

Town of Pocahontas

June 30th 1882

Centre Street

Post Office Box 128

Pocahontas, Virginia 24635

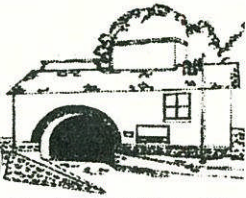
(276) 945-9522 Town Hall

(276) 945-5959 Police Department

(276) 945-9904 Fax Line



http://wwwweb.com/www/pocahontas_mine



Pocahontas Exhibition Mine
National Historical Landmark

Virginia's Official
Coal Heritage Zone

TOWN COUNCIL

Anita Brown, Mayor

Jean Boone, Vice Mayor

Lynn Fitzgerald

Bonnie Pardue

Town Council meets for its sessions on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Persons wishing to be heard or have an item placed on the agenda should make their request to the Clerk of Council by the Friday prior to the third Monday's Council Meeting Council Meeting. Request must be made by 3:00 p.m.

COUNCIL AGENDA April 21, 2008

Item I. Work Shop Presbyterian Church 6:30 p.m.

Item II. FORMAL SESSION Presbyterian Church 7:00 p.m.

- A. Call to Order
- B. Invocation
- C. Pledge of Allegiance
- D. Consent Calendar
- E. Old Business
- F. New Business
 - 1. CDBG Update – Greg Jones
 - 2. American Legion Post #14 – Letter of Donation
 - 3. DMV – Coal Heritage License Plate
- G. Public Comments.
No Public Comments
- H. Close

March 17, 2008

Pocahontas, Virginia

Council met this date for a regular session with the following present:

Council: Mrs. Boone, Ms. Fitzgerald, and Mayor Brown.

Absent: Mrs. Pardue

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order, invocation given followed by pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Brown asked Council if there are any corrections to the minutes of the February 25, 2008 Council Meeting.

No corrections noted by Council.

Mayor Brown asked for a motion to accept the minutes as read.....Mrs. Boone accepted the motion.....second by Ms. Fitzgerald..... Mayor Brown, Mrs. Boone, and Ms. Fitzgerald voted yes.

Mayor Brown asked Ms. Fitzgerald to read Finance Report as of February 29, 2008.

Ms. Fitzgerald asked why the balances were decreasing in the Visa and Master Charge Account. Greg Jones stated that was due to monthly service charges for accepting a Visa and Master Charge.

Ms. Fitzgerald motioned to accept the Finance Report as read.....Second by Mrs. Boone.... Mayor Brown, Mrs. Boone, and Ms. Fitzgerald voted yes.

Old Business

No Old Business

New Business

1. Mr. John Barbour of the Lions club presented council with drawing of the new Town welcoming sign. Mr. Barbour stated that this sign was in part to pay tribute to Mr. Keith Campbell who was on the Lion's Club Sign Committee who recently past away. Town Council thanked Mr. Barbour and the Lions Club for the sign. Mrs. Boone motioned to accept the new Town Welcoming sign....second by Ms. Fitzgerald.... Mayor Brown, Mrs. Boone, and Ms. Fitzgerald voted yes.

2. Mr. David Woodard, Northern District School Board member, stated that he expects a 3-2 vote to close Pocahontas High School. The School board will convene its meeting from March 3rd, 2008 on March 27th, 2008. Mr. Woodard states that everyone needs to attend and comment about the school closing under citizens comments. Mr. Woodard stated that the School Board set a precedence when allowing others to speak longer than

3 minutes at the Public Hearing for the School Board Budget earlier this year. Mr. Woodard and Council discussed the option of having Pocahontas High School placed as a Charter School. Funding for a charter school will have to be made outside the School Board Budget. Mr. Woodard stated that 1.3 - 1.7 million dollars a year would be needed for this option. If the School Board closes Pocahontas High School the property will be given back to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Woodard stated that it is the School Board intentions to close a fully accredited school and students will have their choice of going to a school that is built over a sink hole (Graham High School) or a School that is not accredited (Tazewell High School). Mr. Woodard stated that since the School Board does not have to provide transportation, school busses maybe limited in getting the children to either school.

On March 11th, 2008 Mr. Steve Arey, Town Attorney, issued a Freedom of Information Request (FOIA) for all email communication between Cookie Johnson, School Board Member, and Dr. Brenda Lawson, Superintendent of Tazewell County Schools. Mr. Arey reported that as of March 17th, they have not responded. Mr. Woodard asked for a FOIA on any communication regarding the finances or budget of Pocahontas High School.

Mr. Woodard urged Council to clean the Town up. Paint the bridge by the laundry mat, enforce property owners to clean up yards. Urge Historic Pocahontas to tear down the Company Store. Mr. Woodard stated that due to the economy, there isn't going to be any monies for Historic Preservation. Mr. Woodard further stated that he spoke with Delegate Dan Bowling about using the funding appropriated for the reconstruction of the Company Store to used for demolition. Delegate Bowling stated that could be done according to Mr. Woodard. Mr. Woodard stated that Town Should hire a code enforcement officer on a part time basis. Mayor Brown stated that the Town has hired a Code Enforcement Officer in the past. Mr. Woodard stated that lack of enforcement of Town ordinances has caused the building to collapse and place the Town in the shape that it is in now.

Mr. Woodard and Council discussed placing a half page ad in the Free Press and advertising on the radio. Mr. Woodard is taking donation for the advertising. Mr. Woodard stated that under the Virginia State Statue before a School Board can consolidate they must prove that it is for the efficiency of the school system. The School Board has not produced any reports or studies stating that closing Pocahontas High School is for efficiency. Greg Jones stated that this should be the focus of our advertisements.

