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Town Council Public Input

March 13, 2007

6:30 p.m.

At approximately 6:35 p.m. in Town Council Chambers, Mayor Dora Sullivan called to order the Public Input Session of Town Council. In addition to Mayor Sullivan, present were Councilmen Evans, Bannon, Burdiss and Councilwoman Harris. Councilman Brown was not present; Councilman Elliott arrived at approximately 7:45 p.m. Also present were interim Town Manager Robert Panek, several staff members and approximately 20 members of the public.

Mayor Sullivan opened the session by explaining the purpose of the session was to hear public opinion regarding the proposed increase in the water and sewer service rates and the residential connection charges.

Building Official Doug Smith covered in more detail the reasons for the proposed increases which included: the need to correct deficiencies in the aging water distribution and sewer systems; additional water and wastewater treatment capacity needed and improved nutrient removal due to new state environmental regulations.

He further explained the proposed rate structure was based on usage and that the Historic District rate would be increased to the level of Bay Creek rates to increase revenue needed to upgrade and maintain the systems in the Historic District.

Mr. Smith indicated the connection fee would remain unchanged, but that the facility fees would increase bringing the total charges in line with other localities in Virginia. Again, these charges were needed to help offset the expected costs of the water and sewer facilities.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Steve Bennett – representing Bay Creek

See attached.

Jim Alberts- Creative Properties, Inc.

Mr. Alberts began with the proposed Tap Fees. He indicated if the Town does not know what systems they will be putting in, then the budget is being planned on an incomplete project. He stated that Council shouldn't bill for something when they doesn't know the cost.

His second comment concerned the commercial tap fee. His comment suggested the increased fees proposed will prohibit commercial growth in town.

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His last comment related to searching out grants to fund the upgrade of the water and sewer plants. He specifically mentioned the Green House Council who has funding for those who will comply environmentally. Mr. Alberts further suggested the Council meet with the Town of Cheriton to work co-operatively on joint systems.

John R. Boytos – Boytos & Boytos
See attached.

David Gomer – 629 Tazewell Ave.

Mr. Gomer used the old Pocomo Ford building which he was in process of renovating as an example of how the proposed fees affected commercial development. He mentioned he had a budget for completion of the project which would be skewed with the proposed fees. Mr. Gomer then asked why he would have to pay tap fees when the lines were already in place. He also asked why he would have to pay an additional \$12,000 to put in a second restroom facility. He stated the same forty people would be using either one or two restrooms as the cost of processing the waste would be the same regardless.

Robert & Sharon Moreland – New Quarter, Bay Creek
See attached.

Mayor Sullivan closed the meeting by stating all the comments would be considered and discussed at the Council Workshop scheduled for Thursday, March 15, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. in Town Council Chambers.

Motion to adjourn the Public Input Session was made by Councilman Bannon, seconded by Council woman Harris and unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Sullivan

Town Clerk