

The regular meeting of the Boydton Town Council was held on April 10, 2018, at 7:30 P.M. in the Town Hall Council Chambers with Vice Mayor Thomas G. Gill presiding.

**THOSE PRESENT**

Thomas Coleman III, Mayor (Absent)  
T. G. Gill, Vice Mayor  
W. H. Coleman (Absent)  
Bill Thompson  
J. M. Kirkland  
David M. Crowder  
Ronny Worley  
Shirley S. Bowen, MMC, Clerk-Treasurer  
Chief Danny R. Fox

**GUESTS**

Mr. R. H. Park III, WWTP Chief Operator  
Mr. Ray Smith, Maintenance Supervisor  
Ms. Hannah Cox, South Hill Enterprise  
Mr. Will Ober  
Mrs. Donna Ober  
Ms. Susan Kyte  
Mr. David Varner

The regular meeting of the Boydton Town Council was opened by Vice Mayor T. G. Gill. He welcomed everyone for their attendance at tonight's meeting and led the council and guests with the pledge of allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

The Vice Mayor requested approval of the March 13, 2018, regular minutes as submitted. Councilman David M. Crowder moved to approve the minutes for March as presented, with Councilman Bill Thompson seconding the motion. All members voted unanimously.

Vice Mayor Gill requested a motion to pay the bills for the month of April 2018. Councilman Bill Thompson moved to pay the bills as submitted for April 2018. Councilman David M. Crowder seconded the motion, with all members voting in favor.

Police Chief, Danny R. Fox, reported that his police activity report for the month of March included three (4) vehicle traffic stops and one (1) warrant served to aid the Sheriff's Department. He continued to state that he would try to get the speed box up and running again to help prevent speeding within the town limits.

The Vice Mayor introduced Mr. David Varner who informed the council and audience that he was a local businessman, Lake Country Satellite, who is currently working with Microsoft to provide a "pilot project" that would provide portable internet services in the town. He explained that this Microsoft project would be the first of its kind anywhere and they are taking every step to make sure this program is a success. Mr. Varner advised the council that Microsoft would like the town's approval to use its 75,000 gallon water tank as an access point for their antennas since there is fiber optic cable underneath the tank, which is the best location to do this due to the height. He stated that in doing this, Microsoft has offered free high speed internet for two (2) years with anyone being able to access it for a period of one (1) hour and

after that hour, it will turn off after a pre-determined amount of time. The reason for the one (1) hour time frame is to curtail people from downloading movies, etc., which would lower the speed for anyone else trying to use this service. It would also provide people, who can't afford internet, to be able to have it and it would allow children to use it for homework assignments when needed. He stated that Mid-Atlantic Broadband is providing fiber for a period of two (2) years at a lower cost, but after that time some type of arrangement would have to be made with them due to the excessive cost of this service. Mr. Varner questioned the council on their view of Microsoft using the water tank for the antenna that would be required. He also noted that the area, this free service, would encompass would be on Madison Street to near each exit of Highway 58 in the first phase and the second phase would cover a larger area. Councilman Worley advised that he had spoken to Mr. Park III and he felt there would be no problem with Microsoft using the tank for this purpose, as long as a waiver was signed to release the town from any liability of injury from its use. Vice Mayor Gill inquired if the amount of people who used this service could be monitored. Mr. Varner stated that he could and expounded on the method this could be done. Councilman Crowder asked, "What would happen after the two year period?" Mr. Varner explained that they were currently working on how to base a cost figure in the form of various "packages" to residents and businesses that would be affordable to everyone. For future extendibility, there is the possibility that the larger water tank on Park Street can be used for those residents. Mr. Park III advised that if the small building near the water tank is needed, there may be some repairs to be made. With no further questions, Councilman Ronny Worley moved to allow Lake Country Satellite use the water tank for their antenna that would provide internet service to the town for a period of two (2) years and after that time, we could renegotiate. Councilman Bill Thompson seconded the motion with all members voting in favor. Mr. Varner thanked the council for their decision and he continued by saying that if nothing else, this will put a "feather in the town's hat" for this being the first project in America, that Microsoft was initiating. Councilman Thompson recommended that a contract with Mr. Varner should be implemented to hold the town harmless in case someone were to fall from the tower. All the councilmen were in favor of this and requested that Mrs. Bowen, Clerk of Council, check with our town attorney, Mrs. Bacon, about writing up something of this nature and have Mr. Varner sign it, prior to anyone climbing the tank. Vice Mayor Gill asked Mr. Park III to keep an eye on the situation, if possible and to advise Mr. Varner of the need of his signature before climbing the tank. Mr. Park III agreed.

Mr. R. H. Park III reported that Boydton's Department of Water, RRSA Meter Readings Report of water pumped for March 2018, was 1,311,000 gallons. Mr. Park III advised that the DMR report was included as well for their perusal. He further stated that a letter from the Department of Corrections was in the council packet releasing their reserve of 150,000 gallons of wastewater treatment capacity as was required by them in their contract with the town in

1997. The Vice Mayor then asked if the final inspection at the WWTP had been done, and if everything went well. Mr. Park III stated that they'd had their meeting, with one item on the punch list still left unresolved, but once it had been completed, Shirley would release the funds.

