Committee Meetings
March 15, 2005

PRESENT	STAFF
J. Dean	Nathan Miller
C. McDaniel	Dennis Donachy
W. Printz	Clairen Sipe
T. Pence	Marty Shifflett
S. Sigafoose	Richard Pullen
R. Snow	Richard Carey
P. Workman	

Cathy Murphy, 110 North Stuart Avenue, presented the following proposal as drafted by the Cemetery Commission, which met on March 2, 2005:

CEMETERY COMMISSION – **DRAFT 3/2/05**

The Cemetery Commission is designed to provide Council with recommendations for improvement, future needs, to ensure proper management of funds, and to provide our deceased community members with a well maintained and peaceful final resting place.

The Cemetery Commission wished to maintain a positive and productive relationship with the Council and community at large. Over the past year, there have been many discussions pertaining to cemetery funds, as well as the purpose of the Cemetery Commission.

We, the members of the Cemetery Commission, wish to make the following proposals for consideration by the Town Council:

1. The Council has stated the Town is due $140,000 from cemetery funds received for operational expenses incurred over the past four years. However, the Cemetery Commission disputes this figure. When researching past work orders related to the cemetery, it was found that only two valid work orders were on record. We suggest salaries currently appointed to the cemetery funds are too high, both for Lynn Meadows and clerical help. Mr. Merica's current salary of $216.00 per week (from April to October each year) only totals $6,048 annually or $24,192 for four years. The Town cannot provide adequate documentation to prove a debt of $140,000 is owed, and this figure is only an estimate. Furthermore, in years past, when the Town's finances were in an excessively positive balance, it was the intent not to charge for cemetery expenses.

Therefore, the Cemetery Commission recommends the proposed debt of $140,000 be forgiven and that new guidelines be considered for the next fiscal year as follows:

1. Start with a clean slate beginning July 1, 2005 in regard to funds received and spending policies/procedures.

2. Highly recommend that all current perpetual and real estate funds be properly invested and removed from any Town checking accounts.

3. Cemetery Commission to set rates for gravesites each year. Currently a site cost $400.00 with half going into perpetual care and the other half going into the real estate fund. We request that $400.00 continue with a split of 25% placed into a cemetery Capital Improvement Fund and 75% placed in the Cemetery Real Estate Fund. Current balances shall remain intact. Projects qualifying for the Cemetery Capital Fund shall exceed $5,000.00 in cost. All Capital Improvement projects shall have the consent of the Cemetery Commission.

4. Recommend no difference in gravesite pricing for in-town and out-of-town residents.

5. We recommend that families be contacted to see if any gravesites previously purchased are no longer needed and may be offered to other residents if so desired.

6. Recommend for spaces not originally charged perpetual care, a $175.00 fee be charged at the time of opening of such grave. Funds collected shall be placed into the perpetual care fund.

7. Dr. Downey has been approached about selling more land for cemetery purposes. The Town has a first option on this land. However, Dr. Downey at this time does not wish to sell additional land because of tax concern. With this information, the Cemetery Commission highly recommends the real estate funds be left as is for future purchases. In addition to future land purchases, the Cemetery Commission will be evaluating projects to enhance the cemetery overall, which will be paid from the Capital Cemetery Fund. Some of these projects, but not limited to, are:

    a. New draining as approved by the Cemetery Commission over the past year to alleviate a flooding problem for residents on North Street.

    b. New entranceway enhancements with gates.

    c. Recognition of Pauper and Slave gravesites

    d. Resting place for cremated remains.

    e. Above ground burial such as mausoleum or other.

    f. Improve store building.

    g. Evaluate trees and plants.

    h. Park benches.

    i. Monuments

We are hopeful the Town Council will receive our proposals as productive and positive. The Cemetery Commission and Town Council need to strive for a better and long lasting relationship, while working out strategies to ensure cemetery functions are not a financial hardship for the Town. Both groups must strive to maintain the highest caliber of services that our residents have come to expect. Future generations need to be assured that our cemetery will be in existence for generations to come.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Lee Dearing, Chair
Commission Members

Council agreed to review the draft at a special meeting to hopefully resolve questions and concerns and perhaps present a compromise to conclude the Cemetery issues.

<u>Adelphia Contract</u>

Mr. Donachy discussed changes requested by Adelphia Cable. Mr. Donachy's analogy was Adelphia obtaining a business license to operate in Town, where the Town government could not dictate the price charged for the service. If the Agreement is not

signed, the citizens will have to select Direct TV or a satellite dish. If cable is not available in Town, it would adversely affect Internet service. A meeting is scheduled with an Adelphia representative on Friday, at which time the quality of programming, the poor service, lack of customer service, and cost will be discussed.

Council member Sigafoose was excused at 7:45 P.M.

Discussions

- Hal Benner will survey the well site
- Chief Pullen attended Executive Board meetings at the Academy.
- Sgt. Morris will receive a Help Eliminate Auto Theft (HEAT) Award in Richmond on May 11, 2005.
- Officer Shifflett has completed K9 training.
- The new officers have taken their oaths and have qualified with their service weapons.
- A reception will be held for the Spotswood Girls' Basketball Team.
- The Town will receive grant money to be applied to the cost of the new radio system.
- VOSH Safety Program
- Recommended Code changes.
- Mr. Donachy explained Availability Fees.
- Vice Mayor Snow encouraged Council to study and possibly impose Impact Fees.
- Discussed contract summer help and use of Divertees.
- Electric service to the Kite property is being researched.
- Long-range planning session tentatively scheduled for April 23 at the McDaniel's cabin.
- Discussed W. C. Shifflett's request to vacate an alley.
- Town Counsel Mr. Miller's opinion was the Town could utilize the REPO fund, in addition to a short-term loan.
- *The Daily News-Record* congratulatory section for the Lady Trailblazers ($80.00).
- The Town is considering purchasing the material for Pentecostal Hill.
- Marty Shifflett discussed companies A, B, and C's proposals for trash removal, recycling, and solid waste.
- Mr. Donachy will determine who will be Lynn Meadow's immediate supervisor.
- Mayor Printz stated "as far as he was concerned" there will be a fully funded Main Street budget.
- Council member Workman was given the go-ahead for a "Town Festival." Fireworks were discussed.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 P.M.

Mayor: _____
Wayne E. Printz, Mayor

Recorder: _____
Richard D. Carey, Clerk