnut Creek Watershed Project from 1996. Final work was completed on the project in 2013. Jerry McCormick moved to approve and Marie Isom provided the second. All present voted Aye, and the motion carried.

3. VDH Lead & Copper Public Education: Brian Reed reported that all water users would be receiving a notice stating that recent lead and copper test results were slightly higher than normal in certain test sites. Because of the higher levels, the town would be doing more frequent testing and would provide every user lead and copper educational materials. He also explained that he had discussed the issue with a regional engineer from VDH who stated he couldn't understand why our levels had increased because there had been no changes in the water plant operation. He suggested that perhaps the water at the testing sites had been setting in the pipes for a while and had not been used frequently. The town will be complying with all regulations set forth by the Federal EPA in this matter.
  
4. MRPDC Discovery Tour of Southwest Virginia: Brian Reed reported that he had spent the last week hosting a discovery tour of southwest Virginia. The week began with a regional tourism meeting held at Crossroads Institute on Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup>. Marie Isom attended to represent the Town of Fries. She and Brian distributed rack cards and ink pens to the area and attendees of the tour. After the meeting he and the attendees traveled to several of the localities in the area and promoted local resources. He reported that a new video would be coming out soon showcasing the area.
  
5. Road Pot Hole Repairs: The Mayor reported that he had met with Brian Reed, Harry Boyles and Donald Hill earlier in the day to discuss the town's roads. After much discussion it was decided that they could probably patch most of the town's roads with 3 truckloads of asphalt at a cost of approximately \$1,050.00. The Mayor requested permission to spend up to \$1,100.00 from the reserve account on the suggested pothole repairs. Jerry McCormick moved to allow the expenditure on the suggested repairs. Marie Isom provided the second. All present voted Aye, and the motion carried.

Announcements:

There were no announcements.

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

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

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