

A Special Called Meeting of the Kirklin Town Council was held on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at Kirklin Town Hall. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposed wastewater project and funding options.

Council Members present were Jennifer Bowman, Jerry Faucett, Melinda Jobe, Walt Minnick, and Brent Stettler.

Also present were Billy Walker, Tara Walker, Amy Miller, Steve Brock, Maureen Hayden, Darren Wells, Jay Moore, and Mary King.

Melinda Jobe opened the meeting and turned it over to Darren Wells & Maureen Hayden-Commonwealth Engineers, Amy Miller-Grant Administrator, and Steve Brock-Rate Consultant. Darren reported that Commonwealth Engineers has amended their PER to meet Rural Development (RD) application requirements. Based on the new guidelines, we are considered poverty level, and we could qualify for 45% - 75% RD grant funding. Due to concerns of losing the \$700,000.00 OCRA Grant, because the RD awards aren't expected to be released until the middle of 2024, the town needs to consider doing a priority project. The Town Council was provided with a cost analysis that shows the potential rate payer impact for each project size. The project size ranges from one million to 1.6 million. The priority project Commonwealth recommends is a 1.3-million-dollar project. That would result in approximately a \$15.00 rate increase per 4,000 gallons. The Public Hearing to apply for RD funding has been advertised and will be held on November 13th. Steve said that the \$700,000.00 grant is factored in to the 45%-75% maximum RD grant a project can receive. Steve reviewed the financing options, but reiterated how uncertain any of the options are. Darren said that it's difficult to give an exact amount for a smaller project because much of the information was going to come from camera & televising the lines CCTV of the lines and we need to get that out for bid. The estimated cost is \$150,000.00 and engineering fees will be approximately \$10,000.00. Darren said that it could take 30-60 days for the town to be televised and for Commonwealth to receive the results. Steve Brock discussed the financing options for a smaller project. After a great deal of discussion, a motion was made by Melinda Jobe to authorize Jay Moore to call Mr. Pittman at Barnes & Thornburg to hire as bond counsel. Walt Minnick supported the motion, and it was carried with a unanimous vote. A motion was made by Melinda Jobe to authorize Commonwealth Engineers to proceed with CCTV and the bidding phase. The motion was supported by Brent Stettler and carried with a unanimous vote. Melinda Jobe made a motion to authorize the Clerk-Treasurer to pay for the CCTV work out of water and sewer depreciation funds. Walt Minnick supported the motion, and it was carried with a unanimous vote. It was noted that the water depreciation loan would have to be paid back at the end of the calendar year in which the funds were borrowed.

RESIGNATION LETTER – Melinda Jobe presented a letter of Resignation from Jennifer Bowman effective December 31, 2023.

YOUTH CENTER BUILDING – Melinda Jobe said that the Youth Center is really struggling to find a building situation that is affordable and will work for them. The Youth Center Board would like to know if the town would consider allowing them to build on the water tower property. Billy Walker said that would not be an option. Mary King suggested that the property on W. Jefferson St. could be a possibility if the Council would consider it. The lease on that property is up in 2024.

Seeing no further business to come before the Town Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Melinda Jobe

