

The Richlands Town Council held a regular monthly meeting in the Richlands Council Chambers on April 14, 2015 at 7:30 pm with the following present:

Mayor: Jannis White
Town Manager: Tim Taylor
Town Attorney: Brad Ratliff
Town Clerk: Kelly Goodman
Council Members: Joe McCracken, Larry Johnson, Doug Ratliff, Frances Meadows
Rod Cury
Absent: Mary Ann Strong

Mayor White called the meeting to order.

Kevin Blankenship gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor White asked if there was anyone who would like to speak other than David Lamie that wasn't on the Agenda.

Joe McCracken stated that Ms. Micki Smith would also like to speak.

Mayor White asked if there were there any additions, deletions or corrections to the Agenda or if there were any questions. She also asked for a motion to approve the Agenda. Council Member Joe McCracken made the Motion to Approve the Agenda and Council Member Rod Cury seconded the Motion. Vote, all in favor, 5/0. Motion carried.

Mayor White stated that everyone should have a copy of the minutes. She also asked if there were any corrections, additions or deletions to the minutes. Mayor White stated she had a couple of corrections on the first page. On the third line down, strike out the word "to" and add after Section Seven. She also stated that in the next line strike out the second "get out", it was a typing error. Mayor White stated she also had a question on page five, she asked Council Member Rod Cury to look at that error. He stated that it should be CRVI Movement, it's an acronym, and it stands for Clinch River Valley Initiative.

Mayor White asked if anyone else had anything else to add, delete or correct or any further discussion. If not, she asked for a Motion to approve the Minutes as amended. Council Member Rod Cury made the Motion to approve the amended Minutes. Council Member Frances Meadows seconded the Motion. Vote, all in favor, 5/0. Motion carried.

Scheduled Public Comments:

Mr. Johnny Honaker wanted to address Council regarding a letter from Town Attorney, Brad Ratliff about a ditch they were requesting. The letter stated that the property in question was never a public street or right of way. That most likely it was intended to be an alleyway between two separate parcels of land. He also brought an aerial map, showing 130 Veteran's Drive, Farmer's Street and a twenty foot alley. It is graveled with public sewer, water and a water meter. It also has power lines across the alley. He also brought a copy of the deed describing that the property in question is in fact an alley. He won't mention the person's full name but last name is Jackson. Their property is across the street from the Honaker's property. He read the map that was determined by the surveyor that "to a railroad spike in an eastern boundary of a twenty foot alley, which the alley borders the Narcie Hankins estate, thence with the estate line of the said alley" that is all Mr. Honaker stated he wanted to read. He also stated that it was an alley and he was sure Narcie Hankins did not make that alley, the Town of Richlands had to build that alley at one time because it consists of bricks and block for a road bed. It has public water, public sewer and power. He also stated they are still having problems, at this time their property is still covered with water; everything in that area is wet. He also mentioned an example alley in the Brickyard that the town did construct. He watched the town build and pave the alley while he worked. The alley is below the road and is picking up water to keep from going on the residents property. Mr. Honaker brought a picture of the alley and passed it around to the Council Members. Council Member Larry Johnson asked if that is the alley he was talking about. Mr. Honaker said it was, he said the alley ran from South Front Street to Brick Street. Council Member Larry Johnson asked Mr. Honaker if this was the alley beside his home, Mr. Honaker stated that it was not the alley beside his home. Council Member Larry Johnson stated that they were talking about two different alleys, Mr. Honaker stated yes.

Mr. Honaker stated his property is wet; the Hackworth's property next to his property has ponded water along his fence.

Mr. Honaker stated he knows that it has been stated the property is not an alley but the map shows that it is. Brad Ratliff stated that there is still no indication or map anywhere that indicates that the property in question was ever a platted alley way belonging to the town. Mr. Honaker stated if you go on the internet under the Town of Richlands map, it refers to the area in question as an alley. Brad Ratliff stated that it shows as a demarcation point, not an alley. Mr. Honaker also stated that there's an address on a doublewide, the person's name was Breeding and their address is River Street. Brad Ratliff stated he understood that but there are county addresses on streets that don't even have easements. He also stated a perfect example is Middle Creek, Smith Bailey Road. He stated Smith Bailey Road goes to the top of the mountain; it's not even a road belonging to the county. Mr. Honaker stated he noticed that all the roads that had a ditch dug were pouring water yesterday. Brad Ratliff stated he was sorry but it doesn't change his opinion, he sees the property as a demarcation line. He did not find any evidence that it was an alley belonging to the Town of Richlands. He stated again that he was sorry, that he knows that is not what they want to hear but that is still his opinion.

Tim Taylor stated that even if it was or was not an alley, there's no evidence that there is water rolling over the property. He stated that he has been over to the property several times during hard rains, even under a flood watch the last time he was over to the property. Mr. Honaker stated you could see it spill out. Tim Taylor stated he did not see it, that he had not been able to catch it in all the times he'd been over to the property. Mr. Honaker said he'd seen it spill out several times, down into the yard and come through the fence. Tim Taylor asked Mr. Honaker where the water came from. Mr. Honaker stated that water travels downhill. Tim Taylor stated that he knew that and that Mr. Honaker was below the road and he understood that. He also stated that you couldn't gage that from heavy rains and as of right now the area is under a flood watch. When there is heavy rain everyone has water, he has water on his property and he lives on a mountain. Tim Taylor also stated that he is not trying to dispute the problem he's just trying to understand where there is a problem, maybe some of the Council Members know more than he does about the situation.

Mr. Honaker stated that Council Member Joe McCracken had been to the property. Council Member Joe McCracken stated the ground is wet but the ground is wet at several places other than the Honaker's property. He and Council Member Mary Ann Strong toured some of the areas during the flood and they found several places that were saturated with water, more than what the Honaker's have on their property and it's that way today also. Council Member Joe McCracken stated that a plan to fix it would be to dig a trench and install a pump. He stated that he had to pump water from his property often. He also stated he just had to replace the entire drain system on his property and it was very expensive and he had to do that at his expense and his property is surrounded by water.

Mr. Honaker stated that if there were public utilities and a water meter on the property that makes it an alley. Brad Ratliff stated that it makes it an easement. He also stated that property like the one in question is not an alley, they are easements and the Town has easements everywhere.

Council Member Joe McCracken stated he would say it is damp on the property. He also stated that there are a lot of places that are damp. Unfortunately, the area we live in is shaped like a bowl, the water is trapped in the bottom of the bowl, and he stated he would like to have his property fixed where the water is concerned but it is his property and he has to pay for the repairs himself. Mr. Honaker stated that was all he could say regarding the matter and thanked the Council Members.

