

**TOWN OF JAMESVILLE**  
**MONTHLY BOARD MEETING 01/23/2023**  
**MINUTES**

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The following is an account of the minutes taken at the Regular Monthly Board Meeting held between 7:00 p.m. & 9:10 p.m. on 01/23/2023 at the Jamesville Town Hall, 1211 Water Street, Jamesville, NC 27846. Virtual meeting attendance was provided for public access through Zoom meeting. [Note: The 01/09/23 regular meeting date was rescheduled to 01/23/23.]

**Attendees**

- Craig Tucker - Mayor
- Willis Williams - Mayor Protem
- Rachel Craddock - Commissioner
- Mary Allen – Commissioner
- Kimberly Cockrell – Commissioner

Minutes Recorder – Kimberly Cockrell, Town Clerk/Finance Officer

**I. Call to Order**

Mayor Craig Tucker called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. after a brief delay due to technical issues with Zoom setup. Commissioner Willis Williams offered the prayer. Mayor Tucker then welcomed all guests. Joining by Zoom were Commissioner Rachel Craddock, Rebekah Barr/Auditor, and Robin Credle. Kathy Waters with the Roanoke Beacon was in attendance, as well as Employees Samuel Lilley, Robert Cockrell and Betty Williams. Martin County Commissioner “Skip” Gurganus joined in later during the meeting and addressed the board with local updates.

**II. Adopt Agenda**

Commissioner Williams moved to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Mary Allen seconded. Motion unanimously passed. 4 Ayes – 0 Nays.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Williams moved for approval of the minutes. Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion unanimously passed. 4 Ayes - 0 Nays.

- Regular Board Meeting & Closed Session Minutes – December 12, 2022

**IV. Public Comment**

1. **Water Bill – Ms. Robin Credle.** Speaking on behalf of her step-father and mother, Wayne and Mary Terry, residents at 1035 NC 171, Ms. Robin Credle indicated she is seeking a water bill adjustment for the billing cycle 11/16/22 thru 12/14/22. She explained that during the evening hours of December 9, Mr. Terry had discovered a water leak that flooded the yard and turned the water off to prevent further flow. The next day, a plumber determined the problem was due to a corroded pipe and the necessary repairs were made. The current billing cycle reflects a normal water usage. Commissioner Williams moved to adjust the water bill as per regulations. Commissioner Allen seconded. Upon call for the vote, the motion passed with 4 Ayes – 0 Nays. Instruction was given for Ms. Credle to contact the town clerk during office hours to receive an adjustment on the account.

**V. Reports**

**A. Mayor**

Mayor Tucker reported that the weekly staff meetings continue to be held and all is going well as planned.

Thank you cards for condolences from the Town of Jamesville were read aloud. One card was from the family of Mrs. Francine Hines, wife of Mr. Eddie Hines, Planning Board Member. The other card was from the family of Mr. Phillip R. Stalls, Sr., father of Kimberly Cockrell, Town Clerk/Finance Officer and Town Commissioner. Commissioner Cockrell expressed appreciation for all the kindnesses that have been shown to her.

Other activities reported by the mayor noted board members participated in different Christmas parades in area communities.

Mayor Tucker indicated he and Commissioner Craddock went to a meeting with the guest speaker being Congressman Don Davis, the newly appointed House Representative for eastern NC. The topic of discussion focused upon a Medicaid expansion program.

1. **Resolution – Appreciation of Services from Larris Tolson.** Mayor Craig Tucker read aloud the Resolution of Appreciation for the Services of Larris Tolson as Town Commissioner. After the reading of the resolution, personal remarks of appreciation were made by board members as well as Mr. Tolson. A framed copy of the resolution with Mr. Tolson's commissioner's nameplate attached was given to him as pictures were taken. Commissioner Allen moved to adopt the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Williams. Motion unanimously passed. 4 Ayes - 0 Nays.



