

**Frankford Town Council
Work Shop
Minutes**

October 28, 2014

Town Council
Roll call: Joanne Bacon, Vice- Pres.
Cheryl Workman, Sec/Treasurer
Pamela Davis
Charles Shelton
Jesse Truitt-**Absent**

Town Employees: Terry Truitt, Town Administrator
Nathan Hudson, Police Officer

Others: Marty Presley Kathy Murray
Velicia Melson Janet Hearn
Jerry Smith Bernard Lynch
Robert Murray

The Workshop meeting of the Frankford Town Council was opened by Pres. Joanne Bacon at 7:00PM.

A motion was made to accept the agenda as posted by Charles Shelton with a 2nd by Pamela Davis. Motion was unanimous.

Pres. Joanne Bacon read aloud the posted agenda items.

Pres. Joanne Bacon called for discussion from Council members.

Councilman Charles Shelton stated the two (2) types of pension for Police and Municipal employees was the pension he wanted to see the Town to participate in. He commented that he felt since Officer Nate Hudson was present he should address the Council with his concerns and feelings on the pension standings. Councilman Charles Shelton noted the Council should consider his input on the decision which affects him. He added the Town has come a long way in addressing the drug problem which existed in the Town.

Nathan Hudson noted he was only interested in the State Municipal Pension plan and feels it should be the only option being considered since it is a solid plan. He noted he had a few options when considering employers and wants to come and subsequently stay on with the Town of Frankford. He stated going with the State plan will help in retaining the department and future officers.

Nathan Hudson noted the Town is eligible to receive a portion of the insurance money being collected on all policies written in the State should they participate in the State plan. He added this would offset the associated cost as well.

Pres. Joanne Bacon asked him if he could get figures and questioned if he was aware of the State plan being irrevocable. Nathan Hudson replied that he would try to gather the information on the insurance program for Council and responded yes to understanding the State plan as being irrevocable. He added that would build in the security of the department.

Councilman Charles Shelton noted he had checked around with the Town of Selbyville, Millsboro, and Seaford and should the Town Police Department disband then the Town is not under future obligation to remain on the State pension plan.

Pres. Joanne Bacon commented that the figures on the County grant and insurance figures would be nice to have before making a decision.

Councilman Charles Shelton noted a couple of Towns had called him with regards to acquiring Officer Nate Hudson and would hate to see the Town lose him. He stated even the Town of Dagsboro had expressed interest in merging the two Town Police departments together. He added that surrounding Towns had requested to sit down and meet with him in regards to offering coverage should the Town Police department disband. He added he did not think this should be a viable option for the Town.

Pres. Joanne Bacon questioned if anyone wanted to discuss the option of "buy-ins".

Councilman Charles Shelton noted he felt Officer Hudson had been led to believe we (the Town) were going to start a pension plan from day one and felt the Town should consider buy ins back to three years (when he was hired).

Vice-Pres. Pamela Davis questioned if the Town should consider just enrolling the Police Department first into the State Pension plan. No comments were made.

Pres. Joanne Bacon noted her concerns that the State plan is irrevocable. She added the Council should consider the financial health of the Town first before doing so..

Pres. Joanne Bacon noted the second item on tonight's agenda was to discuss the Town's Water quality. She reiterated the remark made by Councilman Jesse Truitt during the September 2014 Town Council meeting whereas he implied the water was the worse it has ever been.

Councilwoman Cheryl Workman noted her water quality at home had improved significantly in the last two months and has not heard of any negative remarks. Council noted it would be best to revisit the issue before the six (6) month notification period approached with Artesian so they could notify them of their intent to renew or not renew the yearly contract.

Terry Truitt, Town Administrator offered a explanation of the “blanket statement” made by Jesse Truitt. She noted he often remarks to the water quality at their home. She added that during the warmer months the water mains which distribute the water are not necessarily down below the 24 “ as the recommended depth and then as the ground heats up causes the water in the lines to as well. She noted discoloration will occur most commonly during warmer months. She explained some of this is going to be an “on-going” issue as there are different types of water mains out in the distribution system. She noted the Town tries to flush at least one to two times per year depending on the issue at hand. It was noted that Delaware Rural Water (DRW) had just performed a Town-wide flushing early this past spring. She added that Artesian has only been on-site for one year now and did not have the advantage point that Tidewater Utilities had from day one of the new water treatment plant and having the operators being trained by the manufacturers.

Pres. Joanne Bacon noted that making such generalized statements such as Councilman Jesse Truitt made causes the residents to become concerned.

Pres. Joanne Bacon noted the third item in reviewing and discussing the Town budgets for 2014/2015 and 2013/2014 would be done at a later date once she had the opportunity to review it.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Cheryl Workman with a 2nd by Charles Shelton at 7:27 PM. Motion was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,



Terry H. Truitt
Town Administrator
Town of Frankford