Mrs. Betty Honaker asked Tim Taylor about running the camera through the pipe. Tim Taylor stated that he thought the Town was waiting on permission to do the service and that he didn't know if that had been completed or not. He also stated if that was Mr. and Mrs. Honaker's intent they would schedule someone to come to the property as soon as the water goes down.

Unscheduled Public Comments:

David Lamie greeted Mayor White and Council Members. He stated he was representing Richlands High School Varsity Softball Parents Club regarding the new field under construction at Richlands High School. He stated that ninety percent of the materials and equipment used have been donated. He also stated they are trying to have the field completed for a conference tournament that is scheduled to be held at the new Richlands softball field. The tournament can only be held at one school every six years and they want the field complete so Richlands can host the tournament this year. He stated that they have not completed the water, sewer and electricity at the field and wanted to know if the Town could assist in helping the Parents Club with that. Mr. Lamie also stated it is a very small amount that they are asking for, maybe conduit and help with digging the trench to put it in. He has been working with Hobert and

Tim, getting their expertise advice and they've been very helpful. He stated that he wanted to come before the Council to see if they would help installing the water, sewer and electricity. The deadline to host the conference tournament is May 15, 2015. It is very little work and they would appreciate any help that the Council can give them.

Tim Taylor stated that completion of this field would free up a field at Critterville for Little League. Mr. Lamie stated that when the Varsity Team played at Critterville they could not charge admission and that was a major reason the parents club was building this field. He also stated that Tazewell County School Board has zero money in the project. The parents club has raised all the money that has been put into the field.

Council Member McCracken wanted to know who owned the property. Mr. Lamie stated that Tazewell County Schools owned the property. Council Member McCracken wanted to know if the Parents Club wanted the Town to furnish water, sewer and electricity to the field. Mr. Lamie stated that they are only asking the Town to help with the materials, labor and equipment to install it and help with getting everything hooked up.

Council Member Doug Ratliff asked how much the materials would be. Mr. Lamie stated that he didn't know if anyone had given an estimate yet but the cost would be minimal, he gave an estimate of \$1800.00 on everything to complete the project.

Council Member Doug Ratliff wanted to know if the Town had the material to complete the project. Tim Taylor stated they should, if not they could order it. Mr. Lamie stated he didn't want to order or use any material the Town couldn't use that way the Town could use it when the field was completed.

Mayor White wanted to know if Mr. Lamie was asking for the Town to provide the equipment and man power to dig the trench. Mr. Lamie stated yes, that they were short man power and did not have the equipment at this time.

Tim Taylor asked Mr. Lamie if the site was ready. Mr. Lamie stated that the site was ready to install the water, sewer and electricity. There was still some fine grading work they had to do but it would be ready to have everything installed. Tim Taylor asked if there was stone at the site, Mr. Lamie stated that there was stone there and he could get all the stone that was needed.

Council Member Joe McCracken asked Mr. Lamie did they want the field complete so they can charge admission to the games. Mr. Lamie stated that they wanted to charge admission to help the softball team to pay for equipment and so the girls can have money. He also stated when they play the games at Critterville they cannot charge admission that Richlands High School had to pay the umpires out of the schools general fund. Mr. Lamie stated that not a lot of people come to watch softball games but those that do, if charged admission, would be enough to pay the Virginia High School League Umpires that officiate the games.

Mayor White stated she sympathizes, having coached softball. She stated they didn't make money and they had to make their own way.

Mr. Lamie stated he just wanted the Council Members to take into consideration helping the softball parents complete the field.

Tim Taylor stated they needed an answer soon if they wanted to host the tournament. He also asked was it possible that they could have funds available at a later date. Mr. Lamie stated that they would have to raise more money. The Board of Supervisors has given them money on the field. He also stated they have had a few situations arise that they did not budget for and the Board of Supervisors have helped them with the cost. Mr. Lamie also stated AEP is providing electrical service, not the Town.

Mayor White stated if there was any way to help the parents club it would also free up some of the Town's fields at Critterville. Tim Taylor stated that you always have that controversy of charging and no place to play. He also stated the Department of Interior gave federal money to put in the fields.

Council Member Joe McCracken stated that the Town also needed to do something with the water that is running through town. Tim Taylor stated that it is a problem they have looked at it several times and it continues to be a problem. They have discussed it several times with the school board and the county and have not had any luck through the years with that problem. He also stated they try to channel it to try to get it where it needs to go. Council Member Joe McCracken asked if there was erosion due to the water. Tim Taylor stated that there is erosion and they have to go in and repair it. Council Member Joe McCracken asked if there would be any drainage problem from the field that would add to the drainage

problem through the town now. Mr. Lamie stated that there would be no drainage problem from the field. They did not change the direction of the water flow or add any acreage to the field.

Council Member Frances Meadows stated that she knew the Town had a lot going on and wanted to know when the work could be put on the schedule and how long would it take to complete. Tim Taylor also asked if they had anyone to help with labor. Mr. Lamie stated he could have a few people to help and he also could have inmates to help with the work but has to be on a weekend if they used inmates.

Mayor White asked if the county could help or if the school board could help with the labor. Mr. Lamie stated that they have tried to help but they're not available to help on weekends.

Council Member Frances Meadows stated she wanted to help the softball team but she is put off by the way they have been treated by Richlands High School. She would not agree to help if it was for the school. Mr. Lamie stated that he understood and he has struggled with the school. They've been trying to get them to build the field for five years and told them that they wouldn't have to pay anything on the field and finally they agreed to letting them build the softball field. He also stated that it was a win/win situation for everyone involved.

Tim Taylor wanted to know where the money for the field was coming from. Mr. Lamie stated that two foundations from West Virginia were providing the donations. Tim Taylor stated the Town always tries to help the school because it is in the Town. He also stated when the amount is that much it needs to be voted on. Council Member Frances Meadows asked when the deadline was. Mr. Lamie stated his deadline is May 15, 2015, the tournament date is May 26, 2015.

Mayor White asked the Council Members if they wanted to think about it, that they need to vote on it either way. Council Member Doug Ratliff asked Mr. Lamie when he needed an answer Mr. Lamie stated that he needed it as soon as possible. He also stated if they don't complete the work that they will have to forfeit the tournament and it will go to the next school in line and it will be six more years before they get the opportunity to host the conference tournament again. Mr. Lamie stated that it used to be hosted by the winner but now they circulate who host the conference.

Council Member Doug Ratliff asked if they could talk about it in closed session. Brad Ratliff stated that it did not qualify to be discussed in closed session. Council Member Frances Meadows asked if they could come back and discuss it. Mayor White stated that they could revisit it later. Mr. Lamie thanked the Council.