TOWN OF JAMESVILLE

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION  
FOR THE SERVICES OF  
LARRIS TOLSON AS TOWN COMMISSIONER**

**WHEREAS**, from December 2017 to December 2022, **LARRIS TOLSON** served with honor and distinction as a Commissioner for the Town of Jamesville, North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, **LARRIS TOLSON** worked effortlessly with Board Members and the community to improve the quality of life for those within the Town of Jamesville;

**WHEREAS**, **LARRIS TOLSON** continuously aspires to make the community a better place to live, to work and to raise a family; and

**WHEREAS**, while working unselfishly and making personal sacrifices in her capacity as Town Commissioner, **LARRIS TOLSON** earned the admiration and high regard of those with whom she came in contact with, as well as the affection and respect of her fellow public servants, who are proud to call her “friend”;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Jamesville and our citizens, express deep gratitude and sincere appreciation to **LARRIS TOLSON** for her leadership and dedicated service to the citizens and the Town of Jamesville.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution shall be made a part of the permanent records of the Town of Jamesville, and a copy thereof be presented to **LARRIS TOLSON** with sincerest best wishes for continual success.

Adopted by unanimous vote of the Town Board of Commissioners on this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January 2023.

ATTEST:

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Craig Tucker, Mayor

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Kimberly Cockrell, Town Clerk

**B. Town Auditor – Rebekah Barr – FY 21-22 Audit Report**

Rebekah Barr/Town Auditor apologized for board members not having received their bound copy of the FY 21-22 Audit Report. The NC Local Government Commission just approved the Town of Jamesville’s audit on January 17, 2023. Board members received a copy of the submitted audit report via email.

The town’s current audit is very similar to the prior year with an unmodified audit opinion, which means that the town received the standard report with no changes and no modifications. The management discussion and analysis summarizes all financial data. Exhibits reflect a positive cash position and a positive net position. Expenses were detailed with footnotes. All entries appear to be in line and there were no findings of concern noted. Federal and state award monies spent were detailed.

No questions were asked of the auditor. Comments of appreciation were given by board members for the auditor’s excellent work. The bound copies will be forthcoming.

### **C. Water/Wastewater Report - Samuel Lilley**

Employee Samuel Lilley reported the following items:

On December 14, Mr. Mike Houston/Rural Water assisted in finding Mr. Randy Perry's sewer line location, and then on December 19, Employees Cockrell and Thomas installed a clean out.

On December 16, Ms. Vivian Leggett's water pressure was checked, which was not running normal. A plastic water line was discovered to be pinched and was fixed.

The sewer line on Fleming Circle was inspected December 20, with the man hole cleaned out at 2295 Fleming Circle on December 21. With the aid of the fire truck, additional flushing was done at Brown Street towards the bypass to remove large items. A good flow was restored.

On December 23, a bad storm caused several fallen trees and power outage in Jamesville's city limits. Generators were put in operation at the water plant and the Hwy 171 pump station. Earlier in the morning a seal had to be changed at the sewer plant.

During the extreme cold weather that occurred from December 23 through 25, there were several situations of water pipes bursting and needing to shut off water flow. In the next days that followed until December 27, more of the same occurrences continued.

On December 28, a sewer blockage occurred at 1364 Stewart Street, which was cleared. Also on the same day, a clarifier froze and broke the timer, which was repaired with the assistance of Mr. Mitch Dotson.

A leaky injector valve was changed at the water plant on December 30.

On January 19, a water meter and line repair was made that was the town's responsibility. Commissioner Allen offered her appreciation to Employees Lilley and Cockrell for their expediency and hard work in dealing with the problem.

Also on January 19, Mr. Rob Shelton tried to fix the Marco clock meter and will have to return to complete the job.

Mayor Tucker brought forward the discovery of a resident's private well illegally hooked up to the town's sewer system. Board discussion tabled the matter in order to first have staff try to document similar situations within the town limits. Consensus determined the issue needs to be addressed as it clearly violates the current water and sewer ordinance. This matter will be added to the February agenda.

### **D. Public Works Report - Robert Cockrell**

Employee Robert Cockrell first clarified that the sewer clog at Stewart Street was due to a travel trailer illegally dumping into the town sewer system.

Christmas lights were taken down last week.

The gas tank's fuel cap was recently blown off causing water in the tank. A product was added to remove the water and another screw cap has been installed.

A road patch was done on Middle Street but will need more asphalt added at a later time. The patch material in current supply did not adhere properly.