Mr. Ray Smith was then asked by Vice Mayor Gill for his report. He stated that he had taken his position at the WWTP on April 1<sup>st</sup> and if the council had any questions about the maintenance department's work prior to that date, he would be happy to answer them. He also informed the council that the Rep from GOVdeals would be here next Wednesday to take photos of the items we have for sale and put them on their site. Mr. Smith asked about the fire truck that is to be sold. Vice Mayor Gill then read the legal terminology from the town's attorney regarding how the town was to handle the sale of town property. After reading this, the Vice Mayor explained that the town could sell these items on GOVdeals. Vice Mayor Gill informed the council and the audience that the fire department had settled on a price of \$6,000.00, if the town wanted to purchase this truck. Since there were only two councilmen who aren't on the fire department, the decision to purchase the truck would be left up to Councilmen Crowder and Thompson. A brief discussion ensued, with Councilman Bill Thompson moving to purchase the fire truck from the Boydton Volunteer Fire Department at the cost of \$6,000.00. Councilman David M. Crowder seconded the motion. Councilman J. M. Kirkland moved to declare the Bobcat riding lawnmower and the old fire truck as surplus equipment and to be sold through GOVdeals. Councilman Ronny C. Worley seconded the motion and all members voted in favor. Mr. Ray Smith asked if there was a reserve to be placed on the fire truck, as was the lawnmower. The council's consensus was "no."

Mrs. Bowen, Clerk of Council, was asked to explain the Virginia Retirement Employer Contribution Rates. She stated that this ONLY involved what the employer rate would be for the next two (2) years and it had no effect on the employees. The council could choose the 0.43% rate that was certified by the VRS Board of Trustees for the years 2019-2020 or choose the 3.93% alternate rate, but if we chose the alternate rate, a Resolution would have to be signed and sent to VRS; however, the decision was for the council to select and again, it would have no effect on the employees, either way. She further stated that the 3.93% rate had always been chosen by council upon the advisement of the Mayor. She informed the council that it was entirely their decision and the decision would have to be made before July 1, 2018. She advised the council that she would be attending a VRS meeting in South Hill, VA on Thursday and she would ask again about this and inform the council at the next meeting. Councilman Ronny Worley moved to table this issue until the next council meeting. Councilman J. M. Kirkland seconded the motion with all members voting in favor.

The Vice Mayor opened the meeting for public comments. Mr. Ober asked about selling the old fire truck and the purchase of the newer one. The Vice Mayor and several other councilmen

advised that it was their hope that this newer fire truck would be more suitable and easier to operate for the town crew and the older one would be sold on GOVdeals.

Councilman Ronny Worley made an inquiry to Ray Smith and R. H. Park III as to whether they had seen the County advertisement in the newspaper regarding pumping water to the old prison site from the lake and wanted to know if they knew if this was true. They responded by saying they didn't know anything about it. Councilman Worley asked when the closing date was for the Maintenance Supervisor position. Mrs. Bowen responded by saying that the last date it appeared in the newspapers was last Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Worley moved to close the applications for the Maintenance Supervisor with Councilman David M. Crowder seconding the motion. All members voted in favor. Councilman Worley suggested that Mr. Smith and Mr. Park III meet with the personnel committee to discuss the applicants. Councilman Bill Thompson requested that references be checked prior to doing interviews.

Vice Mayor Gill advised that the RRSA had sent a letter stating that their rates would be going up 2% this next fiscal year and a public hearing would be held in South Hill at the Southside Planning Commission office on April 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M., if anyone would like to attend.

Councilman Worley stated that he felt someone should attend to find out the reason for the increase. Mr. R. H. Park III advised that he would be attending the RRSA meeting anyway that night, therefore, he'd be there. Vice Mayor Gill suggested that it wouldn't be out of order for Mr. Park III to ask (from our town council) the reason for the increase.

The Vice Mayor advised that we lost our Deputy Clerk on March 30<sup>th</sup> and if we wanted to seek a replacement and whether it would be part-time or full-time. Councilman Crowder stated that he felt if the hiring process was incorrect that it should be corrected and that the job should stay the same, which was a full-time position. Mrs. Bowen, Clerk-Treasurer, remarked that due to all the problems that arose during the past two years, she'd recommend that no one be hired right away, since it would be a greater hardship and more stress on her trying to train someone at this time due to correcting those problems, and budget time. She continued by saying that she needed some quiet time to "try" to resolve these problems that had been found, if the councilmen who had so graciously volunteered to stay here when she had to be out continued to do so and she appreciated that very much. She further stated that she was "not" saying to never hire anyone else, but due to the circumstances she would like to get through the end of this fiscal year before hiring another person. It was suggested by Councilman Kirkland to approach this subject during the budget meetings in May to discuss what should be done. He also stated that the Employee Handbook should be updated due to things that had come up.

Vice Mayor Gill asked, "What night would be good for the Personnel Committee to meet?" After a brief discussion, it was decided since everyone was here to go ahead and review the applicant's after the council meeting.

**There being no further comments or questions, Councilman Ronny C. Worley moved to adjourn the meeting, which was recorded at 8:25 P.M., with Councilman Bill Thompson seconding the motion. All members voted in favor.**

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**Shirley S. Bowen, MMC**  
**Clerk of Council & Treasurer**  
**April 10, 2018**

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**Vice Mayor T. G. Gill**