Micki Smith of 524 Sycamore Street stated she had talked with someone last year about a wall on East Second Street that is crumbling; the Town came by and put up the hazard cones. She said the property owner has been notified but wants to know who is responsible for the wall. She also stated that there are rocks in the road in that area. She stated she doesn't know if the rocks are still there because the leaves have piled up all along that street and they haven't been swept off and the snow plow didn't get them either. She stated that people park on the other side of the road and it makes it difficult to drive on the street and the aesthetics of it look pretty bad. She also wanted to know if the property owners have been notified and who is responsible for taking care of it.

Tim Taylor said the Town notified the property owners last year. He didn't know if any progress had been made. He stated that if the debris itself gets in the road then the Town will clean it up and normally if it's after a notice the Town will send the property owners a bill. He also stated responsibility is up to the land owner, if it was on the other side that holds up the road the Town would be responsible, if it's above the road the people who own the walls are responsible. He stated that he knows the Town hasn't made it over to clean it up yet and that is probably the way the snow plows had to plow the snow. Once they clean it up, they will inspect it and see if there is any damage to the road. If there is damage they will try to secure it or at least make it safe and try to notify the land owner again. He asked Ms. Smith if there was anyone living in the house. Ms. Smith stated she didn't think anyone was living in the house. She also stated that numerous people move in and out on the street and it was hard to keep track. Tim Taylor stated that the Council has dealt with several houses on that street and it was unfortunate because it used to be one of the nicest streets in town.

Tim Taylor asked George West if he had any information on that street. He stated he has stopped on that street and picked up rocks and placed them back above the wall. Tim Taylor stated he was sure no one has done anything to the wall and they will bring it back to the attention of the land owner and see what they can get done again.

Ms. Smith also wanted to bring another matter to the Council's attention. She wasn't sure what the number is but the street goes up the hill, the next house on the corner where you have to make a sharp

turn. Someone is building something and she is sure it's on the Town's property but there's a lot of trees and vegetation and you can't see to get over, get out of the way or if another vehicle is coming. Also off of Virginia Avenue and Second Street has an obstruction there. She asked that the Town please pay attention to things that are growing up there because you can't see people coming in and out of Virginia Avenue.

Tim Taylor said he was confused by the second complaint. Is that the house going up Delaware, the steep street? Ms. Smith stated that it was and there was an alley located there with a trailer in that lot. In the next lot there was a tree or some type of bush that makes it hard to see. Tim Taylor said they would get over and check it out.

Council Member Rod Cury asked Ms. Smith what her address was again. Ms. Smith stated it was 524 Sycamore.

Mayor White thanked Ms. Smith.

Council Member Reports:

Rod Cury - Planning Commission Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2015. He also asked Tim Taylor if he has had any communication with Sam Tuttle. Tim Taylor stated that he has and that Mr. Tuttle was actually asking for some of the material that he requested from the Planning Commission and according to him he has not received it. Tim Taylor also stated that he is sure he asked for those things and have it as far as the Planning Commission is concerned. The Town is also dealing with Mr. Tuttle with CIP, Capitol Premiums Program and things like that from the staff's perspective but that is pretty much it as far as he is concerned. Tim Taylor said he would have to revisit his notes but will look and make sure what they need. Council Member Rod Cury stated he would contact Richard but right now isn't a good time. Tim Taylor stated that Sam Tuttle is with the group that is working on the Comprehensive Plan. Council Member Rod Cury thanked Tim Taylor and wanted to know if he had any information on the Codification Plan. Brad Ratliff stated they have been working on that and trying to finish everything up. He has been talking to Frank about it working it in with the e-citation regulations and will have a proposed ordinance coming up just before the June and July's session. Brad Ratliff anticipates wrapping everything up in April. Council Member Rod Cury asked for the Codification, Brad Ratliff stated yes. Council Member Rod Cury stated that was great and asked could they look for it to be available to everyone sometime this summer. Brad Ratliff stated yes and that was the goal and tying it in with the e-citation has really pushed everything to the front. The new regulations for the e-citation are making it possible to fund that project as well. He also stated that they will have to pay additional money if they don't have the Codification in advance. Council Member Rod Cury stated that it turned into a profitable and helpful thing to do. Brad Ratliff stated that it did. Council Member Rod Cury asked Tim Taylor once that is complete would it be on the Town's website. Tim Taylor stated that it would be available on the website. Council Member Rod Cury explained the Codification and thanked everyone for all their hard work. He also stated he received a text from Virginia Hart, it was a non-town related text but she wanted to know how he fared during the winter weather. She stated that the Town did a great job keeping the roads clear and to please feel free to brag on everyone who worked on them.

The last question Council Member Rod Cury wanted to ask was about the mowing service for the Town. Tim Taylor stated that they have awarded contracts; the winning bid was Jones Lawn Care. The Town received five submittals on the invitation to bid and Jones Lawn Care was the lowest bid. He also stated they started mowing last Monday. He said they were an out of town company, it was their first time mowing and they were doing as good as the other companies that started out mowing. It's not great; they have to be looked at. Hopefully they will improve, if not the Town will have to deal with it. They were the lowest bid and they have all their insurance up to date. They will be paid \$1200.00 per week; the second bid was \$1250.00 per week. He also stated at the end of the mowing season it is a total of a \$1400.00 savings. They are also the same company that mows for the Town of Tazewell and they gave them a good reference. Council Member Frances Meadows asked if the garbage was picked up before mowing, Tim Taylor stated the company picks up the garbage instead of running over it. Council Member Frances Meadows stated that is all she wanted to know. Tim Taylor added that if they don't pick it up that the Town will take pictures and make note of the problem. Council Member Doug Ratliff asked Council Member Frances Meadows if she was talking about the garbage on Veteran's Drive, she stated yes. Council Member Joe McCracken wanted to know if there was any consideration in the hiring process to keep the mowing service within the Town. Tim Taylor stated the way the process works is that you have to take the invitation to bid, the Town Procurement Policy has been superseded by the state. The Council elected many years ago to abide with what the state did regarding Procurement

Policy. Council Member McCracken stated it would help to employee people who paid taxes to the Town and to use business who also paid taxes and fees to the town. He also stated the company that won the bid is doing neither. Tim Taylor stated there used to be a modest reflection that you could look for business is the state of Virginia, the Town doesn't have it and couldn't do it this time. There are guidelines that have to be followed and they have to be careful not to compromise state code and you have to be careful not to default on loans or make an incorrect purchase. There were two criteria's that had to be met, a responsible business, they had all their paperwork up to date and you have to check references. Council Member Doug Ratliff stated he felt what Council Member Joe McCracken stated was true, that companies that are based in town should employ town residents. He also stated that if the price and the quality of work were good that loyalty to the town should be taken into consideration. He stated that in Buchanan County, VA, if you didn't live there, you didn't work there. Tim Taylor stated that the Town has a contract that Brad Ratliff drew up stating that if the mowing company didn't do a good job they could run the risk of not being employed by the Town. Council Member Joe McCracken asked who would be next in line. Tim Taylor stated that the next lowest bid would be awarded the job as long as they would still honor the bid. He also stated the next lowest bid was American Carpet.