The F-150 is down due to the power steering lines and not the pump. A quote from Big Al's for repair is \$112.12 in parts and \$332.68 in labor, a total of \$444.80. If done in-house, the repair would take approximately two people for one day's work, and Employee Cockrell indicated he had too many other tasks to do and the shop's estimate is reasonable. Commissioner Allen moved to send the F-150 to Big Al's to get it fixed, with a second given by Commissioner Williams. Motion unanimously passed. 4 Ayes - 0 Nays.

### **E. Finance Officer - Kimberly Cockrell**

1. **Financial Statements – December 2022.** Finance Officer Kimberly Cockrell presented and reviewed with board members the Financial Reports for December 2022.

2. **Budget Amendment(s).** None.

## **F. Mid-East**

Commissioner Rachel Craddock commented she had planned to attend the Mid-East meeting but took an unexpected helicopter ride to Greenville for a medical emergency. An update will be forth coming once she finds out details of the meeting.

## **G. Planning Board**

In response to Chairperson Delsie Williams requesting an update on the travel trailer violation at 1075 Martin Drive, Commissioner Cockrell indicated she spoke this date with Mr. Joshua Hollis, an engineer with Mid-East replacing Mr. Carlton Gideon's former position. The resident in violation received the certified letter on December 22, 2022, which requested compliance by January 22, 2023. The resident has now indicated the parent is no longer staying in the travel trailer; however, the permanent steps are still attached, the slide-out section extended, as well as the sewer line connected. Inquiry by Mr. Hollis about the 20' sewer easement's location determined that the travel trailer is encroaching the easement and has to be moved out of the right-of-way (10' each side of manhole). Easement documentation was provided for further discussion between Mid-East and the resident.

## **H. Herring Festival**

As director of the Herring Festival, Commissioner Rachel Craddock reported a meeting will be held January 24, 2023, with a full agenda. Weekly meetings will be required in order to move forward with planning decisions, and more volunteers are needed though a core group has been involved from the start. Progress has started with vendors being contacted and securing sponsors.

## **VI. Old Business**

### **A. Water/Sewer Ordinance Enforcement**

Mindful of the rescheduled January board meeting, Town Clerk/Finance Officer Cockrell explained the cut-off list was generated as of January 11, 2023 for presentation this meeting, in accordance with the Water/Sewer Ordinance #81 - Enforcement section. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the disconnections list as presented. Commissioner Allen seconded. Motion unanimously passed. 4 Ayes - 0 Nays.

Relating to disconnections, Finance Officer Cockrell informed the board of a customer's returned check which occurred in December. Said situation does not reflect in the cut-off list. The customer was contacted by letter regarding the returned check and payment has not been collected as of this date. Notice will be given January 24, 2023 regarding disconnection. Commissioner Williams moved that the board follow the policy, with a second by Commissioner Allen. Motion unanimously passed. 4 Ayes - 0 Nays.

## **VII. New Business**

### **A. Sewer Line – Fleming Circle**

Employee Lilley stated the blockage on Fleming Circle has occurred several times and previous repairs have dealt with camera assessment of the line as well as the roots being cut. The affected resident, Ms. Nicole Moore, is frustrated and has called the NCDEQ Washington regional office several times to report the problem. The Town of Williamston will soon be getting a new machine which can be contracted for relieving blockage problems, and Employee Lilley recommended utilizing Williamston's auger assistance or the Town of Jamesville digging up a section of the road in order to determine the actual problem and possibly re-tapping the line. He also pointed out that upcoming grant projects have approved checking all sewer lines and repairing them as problems are identified. Lilley added the regional office understands the town is doing all possible to address the problem, which has been explained to the resident, but meanwhile, having the fire department occasionally flush the line will help temporarily.

Commissioner Williams moved that the board follow Lilley's recommendation and that a letter from the mayor be written detailing the plan to be given to the regional office as well as the resident, noting that the plan decided upon is mindful to not waste taxpayer funds. As far as a timeline for the grant project, nothing is definite. However, utilizing Williamston's auger equipment and flushing by Jamesville's fire department will hopefully appease the resident as the town waits on the approved grant project to begin. Commissioner Allen seconded. The motion unanimously passed. 4 Ayes - 0 Nays.

