

Town of Hot Springs
Special Meeting
July 29, 2025

Present:

Mayor Abigail Norton
Alderman Wendy Stancil
Alderman Dan Myers

Finance Officer – Sena Kassim
Police Dept. – Chief David Shelton
Project Manager -- Brad Guth
Tax Department – Laura Holloway

Mayor Norton called the meeting to order at 5:02pm.

Mayor Norton

Quotes for Policy Vehicle

CarVille – Car and upfit package quote for \$61,787.63.

Jackie Jones – Uses the same company as CarVille for the upfit package. Chief Shelton said the upfit package may be a little less through Jackie Jones. This is a 2024 Dodge Durango, vehicle is \$37,900 upfit is \$18,287.00; total is \$56,187.00. Car is new, just a '24 model.

Elderton Dodge – Chief Shelton said there is a company in Elderton's area that ready has the stripe kit pictures and they can make the same striping that is on the current vehicle. Elderton is a bit more expensive that Jackie Jones, but they are offering a \$2,500.00 discount as it is a 2025 model. The car is \$41,694.00; with the upfit, total is \$58,000.00. Chief Shelton noted that the past 3 vehicles have been purchased at Elderton. They are willing to provide a courtesy car when work needed to be done. The sale representative is different, but the former fleet manager put him in touch with the new sales rep. – she seemed to be willing to work with us. Alderman Myers noted that Elderton is based in North Carolina. The other two companies are out of state. Mayor Norton said Elderton is the Sheriff's Association pricing.

Alderman Myers asked Chief Shelton which vehicle was his preference. Chief Shelton said he prefers the grey vehicle at Jackie Jones; the other vehicles are white. He is most concerned that the vehicles has 4-wheel drive and has a good clearance to go off road if needed. Alderman Myers said since Chief Shelton will be driving the vehicle, he is inclined to go with the one Chief Shelton wants between Jackie Jones and Elderton Dodge. Chief Shelton said Elderton would be his preference based on his experience with them. However, he had to take his car to Jackie Jones for some work recently. They worked 4-hours on the car and didn't charge anything. He was impressed with their work. The Elderton sales rep said their sale would be turn-key; ready to drive as soon as he takes possession of the vehicle. Alderman Myers made a motion to move forward with the purchase of a new police vehicle from Elderton Dodge; Alderman Stancil seconded the motion; all were in favor.

Mayor Norton let the Board know there was an emergency road situation on Henderson Drive. A culvert was full this caused the road to collapse on the creek side. Eddie Ricker can do the work on Wednesday, July 30, 2025. He can do the work for \$2,400.00. Alderman Myers made a motion for Eddie Ricker to do the work; Alderman Stancil seconded the motion; all were in favor.

Project Manager – Brad Guth

The Town put out for bid the site-work for temporary package system at the existing wastewater treatment plant. Two bids were received. He asked McGill and FEMA to look at the bids for a compliance review. FEMA responded that there were several insufficient contract provisions that need to be addressed. Mr. Guth said his concern on one of the bids is that the bidder didn't complete the form. Only the alternate bid was completed – this doesn't meet the requirements of the bidding documents; the base bid needs to be completed. There is a material defect on one of the bid; this happens to be on the lowest bid. The bid is \$200,000.00 lower. Mr. Guth spoke with the contractor and thinks he understands the reasoning behind the low bid. However both bids need to be rejected and start the bidding process again. The bids were put out as informal bids as it was thought they would come in under the \$250,000.00 formal bid threshold. Mr. Guth said the Town could put out the bid as an informal bid, again. This would be in hopes of getting several good bids under \$250,000. – this would be in hopes that the same companies would bid, again, but with correct paperwork. Alderman Myers feels that due to timing he would like to have a formal bid process. Alderman Myers made a motion to move forward with the formal bid process; Alderman Stancil seconded the motion; all were in favor. Alderman Stancil read the formal Bid Rejection notice: "I move that the Board formally reject all current bids for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Site Work due to nonresponsive submissions and federal compliance deficiencies, and that we initiate a new, formally-compliant rebid process consistent with North Carolina General Statutes and all applicable federal procurement requirements."; Alderman Myers seconded the motion; all were in favor.

Mayor Norton

The Town received the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) loan to pay for Hurricane Helene Water / Sewer expenses. The State has also offered Municipalities a cashflow loan for General Fund. The Town qualifies for one of the loans, in the amount of \$94,505.50. The repayment terms are:

- \$1.00 by the first anniversary of the Round 2 Loan Date
- 10% of the Round 2 Loan amount by June 30, 2027
- 20% of the Round 2 Loan amount by June 30, 2028
- 30% of the Round 2 Loan amount by June 30, 2029
- 40% (less \$1.00) of the Round 2 Loan Amount by the earlier of the fifth anniversary of the Round 2 Loan Date or June 30, 2030.

The loan would be available should something, unforeseen, come up with one of the construction projects. In theory, the loan would be paid back by the FEMA reimbursement. There is no interest on the loan; this is a principal only loan and doesn't carry any interest nor fees. If the money doesn't need to be used, it can be repaid according to the terms. Mr. Guth brought up an incident that was mentioned at a DEQ meeting he had attended. He said a few communities didn't initially accept the DEQ loan offers and have come back requesting a DEQ loan. However, the leftover monies was returned to the State and is no longer available. Mr. Guth said if we take the DEQ grants we would get 10-points on the application because we have already gone through the process. Alderman Myers made a motion that the Town applies for the DEQ loan; Alderman Stancil seconded the motion; all were in favor.

The Board will go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Alderman Myers made a motion to move into Executive Session at 5:27pm; Alderman Stancil seconded the motion; all were in favor.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 6:30 pm. Alderman Stancil made a motion to return to regular session; Alderman Myers seconded the motion; all were in favor.

During executive session the Board discussed personnel matters.

Since there is no other business to discuss, Alderman Stancil made a motion to adjourn, Alderman Myers seconded the motion; all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:36 pm.

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Approved _____
Abigail Norton
Mayor Abigail Norton

8-11-25
Date _____