Mayor White asked Council Member Rod Cury if he had anything else to add, he stated that he did not and he appreciated the clarification about the mowing. He has had several calls about it and wanted to know where they stood from the Town Manager's point of view.

Joe McCracken – He has received calls about the road below the Recreation Park needing rock or needed to be scraped. He stated that during the winter weather and the flooding that the rock has been scraped off and wanted to bring it to the Council's attention. George West stated he had spoken with Mr. Blankenship and they would get to it as soon as possible. Council Member Joe McCracken stated that was who he spoke with. He also stated he was contacted by a resident on Birmingham Road. The road needs ditch work on the right side coming from Kent's Ridge Road and would appreciate the Town taking a look at it. He said he did go over there himself and observed that there was work that needed to be done to the ditch. He stated that he has also had several complaints about the road at Big Creek needing pot holes repaired and the road needs to be repaved. Also the person that the Council talked to about the stop signs on South Center Street would like to see STOP stenciled on the road. Tim Taylor stated they were going to paint a white STOP bar on the road, did he also want STOP stenciled on there also, and that would cost extra money. Council Member Joe McCracken stated that the white bar would be fine. Tim Taylor stated they were going to try to have it finished before the Freedom Festival. Council Member McCracken also had calls about making the ditch wider on Sayers Street to handle the flow of water on First Street and Second Street. He also asked Tim Taylor if he had a report from Ingersoll and Rand since the last time they took additional samples back in early fall. Tim Taylor stated that he didn't think so; he hasn't heard anything in a long time. Council Member Joe McCracken asked Tim Taylor if he would find out if they had any reports on the hazardous materials. He would also like to welcome a new business to the Town, Farmhouse Primitives located at 2409 Front Street. He stated that he has been in the store and it is very nice. He would also like to mention the pot holes at the end of Eagle Street. He said that was all he had to report and thanked everyone.

Frances Meadows – Stated that she knew the Street Department has a rough schedule but wanted to know when they started to clean out the drain pipes could they clean the drain pipes at the Flannery Fields. She stated there's a lot of grass in them and it is causing flooding at the fields. She also stated if they were out with the sweeper to feel free to sweep the gravels off the walkway. She wanted to know if the last day of the festival was June 20, 2015 the Little League has the 9-10 year old district tournament and softball tournaments starting during that time and they will be played through June 25, 2015. She stated she will contact Ginger Branton and let her know the schedule; she wanted to mention it so that no one would be surprised. She is also going to talk to Ginger Branton to make sure that the trash would be picked up before the tournaments started. She also stated the Little League would be hosting a state tournament July 9, 2015 – July 14, 2015. She said so far eight teams are confirmed to attend; it could be up to twelve. They are looking into lodging and some might have to stay toward Bluefield. She stated that she is concerned that there is no place available to host the evening kickoff dinner for the teams and the families. They have contacted Richlands Middle School and haven't received a response, they've also checked with Southwest Virginia Community College and they are not

available during that time. She has spoke with the Police Department and understands that it is a public safety building and the hospital already as an event scheduled. She stated she wanted to ask the Council and the Chief Frank Dorton if there is an area that can accommodate approximately four hundred people that they can use for five to six hours.

Mayor White asked Chief Frank Dorton about the capacity and the Police Department, he stated that they could probably seat 150 people. Tim Taylor asked if all four hundred people would be present at one time, Council Member Frances Meadows stated that they would not be present at one time, that they would be coming and going. She stated that vendors are coming to show sports equipment so people would be at different places and different times. She also stated that it would be a buffet style dinner; Council Member Rod Cury asked if they were doing the catering themselves and she said that they were. He also asked if they were doing clean up and she stated that they would do the cleanup also, they were responsible for that. She stated that if the Council and the Police Department agreed upon using the facility that they would make a donation back to the Public Safety Department. She said they could put a tent up in the parking lot if they could find one that is large enough. She is asking the Council to consider the request; they are running out of time and need an answer as soon as possible. She stated that she understood that the Police Department is a Public Safety Building but she doesn't know an area that would accommodate that many people. Council Member Rod Cury asked if the Bee Keeper Association recently used the facility and Chief Frank Dorton stated that they did and if they can incorporate some element of public safety into it then it would not be a problem. Mayor White stated that they could use the safety equipment as an element of safety. Council Member Frances Meadows also stated that she and Fred Phillips had talked about using the Rec. Park but due to limited parking that it would not be a good place to use. Police Chief Frank Dorton stated the only concern he has is that even if they use the facility that it is still a working Police Department with and active dispatch, with that many children around there has to be plenty of supervision. Council Member Frances Meadows said if the Council had any recommendations she would appreciate it. She also stated that no one other than the Little League will be using the fields. She attended a Little League meeting and was told that the Project Graduation softball game that was held at the field was not suppose to be there, they only received approval from one person and there was some damage to the field. She has had several churches call to inquire about the fields but she stated that no one other than the Little League will be using them. She said that was all she had at this time and thanked everyone.

Doug Ratliff – Asked Tim Taylor how far was the Town on meeting with AEP. Tim Taylor stated that they are working on it and that Kevin Blankenship has had some interaction with AEP staff. He stated he had been out of town but they are working on the logistics of it but he has not had a conversation with corporate because they have really been busy with the budget. He stated that Kevin Blankenship has been working with AEP's engineers on the physical side of it as well as the new substation that is being installed behind Food Lion. Kevin Blankenship stated that they are waiting on a response from AEP.

Council Member Doug Ratliff stated he wanted to make a proposal, he also stated it probably wouldn't get anywhere but he wanted it in the Town Minutes. He stated that the Town has been working on the gas for five or six years. He said he feels that Town has the legal rights to control the gas within Richlands Town limits. He also stated they are trying to negotiate a partnership with Appalachian Gas which is taking time and they haven't worked out anything yet. He also stated he is concerned with a time limit. He said if the matter ever went to court and it probably will to make sure Richlands controls the gas. He said he was afraid that time would be against them because the Town has let Appalachian Gas control the gas for almost a year. He wants to ask the Council and Brad Ratliff would they consider sending a letter to Appalachian Gas stating they are trying to work out a partnership with them and feels that would be advantageous to both parties but feels that Richlands should control the gas legally. He stated they've also conducted research on the matter and feels that it adds a lot to the Town's point of view on the matter. He is also concerned that if the matter goes to court that time will be against them and that the judge will ask why hasn't the Town of Richlands done anything before now. He wants to propose that the Town send a letter to Appalachian Gas explaining the Town's position.