### **B. Re-Issue Check Policy & Procedure**

This draft policy and procedure for re-issuing a town check is being recommended to address a situation of a mailed payment being reported as never received. Finance Officer Cockrell explained that a check written in December has been reported as never received at the address where instruction was given for it to be mailed. As no policy is in place for re-issuing a check, and because this scenario has not occurred, the draft policy language was presented for the board's consideration and direction on how to proceed. A bank fee of \$30 will be incurred by the town for stopping payment on the lost check, Finance Officer Cockrell noted, which is why board approval is being requested before re-issuing payment.

Commissioner Allen stated she is familiar with this situation as she knows the person who has not received the check, commenting that they have been without the money for almost two months. Discussion reached a consensus that this circumstance could be expedited once the request for re-issuance has been submitted.

Commissioner Williams moved to adopt the policy and to expedite the current re-issue as soon as possible. Commissioner Allen seconded. Upon call for the vote, the motion unanimously passed. 4 Ayes - 0 Nays.

## Re-Issue Check Request – Policies & Procedures Approved by the Town of Jamesville Board of Commissioners January 23, 2023

Definition - A check is considered to be "lost" or "destroyed" under the following circumstances:

- Payee received the check and misplaced it.
- The check was mailed to the correct address but the payment was never received by the payee at said destination and more than thirty (30) days have passed since the check was issued.
- Payee received the check and accidentally damaged it in such a way it cannot be processed by a bank.

Steps to cancel and request reissuance of a lost or destroyed check:

- Payee must complete and submit a Re-issue Check Request Form.
- A replacement check will be re-issued after receipt of the completed form and approved by the Town of Jamesville Board of Commissioners. Board members will also approve any bank fees incurred by the town for requesting stop-payment status of check.
- If the original lost check is found after the replacement check has been issued, write "Void" across the front of the check. Return voided check by either bringing it to the town's administrative office located at 1211 Water Street, Jamesville, or return by mail to: Town of Jamesville, PO Box 215, Jamesville, NC 27846.

- If the original check has been destroyed in any form that cannot be processed by a bank, it must be returned to the Town of Jamesville before reissuance.

**Note:** Checks that have not been received by the payee within thirty (30) days from the date of issuance are considered to be delayed in the mail rather than lost.

Definition - A check is considered to be “stolen” under the following circumstances:

- Payee received the check but it was cashed by another party.
- Payee did not receive the check and has been cashed by another party.

Steps to cancel and request reissuance of a stolen check:

- Submit a Reissue Check Request Form.
- Consideration for reissuance must go before the Town of Jamesville Board of Commissioners for consideration. Payee will then be advised of any decision made by the board members.

### **C. Telework Policy**

Mayor Tucker explained the proposed telework policy helps to address the situation where the Town of Jamesville does not own tools and equipment necessary for working on vehicles and equipment. However, a town employee does have such and is willing to save the town in vehicle maintenance costs if he could be allowed to conveniently work on town vehicles at his personal residential shop. Worker’s Compensation does cover telework duties.

Commissioner Williams raised the question of liability coverage if an accident were to occur while the employee is working at his personal residence causing property or equipment damage. Commissioner Cockrell commented how telework policies typically address an employee doing office work out of their personal residence, citing the example of a liability situation if the employee’s computer catches on fire and causes personal property damage. Williams stated he does not want an employee’s good intentions of helping the town to end up being an adverse problem for the employee.

Commissioner Cockrell directed attention to the proposed language: *The Town of Jamesville will not assume responsibility for the employee’s cost of personal property or equipment, nor for the repair or service thereof.* Commissioner Williams recommended that the town should be responsible, as the employee should not be negatively affected if performing a job task that would benefit the town. Consensus agreed this issue should be researched as how other policies apply coverage principles.

General discussion began on the cost of current town trucks and the expensive maintenance being required due to continued problems, comparing the cost of upkeep vs. replacement.

Commissioner Cockrell then moved to table the telework policy until the February meeting to allow time to research the personal property and liability insurance concerns, to contact the town’s insurance carrier in order to discuss coverage. A second was given by Commissioner Williams. Upon call for the vote, the motion unanimously passed. 4 Ayes - 0 Nays.

