

Town of Hot Springs
Board of Alderman
Regular Meeting
July 1, 2013

Present:

Mayor: Brian Reese
Alderman: Carolyn Ammons
Alderman: Johnny Lawson
Alderman: Vaughn Barnett
Tax Collector: Clara Ramsey
Clerk: Nancy Thomas

Mayor Reese called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm
Alderman Ammons made the motion to approve the minutes and financial statements.
Alderman Lawson seconded the motion.

Public Comment

Resident **Glen Norwood** brought up the issue of flooding in his yard, under his house, and in his driveway. **Mr. Joe King** and **Mr. Timmy King** were also present at the meeting to discuss the same issue. All residents live on Raleigh Lane, and claim the lot where the Town keeps some equipment is where the water runs from onto Raleigh Lane and causes the flooding. Raleigh Lane is also located at the bottom of other properties, and the excess of rain will naturally run downhill. Mr. Norwood stated the Town should step up and do something to prevent the rain waters from doing such damage to the property on Raleigh Lane, and the fact that there has been excessive rainfall this summer is no excuse for his property being flooded. Blah blah blah

Mayor Reese informed Mr. Norwood that the property the Town uses belongs to Norfolk Southern Railway, and before any ditches could be placed, the Town would have to get permission from the Railroad.

Alderman Lawson asked if a ditch would even solve the problem.

Mr. Norwood insisted the ditch would be helpful, and if the Town would dig the ditch, he would provide the piping.

Alderman Lawson said the Board would take a look at the property and see what could be done.

Mr. Norwood said the property HAD to be ditched, and stated again that he would not dig the ditch, but would furnish the pipe.

Mr. Joe King stated the water was a problem for him too, as his yard also was flooded.

Mr. Timmy King asked the Board if they would watch a video he had of water running onto the property. The Board watched the video. The water running onto the Raleigh Lane property was running directly off the State Maintained road. (Hwy. 209 or Lance Avenue)

The topic was discussed for quite some time, and as everyone was talking at one time, I couldn't keep up with the conversation, and began doodling on my notepad.

Mr. Cameron Green, who lives on Mountain Heights, joined in the "conversation" stating that his property had been flooded three times in a short time span, and claimed the water flooding his property ran from Stamey Drive, which on the other side of Hwy. 25/70, and from Jackson Avenue.

Mr. Green added that he had raw sewage in his basement, due to all the rainwater running into the Towns Sewer System, and the system can't handle it. Mr. Green also said the Town needed to step up and fix the problem, as it was ruining his yards looks. He also kept referencing a creek running by his house, which was overrun by the rainwater coming from Stamey Drive, Jackson Avenue, and everywhere else.

Again, an impossible conversation to keep up with.....

Mayor Reese and the Board all agreed the Town should do whatever possible to avoid these flooding situations, and all agreed to meet the next day and make whatever assessments they could.

Mayor Reese tried to state between interruptions that the best way to deal with the situation would be to hire an engineer who had experience with these situations to come to Hot Springs, and make an assessment regarding these properties and the flooding, and then the Town would do what the Engineer recommended to assure the flooding would not continue to occur at any fault of the Town.

Mr. Joe King stated he did appreciate the Town making an effort to do whatever they possibly can.

Alderman Ammons stated that everyone was having problems with the excessive rainfall, much of which could not be avoided.

Abby Norton asked the Board if they would put the Johnnie Norton memorial box back in the window at Town Hall.

Alderman Lawson replied they would.

Cameron Green then asked the Board if they would give the VFD the \$500.00 donation to the Department to help with fireworks. The Board had previously agreed to this.

After more indiscernible conversation regarding everyone's flooding problem, all speaking at once,

Alderman Ammons made the motion to adjourn.

Alderman Lawson seconded the motion.

The clerk recommends the forum speak one at a time or not at all.