Mayor White asked if there had been any negotiations with Appalachian Gas. Tim Taylor stated that there had not been any negotiations but did send a verbal request to draft some kind of agreement,

franchise or both. Appalachian Gas did submit that request but it was very biased, it was not good. Council Member Doug Ratliff stated to the mayor, Council and the Public that his major concern was that the gas in Richlands was going to be for profit only. He also stated the Town should control it because they would take in consideration the citizens that need it plus the businesses. He also stated that all Appalachian Gas will do is continue to “cherry pick” and only choose certain businesses and the citizens won’t ever have gas for decades. He would like to stake out the Town’s position, do it diplomatically with Brad Ratliff so that it can be on record that the Town is not going to allow Appalachian Gas control the gas and that the Town is wanting to work out a partnership but feels that because of the legislature that gave the Town the charter in 2013 it strengthened the Town’s position that the Town could and would control the gas in Richlands corporate limits.

Mayor White asked Council Member Doug Ratliff if he would like to put it in form of a Motion. He stated that yes, he would like to put it in form of a Motion. Mayor White asked if he would mind restating it in simple terms. Council Member Doug Ratliff stated that he would like to propose a Motion to send a letter to Appalachian Gas that the Town of Richlands would like to work out a partnership with them that would be advantageous to both parties, the Town and Appalachian Gas, that Richlands should control the gas within the corporate limits.

Mayor White asked if anyone would second the Motion. Council Member Larry Johnson stated he would second the Motion. Mayor White asked if there was any further discussion or any questions. Council Member Joe McCracken wanted to know if there would be any risk of the Town losing business rather than gaining business. Tim Taylor stated that the Town would not lose business in his opinion. Council Member Larry Johnson stated that is was just stating the Town’s position on the gas. Brad Ratliff agreed with Council Member Larry Johnson and stated that is was perfectly reasonable to send a letter to Appalachian Gas. He also stated that given the dynamics of the status of the law right now that’s actually timely. He also stated that he knows that Mr. Taylor has taken a substantial amount of time in talking to Appalachian Gas to try to bring some kind of partnership. He also stated he has attended several meetings over the years, he also knows that Council Member Doug Ratliff has also attended meetings along with several others. He said he thinks it perfectly appropriate to send the letter. He will draft the letter and send it out to the Council Members and Mr. Taylor to look over. Council Member Rod Cury stated that he understood what Council Member Doug Ratliff was stating and asked Tim Taylor if Mr. Ebert was willing to discuss the situation. Tim Taylor stated that it was; it hasn’t been talked in depth about it. He also stated the last meeting they had about the gas discussion was to provide gas to one of the businesses in Town. He stated that the problem was the aid to construction was significantly too high for businesses to be able to provide funding for. He also stated the status of his conversation with Mr. Ebert was to find a way to aggregate enough customers to where whoever provides the gas that it is economical to do so. The rate of return would at least break even for the Town. He said the partnership has only been addressed one time. Council Member Doug Ratliff stated the problem was that Mr. Ebert thinks he is holding all the cards and like most CEO’s, wants to come in and run over the Town and do what they want. He stated that was Mr. Ebert’s position, to control the gas like a corporate company. He also stated that’s why Mr. Ebert gave Tim Taylor an outrageous deal that he wanted the Town to sign. He stated that if the Town doesn’t put their position if front of him, he’s never going to negotiate like he should. Council Member Rod Cury stated that he knew that the Town was in some kind of discussion but he’s never seen a deal or proposal. Council Member Doug Ratliff told Council Member Rod Cury what he was trying to say was that if Appalachian Gas gains control of the gas in the Town one thing will dominate the profit, they’re not going to care about the citizens all their going to care about is profit. He stated if the Town controlled it, they would take other things into consideration, of course break even or make a profit but get it to the citizens in different phases but Mr. Ebert never will. He also stated that everyone should take a look at Appalachian Gas, they only have 256 customers and has been in the gas business for many years and should have more customers by now. He said that they were moving very slow and are only motivated by money.

Council Member Joe McCracken stated that it would not hurt to send a letter. Mayor White asked if anyone else had questions or comments, if not they have a Motion and a Second and will put it to a Vote. Vote, all in favor, 5/0. Motion carried.

Larry Johnson - Had left a message for Tim Taylor concerning a complaint about the riverbank eroding behind Warner Chiropractic. He asked Tim Taylor did he remember getting the message that it had been a while. Tim Taylor stated he did get the message and he talked to people regarding the bridges. He inquired about making the flood way bigger to keep those incidents from happening. He discussed the matter with Jim Grizzle and Mr. Swartz with Swartz and Associates. They advised the Town not to do anything to disturb the upstream or downstream part of that bridge because of scouring. Scouring would basically would interrupt with the wing walls. If there is scouring behind the wing walls the bridge could be compromised. It was over a year ago since the discussion and that is what they advised them to do. He also stated you can't do anything in the flood ways without doing hydraulic studies and getting it approved through TVA and Army Corps of Engineers. He stated that it was a delicate thing but you can't do it.

Council Member Frances Meadows wanted to know if it was close to his business. Tim Taylor stated that Warner Chiropractor was near the bridge. He also stated that it was not even downstream that if it were to be cut out the water would swirl and eat away. Council Member Joe McCracken stated that if you went on downstream that it was that way too. Tim Taylor stated that the Town did some Gabion Baskets under their direction about ten years ago that helped a little and all work had to be away from the barriers. He also stated any work that is done around bridges has to be approved. He said that is all they received permission for and also had to get permission from the Army Corps of Engineers. When you deal with rivers, what you do to try to help one will inadvertently affect another. Council Member Joe McCracken stated that the debris needed to be cleaned out of the river. Tim Taylor stated that the Town tried to keep it clear. Council Member Larry Johnson stated that he had one more thing to add, he wanted to know when the next budget meeting will be held. Tim Taylor stated everyone should have a budget schedule. Council Member Frances Meadows stated for Council Member Larry Johnson not to forget to mention the 5K Run/Walk. He stated that the Humane Society was having a 5K Run/Walk on April 26, 2015; it will start at the Cedar Bluff Post Office. The course will go from the Post Office, around the high school and back down. He stated that is all he has to mention and thanked everyone.

Mayor White asked if anyone had any question or comments about the Department Head Reports.

Council Member Joe McCracken asked Fred Phillips how the Rec. Park roof was coming along. Fred Phillips stated he was gaining ground and that it was going to happen. Council Member Joe McCracken also asked Fred Phillips how things were going at the Rec. Park and if the Council can do anything to help to let them know.