### **D. F-350**

As discussed earlier, the F-150 has been approved by the board to be repaired at Big Al’s. Commissioner Craddock indicated the town is spending a fortune to keep the F-350 running and that it needs to be replaced. Commissioner Williams recommended by motion that the value of the

F-350 be documented, with Employee Cockrell agreeing to get some estimates. Commissioner Craddock concurred the estimates would be a good place to start and gave the second on the motion. The vote unanimously passed. 4 Ayes - 0 Nays.

#### **E. Republic Services Termination of Service Agreement**

Commissioner Cockrell explained there have been some problems with Republic Services and the termination agreement will close out the town's contract ending September 14, 2023. Issues have dealt with missed pick ups and not receiving credits due. Commissioner Allen moved to cancel the agreement with Republic Services, with a second by Commissioner Williams. The motion passed unanimously. 4 Ayes - 0 Nays.

#### **F. NCLM – Town & State Dinner 2023 – February 22, 2023**

Mayor Tucker reviewed dates for upcoming meetings he is interested in attending involving other towns and municipalities, including virtual meetings.

For the NCLM dinner meeting, board members were asked to let Town Clerk/Finance Officer Cockrell know if they would like to attend so registration can be made. This NCLM event provides an opportunity for municipal elected officials to meet and build relationships with state legislators over dinner in downtown Raleigh. A reception will be held at 5:00 p.m. with dinner to follow at 6:30 p.m.

#### **VIII. Closed Session – Pursuant to NCGS §143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel**

No closed session was held.

#### **IX. Board Comments**

**Updates with Martin County Commissioner “Skip” Gurganus.** County Commissioner Gurganus wanted to share some local updates. He apologized for arriving late, then explained that other obligations in his meeting schedule does not accommodate being free to regularly attend Jamesville's board meetings.

**Uplift** - Gurganus recommended a program called Uplift that helps small communities with planning events. The intention of Uplift is to revitalize and grow community celebrations, festivals and events. Tourism Bureau Director Chase Conner has offered to come talk with the Town of Jamesville about the program's details and the type of resources that could be available.

**Broadband** – Cloud Wise won the Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology [GREAT] Grant for Martin County, as the decision boiled down to cost per household. Commissioner Gurganus explained he went to countless meetings and wanted to partner with those who were more inclined to help rural areas. Cloud Wise will be installing fiber optic cable, which is mandated in the grant's terms. The project will begin in Williamston and extend into surrounding areas, but unfortunately, not coming as far as covering Jamesville, which Gurganus indicated has upset him. He waited for the county manager to reach out to Charter Spectrum which won the American Rescue Plan Act [ARPA] Grant (a federal program), back before the GREAT Grant, but nothing happened. Gurganus said he reached out to Mr. Joe Prater, who is overseeing the construction and implementation of the fiber option system, and Mr. Eric Collins, who is representing the eastern counties, and a meeting was scheduled with many counties involved to discuss the six-year grant project. Martin County will be a hub for the regional location. Gurganus then explained he asked for a meeting to discuss just Martin County issues, especially the needs of rural residents. A Charter mapping system identifies where internet will be available.

Other grants will hopefully assist with the rural need. One grant is the Continuing Access to Broadband [CAB] Grant (which will require matching funding), application date in July/August. The CAB Grant will allow Martin County to solicit for broadband providers to make presentations, and county commissioners will be able to pick and directly manage the company most desired.

Commissioner Gurganus indicated his intentions will push for broadband in the rural areas not served by the other grant projects. Grant projects may tend to improve infrastructure of areas already served, which is less expensive than complete installation to unserved or underserved areas. Gurganus emphasized he is fighting for residents who have historically been without any internet service, something he wants to accomplish during his years as a county commissioner.

After the CAB Grant, another program is the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment [BEAD] Grant which also is intended to address rural pockets. The BEAD Grant is federal money designated to “make ready” needed adjustments for projects underway. Gurganus explained most of the fiber cables will either be strung on existing poles or buried in the ground.