Mr. Woodard stated that there will be another community meeting at the Pocahontas High School on Wednesday March 19th, 2008 and encourage everyone to attend.

The Town Council discussed the attached resolution against the closing of Pocahontas High School. Mrs. Boone motion to accept the resolution against the closing of Pocahontas High School....Second by Ms. Fitzgerald.... Mayor Brown, Mrs. Boone, and Ms. Fitzgerald voted yes.

3. Ms. Fitzgerald motioned to recognize the month of April 2008 as Rivers Clean up Month. April 12 and 19th will be the dates the Town will coordinate with volunteers to help clean up Laurel Fork Creek in Town....Second by Mrs. Boone.... Mayor Brown, Mrs. Boone, and Ms. Fitzgerald voted yes.

4. Mrs. Boone motioned to hire Mr. Jesse Sipp as a full time employee on the Town Crew....Second by Ms. Fitzgerald.... Mayor Brown, Mrs. Boone, and Ms. Fitzgerald voted yes.

Committee Reports:

Personnel Committee: Interviewed applicants for the Town Crew Position.

Planning Committee: No Report

Finance Committee: Did not meet.

Utility Committee: No Report.

Police Report: No Report.

Fire Dept. Report: Chief Thomas Rider stated that he can burn houses if used as a training exercise. The building cannot have a roof, no furniture, or asbestos. This also includes buildings that have already been demolished.

Public Additions:

Mr. Tim Gasperston, Pocahontas Youth League stated he has received complaints about the Town environment. Some parents are not letting their children play in Pocahontas due to the condition of the Town. Mr. Gasperston stated that he has been in construction for twenty years and the Company Store is a danger. He will not participate in Town Parades because of the Company Store. Mr. Arey stated that this was an issue for the Courts. Historic Pocahontas has complied with the Town's Property Ordinances. Mr. Gasperston asked if the Town could enforce eminent domain over the property for safety purposes. Mr. Arey stated that was possible but it is a matter for the Courts.

Mr. John Barbour asked if the Town could white wash the trees in the Cemetery again this year. Mayor Brown stated that this will be done. Mr. Barbour stated that the Lions Club will be making a donation for this effort.

Mayor Brown asked for a motion to adjourn the Town Council meeting. Mrs. Boone motion to adjourn the Town Council Meeting....second was made by Ms. Fitzgerald..... Mayor Brown, Mrs. Boone, and Ms. Fitzgerald voted yes.



Mayor, Anita Brown

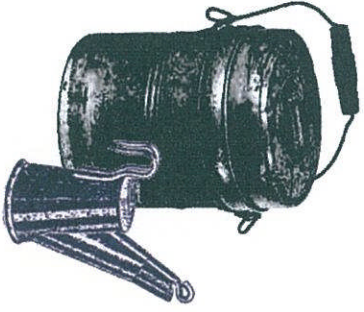
Greg Jones, Treasurer



MONTH

VIRGINIA

YEAR



Five large, empty oval shapes arranged horizontally, intended for writing the letters of the word 'VIRGINIA'.

COAL HERITAGE



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AMERICAN LEGION POST 14
P. O. Box 626
Pocahontas, Va. 24635

Town of Pocahontas
Old Bank Building
Pocahontas, Va. 24635

Dear Mayor Brown,

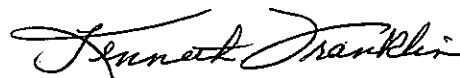
The American Legion Post 14 is again at that time of the year where we have decided to send two boys and two girls to Boys and Girls State during the summer. Hopefully, things can be worked out so we can keep the High School and we can continue to provide this service to our students in the future. The cost per boy is \$225 and \$240 per girl and we have to send in the fees before the end of March. Normally the Post sponsors the boys and other civic organizations sponsor the girls. However, the girls sponsorship has been left up to Post 14 for the past 10 plus years. We feel that the girls should have the same opportunity as the boys in this experience.

We normally give the students \$25. spending money (as recommended by the Boys and Girls State). In addition we buy their meals on the way up and back to Lynchbury and Farmville.

This is a week of education on how government works and provided the students the opportunity to run for office in city and state government. It is an experience that I wish each student in High School had the opportunity to experience and hopefully it would make them better citizens.

We are requesting donations to help defray the cost of this involvement with our young people. We appreciate your support in the past and any assistance you can provide this year.

Sincerely,



Kenneth Franklin, Adjutant

**Town of Pocahontas
Account Balances
As of March 31, 2008**

	<u>Mar 31, 08</u>	<u>Feb 29, 08</u>
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
Exhibition Mine Checking	2,658.11	63.64
Exhibition Mine Savings	11,228.43	15,225.19
Exhibition Mine Visa & MC A...	288.93	164.48
General Fund Checking	21,602.31	24,737.75
General Fund Savings	63,341.36	73,577.62
Hist Committee for Restorati...	457.11	457.09
Joe Hill Ball Park Savings	1,103.61	1,103.38
Pocahontas Cemetery Savin...	7,670.26	7,468.67
Pocahontas Easter Egg Hunt	20.35	9.81
Pocahontas Indian Run	1,138.48	1,138.48
Pocahontas VoL Fire Comp...	10,489.32	11,271.30
Water Fund Checking	7,000.97	5,650.90
Water Fund Savings	65,017.57	83,082.67
Total Checking/Savings	<u>192,016.81</u>	<u>223,950.98</u>