Council Member Joe McCracken asked Gordon Russ, Richlands Rescue Squad, about answering calls out of Tazewell County into other counties. Has anyone approached other counties to ask for monetary help? Gordon Russ stated they had talked about it before with Russell County; they get a lot of calls from Russell County. Council Member Joe McCracken asked if they approached the Russell County Board of Supervisors about helping and should they step forward and ask the other counties for help since they answer calls and provide service for other counties. He also wanted to know when they could ask the counties for assistance. Tim Taylor stated that before they talk peer to peer like Gordon would have to do, it would probably be better to send a letter from the Council. Council Member Joe McCracken stated that Richlands Rescue Squad seemed to be answering more and more calls out of county and there needs to be an understanding that Tazewell County or the Town of Richlands is the only county funding the Rescue Squad receives while answering calls in other counties. Gordon Russ stated they had talked about moving the boundary lines on down to help the community since they are close. Council Member Joe McCracken stated that there are fees the Town of Richlands and the Town of Tazewell pays for the system to work, he stated someone needs to talk to them about helping out. Gordon Russ stated he thinks someone from Council needs to go with the person that approaches the Board of Supervisors.

Mayor White asked if the Rescue Squad had a mutual aid agreement with them. Tim Taylor advised that this matter needed to be outside that. He stated that this is where you could run into trouble because they don't charge unless they have incurred expenses. Council Member Joe McCracken said he was talking about Tazewell County helping Richlands Rescue Squad; the Town of Richlands helps Richlands

Rescue Squad with funding. He stated that if you're going to answer a call outside of your area that it is fair to ask the other counties the Rescue Squad is going into for funding also. Gordon Russ stated that he hasn't went to that extreme but he has talked about moving the boundary lines to help the people out because the Richlands Rescue Squad is closer. Council Member Joe McCracken asked if the Rescue Squad needed funding. He also asked Gordon Russ if he thought it was appropriate to ask the other counties for funding. Gordon Russ stated that they could approach them and see what they said his theory was to try to get the boundary lines moved to help the community out. Tim Taylor stated they need to ask for a contribution toward it. Council Member Joe McCracken stated he thinks it's appropriate to ask for a contribution toward the funding, Tazewell County and the Town of Richlands provides funding, other counties they answer calls from should also contribute. Tim Taylor asked Gordon Russ if the Rescue Squad had authority to answer the out of county calls. Gordon Russ stated they have authority if the Rescue Squad is called. Council Member Frances Meadows asked if the location was Pine Creek, Gordon Russ stated that it was and they've also answered calls in Honaker. Council Member Joe McCracken stated that they've also answered calls in other areas. Gordon Russ stated very rarely to you go into McDowell County, WV or Buchanan County, VA but when you go to Jewell Ridge, VA and answer calls on the left side of the road you're in Buchanan County. When you go to Smith Ridge, VA on the right you're in Buchanan County. Council Member Joe McCracken stated that he didn't think it would hurt to ask for help from the other counties. He stated he didn't want the Rescue Squad to stop answering the calls to the other counties but he would like to see some help. Council Member Doug Ratliff stated he liked what Council Member Joe McCracken was saying and that it was a good idea to ask for help and he didn't want them to stop answering calls.

Mayor White suggested they do the letter first. Gordon Russ stated it would be an asset to move the boundary lines that it would help the people. Council Member Rod Cury stated he agreed with Council Member Joe McCracken and asked if they could write a letter to the Board of Supervisors. Council Member Joe McCracken stated that he would agree to that.

Mayor White asked if anyone had any questions or comments. She also stated that she had some things to add. She stated that Sue Wade had emailed everyone information on the Farmer's Market. She also stated that the Council needed to take some action of that matter. She asked everyone if they had an opportunity to respond to the email, some of the Council Members stated they did not receive an email. Mayor White said the Council needed to make a decision tonight on the matter. Sue Wade stated that they've had a lot of people call about the Farmer's Market, wanting to know what the Town is going to do. Council Member Doug Ratliff asked Sue Wade if the charge was still \$5.00, Tim Taylor stated that is what is in the old contract. Sue Wade also stated that the charge is \$5.00 or they could bill monthly or quarterly. She said that there was no charge if it was a farm type, growing their own produce. If it is a Peddler coming in and selling they need a business license, she said that they need to let people know a fee amount. Council Member Doug Ratliff wanted to know who made the decision on the amount. Tim Taylor stated that they have set the rules on hold based upon the Council's vote. He stated they would like to get something done about the matter. The problem that the Town runs into is that it is kind of chaotic, they will come and get permission for one stall then they use five or six stalls and try to take over the whole area. He said then it becomes a policing issue, they'll use the electricity hook ups to use the Town's electricity and run their freezers. Council Member Joe McCracken stated that they are merchant's they buy their things from other places and them come to sell them in the Town, therefore they need a merchant's license. Council Member Rod Cury asked Tim Taylor if he was recommending reinstating the old policy the Town had. Tim Taylor stated he thinks it would be completed, and asked if there anything that was added in or deleted. Sue Wade stated that she didn't think so. Tim Taylor stated that the Town should reinstitute what they had previously. Council Member Joe McCracken wanted to know if that was with or without electricity, is that factored in. Tim Taylor stated that each stall had electricity, they can use it during that day but they can't use the electricity in five or six additional stalls or plug it in and leave it overnight, they're taking advantage of the situation. Council Member Rod Cury stated he wasn't opposed to reinstating the policy but wanted to know if it was the same policy that was in effect when they first instituted the Farmer's Market. Tim Taylor stated he wasn't sure of the date but he thinks the policy is close. Council Member Rod Cury said at one time

there were discussions in prior times regarding people selling baked goods and meeting regulations and health rules. Tim Taylor stated that the policy was still in place and that was a Virginia Department of Health issue. Council Member Rod Cury stated that it was reinforcing something that the Town has negated for a while. Tim Taylor stated it was basically the cost. Sue Wade added that there is someone who comes and checks on the people at the Farmer's Market. Tim Taylor added it gives a chance to the people who have vouchers to buy and use the vouchers, they can't use them on a retail purchase, and he stated that kind of separates it also. Council Member Rod Cury stated that if Council Member Doug Ratliff gave the Motion that he would second it.

Mayor White stated they had a Motion and a Motion to Second and wanted to know if there was any other discussion. Vote, all in favor, 5/0. Motion carried.

Council Member Joe McCracken wanted to know how much a business license is per day. Sue Wade stated that a business license was annual, you can't purchase one per day. She stated there were two types of license, a Peddler license and an Itinerant Merchant license. Tim Taylor stated that an Itinerant Merchant's license is \$500.00 per year but there are different classifications. He also stated that a Peddler's license, for example, the selling of certain food items, is free and that was a state law.

Mayor White stated that the Farmer's Market concern was finalized she also had an additional question. She asked Sue Wade if there were charges that were added on to the access channel. Sue Wade stated that she didn't know anything about new access channel charges. Frank Dorton stated that there is now a \$6.00 charge for the rent cable box to access the music and to broadcast. Tim Taylor stated the Town would investigate those charges and that most franchises would give that to customers at no charge. Mayor White asked how is it determined who pays the cost. Tim Taylor stated that Time Warner isn't charging the customer but the Town of Richlands to broadcast. Council Member Joe McCracken stated there is a problem with the cable, a roaring noise. Frank Dorton stated he thought Time Warner had taken care of the problem. Council Member Joe McCracken stated that he still had the problem.

