The Lyerly Town Council met for their agenda planning meeting on Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at Lyerly Town Hall. Those in attendance were:

Jim Ferguson, Mayor

Gwen Fisher

Phil Brooks

Juanita Baker

Shirley Davis

April 3, 2018

Mayor Ferguson began the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Phil Brooks was not present at the beginning of the meeting.

Mayor Ferguson said that each council member should have three set of meeting minutes to review and approve at next week’s meeting.

Mayor Ferguson said that our lack of building ordinances has been brought to his attention. He asked the council if we were to get with the town attorney, what they would like to have in the ordinances. Juanita Baker said that she doesn’t want to allow a bunch of tiny houses together on one lot. Shirley Davis said that she thinks you should be required to have so much property per house. Mayor Ferguson said that the ordinance already states only one principal structure per lot. Mayor Ferguson said that the next question is how small you are going to allow someone to subdivide their lot.

Phil Brooks came in at 7:14 p.m.

Mayor Ferguson explained what they were discussing and they need to define what “lot” means. Gwen Fisher said that she thinks the minimum lot size should be at least ¼ acre. Mayor Ferguson said that he would agree. Shirley Davis said that we have an ordinance that states how big of a lot you have to have to put a double wide trailer on so that should fall in with what size lot you can put a house on. Mayor Ferguson said that he will look at the ordinances in place for other local towns and then we will have a look at those and go from there.

Mayor Ferguson said that he wanted to fill everyone in on his meeting with the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). He said that they came and went to the wastewater ponds and we are going to apply for a grant to cover 70% of the cost for both of the aerator pumps, which run 24/7 and need to be replaced. There are three of them but with new ones, we would only need to run two and we would have a third small one for a backup. The lower unites on the spray field pumps need to be rebuilt. That means that the company would come out, pull the pump, take it with them, rebuild it and then bring it back. Juanita Baker asked what we would do while it was gone being rebuilt. Mayor Ferguson said that we have two and they would take one at a time. He added that the lift station pump is also in need of replacement. Also, the sludge removal from the wastewater ponds is due every 20 years and we are at that mark. We will have a test done to make sure that the sludge removal is warranted because it is pretty costly. Mayor Ferguson said that all together, it would be about $200,000 and of that, we would be responsible for $60,000. He said that we would have to borrow part of that. Juanita asked how long that we would borrow it for. Mayor Ferguson said ten years. Shirley Davis asked what kind of fines we would get if we didn’t do this. Mayor Ferguson said that getting all of this done would be setting the town up, wastewater wise, for another two decades. If we wait and something breaks, especially the spray field pumps, we would be in trouble. He said that they are planning to apply for that by July 1st. Jimmy Espy asked if they would vote on this next week. Mayor Ferguson said yes. He added that ARC is very optimistic that we would get the grant.

Mayor Ferguson said that the other thing that he wanted the council to consider for next week is a USDA grant that could be used to replace the fire truck. It’s not a lot but it would pay 55% of the cost of the truck or $25,000. We could get a used fire truck and USDA would finance the balance for 3.8% for 10 years. So we could get a $50,000 truck for $25,000 and the payment would be absorbed into the fire departments budget. Juanita Baker asked how much we already owe USDA. Sally Kerce gave them the 2017 statements for our USDA loan. Jimmy Espy asked if there is a problem with the current fire truck. Mayor Ferguson explained that we have two. One is fairly up to date and the other is an open cab fire truck and we are not supposed to be running it. We would sell it and that should offset some of the cost of a new one.

Mayor Ferguson said that he talked to ARC about a grant to redo the Ragland building and she was excited about it until she found out that we wanted antiques. She said that is a bad idea. She thinks that some kind of outfitter for the kayak launches would be a great idea. Mayor Ferguson added that he went through the building with someone with building experience and made a rough list and it is going to cost around $150,000 to restore it. Gwen Fisher asked if we could go ahead with the farmers market. Mayor Ferguson said that we are going to do the farmers market now. He said that they were just looking at future ideas. The building is structurally sound. For liability purposes, the guys are going to board up the doors so that no one can get into it.

Mayor Ferguson said that he would like to say congratulations on a very successful Easter egg hunt. Gwen Fisher said that the mayor’s wife, Kasia, did a wonderful job. Shirley Davis added that we had a great turn out.

There being no further business or discussion, the meeting ended at 7:50 p.m.

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 Mayor Town Clerk