Brad Ratliff – did not have anything other than what he had already submitted. Council Member Joe McCracken wanted to know if there was any new litigation between Richlands and Cedar Bluff. Brad Ratliff stated nothing to report in Open Session.

Tim Taylor – wanted to know if everyone had the opportunity to look over the check register. He stated the electric bill was higher this month and the last few months based on the winter weather. He also stated it is a little confusing due to the fact that the checks on the register were from previous months and they were already paid. He stated that Blue Ridge Power Agency includes dues that the Town pays quarterly. He asked the Council if there were any questions on the first page, he stated that most of the checks are for the usual monthly payments that the Council sees every month. He also stated that check number 51109 to Norfolk Southern Corporation for \$5,360.00 is for the Town's annual maintenance fee. The Town has to pay for all the crossings and the half of all the maintenance on the gates, and that is a pretty substantial amount of money. Council Member Joe McCracken had a question about check number 51049 to Bargain Finders for \$339.00. Tim Taylor stated that it was for Police Department decals, Council Member Larry Johnson stated it was for decals for the police cars. Council Member Joe McCracken stated he thought it was for The Bargain Finder paper. Council Member Doug Ratliff stated that it was the same company. Tim Taylor stated that quite a few checks were for maintenance equipment that had to be purchased, check number 51142 to USALCO for \$8,719.92, is for the chemical treatment for the water treatment plant. Also check number 51140 to Ultra Petroleum for \$16,615.55 is for fuel, insurance payments for Anthem BC/BS and of course VRS-Retirement for a total of \$966,920.51. Council Member Frances Meadows made a Motion to pay the bills; Council Member Larry Johnson seconded the Motion. Vote all in favor, 5/0. Motion carried.

Tim Taylor stated the next item for discussion is projects; it's really about the health insurance. He stated in order to meet the enrollment cycle for the Town's health insurance for the next fiscal year it has to be in place as soon as possible. He stated that the Town is already on a thirty day notice, it's just the way the timing of the insurance is, you're not given a lot of time to act on it. He also stated that Sue Wade gave everyone a handout and asked if she would come up and explain the insurance to everyone.

She stated basically what it came down to was the town had to renew the insurance; they were given an extension due to the fact that the deadline can't be met due to the timing of the monthly Council Meeting. Sue Wade stated that they are offering two plans to the employees, Key Advantage 250 and Key Advantage 500. The Key Advantage 250 is a better plan; the employee will pay a larger portion of this one than they do on the Key Advantage 500. In the past when they gave the employee the option of either plan, the Key Advantage 500, the employee didn't pay anything for but if you wanted to upgrade to the Key Advantage 250, you had to pay the difference. This year to keep good coverage they are letting the employees pick up the difference in the rates. The Town's stop loss is unfortunately like Obama Care, some of the things were increased. The out of pocket expense increased, the drugs went from three tier to four tier according to what you chose and paid for. The prescription cost will go toward the out of pocket amount; the eye care coverage remained the same. She also stated that the dental coverage went from \$1,200.00 per year to \$1,500 per year on dental claims. One thing that helps is the state retirement, even though some employees take pay cuts when hired by the town, the health insurance and retirement plans are good. Council Member Joe McCracken asked if the Town had an increase this year and Sue Wade stated that there was a 2.6 percent increase. The Town will pay the same; the employees will pick up the difference to keep good coverage. Tim Taylor stated that in the memo he sent out describes the insurance pricing. It will cost the employee on average \$40.00 more a month for a family plan in order to keep the coverage the Town has now. Tim Taylor stated they hope to help the Town employees offset the difference with the cost of living. Council Member Rod Cury made a Motion for Tim Taylor to sign the insurance agreement with Anthem; Council Member Doug Ratliff stated he would second the Motion. Vote, all in favor, 5/0. Motion Carried. The Council Members thanked Sue Wade for the information.

Tim Taylor stated that the insurance really does help when recruiting potential employees. He also stated that he had produced a schedule for everyone. He stated he would like to go over it, he said that budget times are fairly complicated because of the timing of everything. There are certain mandated things that you have to do. The staff and manager have to prepare the budget; the Council has to actually solicit for public comment during that process. He suggested the first work session be held on April 20, 2015, that would be for Governmental Departments and April 22, 2015 would be work session for the Utility Departments. He stated the third night may or may not be needed, but kept that date open for possibility if the meeting needed to be carried over. He stated that would be enough time to take comments and any type of action from the Council to possibly adjust the proposed budget prior to advertising. April 29, 2015 and May 6, 2015 are the last dates to get it into the public hearing for the May Council Meeting. May 12, 2015 would be the date for Public Hearing receiving comments and that would leave May 13, 2015 – May 29, 2015 available to finalize the Proposed Budget. That would give Brad Ratliff a few days to get all the budget ordinances and resolutions prepared and be ready for adoption on June 9, 2015 and become effective on July 1, 2015. He stated he was hoping to get the dates set tonight and the times according to everyone's availability.

Council Member Rod Cury stated the dates were fine with him with the exception of April 20, 2015; he would not be able to attend that evening. Tim Taylor stated April 22, 2015 could be a carryover date for individual Council Members. He also stated the budget is fairly consistent with the last two years, there's not a lot of changes and he does not anticipate needing many meeting since there is very little to discuss, except for capitol and they're not recommending anything but a modest rate increase for electrical based on what they have to pay for electricity. He stated that he knew he would have to explain that other than that there isn't anything else. He would like for everyone to listen to the department heads, they've played an active role this year and have made some very aggressive commitments this year, not only to him but to the Council. The Budget is going to be tough on them but they've welcomed the challenge. He said he would be fine with moving the dates to April 21, 2015 and April 22, 2015.

All Council Members agreed to move the dates to April 21, 2015 at 7:30 and April 22, 2015 starting at 7:00 pm. Tim Taylor thanked everyone for their cooperation. He also stated he did not have an in depth report on the software submittals but has for the software for the utilities and the financials for the town. He also stated that this was a major move for the Town that they don't like to do too often but it

is time to do that. They had three correspondents, Freedom Systems, Logics, LLC and Southern Software; pretty in depth RFP and three competent companies. The staff will review those and talk to the company that is ranked the highest. He also stated that Brad Ratliff has looked at the RFP and needs to look at the companies due to the nature of the cost and make an official statement of responsiveness. He also stated they had an aggressive schedule of implementation and should see results by early fall. Council Member Doug Ratliff wanted to know how the credit card process was working. Tim Taylor stated he thought it was going good. Sue Wade stated they get more credit card users every month. Council Member Doug Ratliff wanted to know how much they were up to now, Sue Wade stated last month they were up to \$28,000.00 in credit card charges, she also stated it was mostly electrical payments.

Tim Taylor stated again that the budget was aggressive especially on the capital side and the miscellaneous item he wanted to bring up was the Fire Department needed to replace all the air bottles. Keith Reynolds had proposed in the Budget to replace forty bottles in order to get the price break of about \$900.00 per bottle which equates to \$36,000.00 plus. It was cheaper to purchase forty bottles than to buy the individual bottles. He also stated that the bottles had to be replaced because they were dated and are not reusable. Keith Reynolds stated the bottles are good for seventeen years and they expire this year, he said they knew this and that it was in the five year plan. Tim Taylor also stated the Fire Department used their prior programs money to purchase personnel protective equipment so that funding is not totally there, should have a little money next year but there is not a lot there. Keith Reynolds stated that it is not guaranteed. Tim Taylor stated they wanted Council to consider, they took it out of the Budget because in often times people think if it's in the Budget even if you don't have the money people often think you do. They would prefer to find an alternative source of funding to help with that matter since it is a long shot, one time application. He also stated he was going to make a recommendation to the Council that they would authorize either a letter from the Council, letter from the Mayor or himself to ask the Board of Supervisors to move a portion of this cost into their annual Budget to help offset this onetime cost which they already have an interest in the Richlands Fire Department anyway since they fight the majority of the counties fires. He stated he thought it would be timely that they do that. Keith Reynolds mentioned that they would have an additional forty bottles expire next year. Council Member Joe McCracken asked if it was a steel bottle. Keith Reynolds stated that it was not a steel bottle but rather a fiberglass wrapped bottle and they were about twenty five pounds lighter than the steel bottles. Tim Taylor stated he would get the letter out quickly and put that it was a consensus not a vote of Council. He also stated because of Budget restraints it was not possible to purchase the bottles and would ask for a reasonable amount from the Board of Supervisors. He stated that was all he had to discuss at this time.

Mayor White stated she had a couple more things. First of all she wanted to thank Sue Wade and all the staff for putting the Yard Sale on the utility bills. She stated she appreciated them doing that and she didn't even have to ask. She also stated that previously they had talked about doing a clean up last month. If that is still being planned a date needed to be scheduled. She also asked if anyone had any suggestions.

Council Member Frances Meadows asked when the Critterville Clean Up Day is. Fred Phillips stated that it was the first weekend in May. Council Member Larry Johnson stated that would be a good time to do all the clean up. Mayor White agreed but asked if they thought the weeds and the grass would grow up over the trash. Tim Taylor stated that the mulch was coming Monday for Critterville, it had to be replaced due to the flooding. Mayor White asked if they could do the clean up on Saturday, April 25, 2015. She also stated that whatever Council thinks but if they wait too much longer the grass and the weeds will grow over the trash. Council Member Frances Meadows agreed to coordinate the clean up and Mayor White will help her with contact information. The clean up would start at 9:00 am on Saturday morning, April 25, 2015 and the Farmer's Market would be the designated meeting point and to contact Council Member Frances Meadows on her cell phone if there are any questions.

Council Member Doug Ratliff asked if Council would mind if the electrical meetings were moved down but stay in order on Tuesday and Wednesday, he would like to have the electrical meeting last. Tim

Taylor stated that would be fine, that would work better for them. Council Member Doug Ratliff also wanted to know how the Town was doing on the car license and if it was lined out. Tim Taylor stated they've got it lined out but doesn't think they've done too much with the enforcement piece of it right now. He stated that getting the appropriate information has not been looked at anymore. He also stated that the information they get from the DMV has to be interpreted. He said they need to look into the proper approach and get letters sent out. Council Member Doug Ratliff wanted to know how many have been sent out. Sue Wade stated they had sent out approximately 5000, but received a lot of them back because of address issues. She also stated that when some people are registering they are just putting down Tazewell County not the Town of Richlands which causes the address issues. Council Member Doug Ratliff asked if the Town coming out ahead, Sue Wade stated at this point she doesn't think the Town is coming out ahead. Tim Taylor stated that some people would have five cars and only purchase four stickers. Some people had children that went to college out of the area and didn't purchase stickers for those vehicles. He stated they've realized they don't have to purchase a sticker if the vehicle is not housed in Town. Council Member Joe McCracken stated that the Town has actually hurt itself instead of helping. Council Member Doug Ratliff wanted to know if the new software will help with the issue. Tim Taylor stated it should do better, it will help with printing the decals and save on postage also but the data came from the DMV. Council Member Doug Ratliff stated he did not understand why some residents don't put decals on their vehicles. He wanted to know if they could show a receipt of payment made to another town/city instead of Richlands. Tim Taylor stated that would be a legal question. He also stated that some people just might have not paid; need to follow up with that. Brad Ratliff stated that he would check to see if that would be legal. Mayor White asked if another section needed to be added. Brad Ratliff stated that it would be the same section. Tim Taylor stated to add a Section regarding business, 2.2-3711A5.

Council Member Frances Meadows asked when would Travis Hackworth come and brief the Council on his trip. Council Member Rod Cury asked if they could go ahead and reschedule, Tim Taylor stated they would try to get that rescheduled.

Council Member Joe McCracken asked if anyone had seen the presentation that Travis Hackworth brought back. He stated that the Council had not seen anything.

Mayor White stated they needed a Motion to go into Closed Session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711-A part 7 and Section 2.2-3711A part 5. Council Member Rod Cury made the Motion to go into Closed Session and Council Member Larry Johnson seconded the Motion. Vote, all in favor 5/0, Motion carried.

Council went into Closed Session at 9:30 pm.

Council returned from Closed Session at 10:30 pm.

Mayor White asked for a Motion to return to Open Session. Council Member Rod Cury made the Motion and Larry Johnson seconded the Motion. Mayor White asked Council if all members affirmed that only Section 2.2-3711A part 7 and Section 2.2-3711A part 5 were discussed in closed session, all Council agreed.

Tim Taylor asked about helping the Parents Club with the softball field at the high school, he also stated that Council did not have to help. Council Member Frances Meadows stated she didn't care to help the girls and the softball team, not the administration at the Richlands High School; they did not want to help the town. Mayor White also stated that Council did not have to help.

Council Member Rod Cury stated he had a request to bring the Council about helping with Prom. Council took no action with the request.

Mayor White asked for a Motion to adjourn. Council Member Rod Cury made the Motion, Council Member Larry Johnson seconded the Motion. Vote, All in favor, 5/0. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:34 pm.

Jan White, Mayor

Kelly Goodman, Clerk