Gurganus offered there is a good chance for the Town of Jamesville and its surrounding area to receive internet services. Mr. Jason Simple, someone who is working closely with the projects, has indicated the current efforts are the best opportunity at hand. Gurganus reiterated his focus is working as hard as he can to get broadband service to everyone in Martin County. Special wireless situations, versus laying fiber cable, may have to be addressed for hard to reach areas, requiring funding by other grant monies.

**Hospital** – Commissioner Gurganus reported that the county commissioners finally decided to hire someone as a consultant to help manage the hospital based on all current demographics covering age, insurance pays, and those who cannot afford health care. Gurganus pointed out the demographics matter because, in reality, the hospital industry is still a business that needs to make money but unfortunately does not. Martin County’s existing hospital needs many millions of dollars to bring itself up to code. When the hospital was first built, the population was 45,000 – 65% were covered with insurance and not Medicare/Medicaid. Currently, the population is 22,000 and 65% is now covered by Medicare/Medicaid. Of the remaining 35%, 10% cannot afford insurance but cannot get on Medicare/Medicaid and are a write off, which leaves 25% able to pay. However, 70% of Martin County’s residents are going to Vidant Hospital.

As to what to do, Gurganus said changes will be needed that will not be what residents are used to, probably something of a rebranding but with a positive image. A formal recommendation for review has not yet been made. The consultant’s first report is anticipated early next month.

It has been a difficult time for the county hospital in struggling without a management plan in place, which is another reason why it is a challenge to find a system to help when the hospital’s reputation is tarnished. Once a plan is developed, other options may be considered, such as a sustainable model that perhaps is a new smaller hospital that meets the demographic needs of the county. The county already owns enough land which could be used for a ten-bed hospital with an emergency room and other services.

Commissioner Gurganus indicated he would answer any questions that he could, though some information cannot be shared due to the current contract. As a personal reflection, Gurganus commented that his term as a county commissioner is more about being a public servant to all citizens in order to help meet needs.

Mayor Tucker brought forward that the hospital has had to discontinue certain services and how private small clinics, such as Agape and other urgent care centers, have tried to fill the local need. Gurganus said such businesses can hurt a rural hospital anywhere, which is occurring nationwide and not just with Martin General. Quorum has had to systematically shut down Martin General because of the local demographics and the inability to make money. There are five years left on the current contract, and the company is faced with either investing more money in something it is shutting down or to systematically cut the losses while losing \$1.75m to \$2m or more per year. Martin County could go broke in legal fees fighting Quorum who has floors full of staff lawyers. Free legal advice has been offered and obtained as much as possible, as well as, a committee of concerned citizens has been appointed. The consultant’s fee of \$250k was the best choice on how to proceed in order for the county commissioners to make an informed decision about what to do regarding the hospital. In reality, the county is faced with fighting Quorum or

to help them get out of the contract if another viable solution is determined, the latter of which actually helps Quorum.

**EMS & Medical Emergencies** – Commissioner Kimberly Cockrell addressed Martin General’s inability to adequately handle medical emergencies and having to transfer patients to another location. The situation was posed if a person who is not in medical distress at the time of EMS arriving, could the patient be asked where they want to go for further medical attention without first being taken to Martin General. In describing a personal situation she has faced, something others have done as well, Cockrell explained she drove her father who needed emergency attention across the Pitt County line and had EMS meet them at a given location. She stressed such was done in order to avoid the reoccurring transfer delay experienced with Martin General’s emergency department when she has seen her father grow worse while waiting for transfer to Greenville. One delay involved her father being in Martin General’s emergency department awaiting transfer for over 48 hours, which caused great anxiety and frustration. Needed medications had to be retrieved from home and then given by family members and not the hospital staff due to the transfer delay.

Gurganus said it is his understanding the consultant is to consider in the report all the county’s EMS departments and survey situations and coverage. Martin County is still predominately served by volunteers and recruitment is getting harder. The job is demanding yet a tremendous help to a community. Funding the county’s EMS system is going to have to be taken up. Normally, EMS has to transport a patient to the nearest medical facility, which keeps the mobile medical team within its service area. Those working in the local hospital are good qualified, professional people, and they are stressfully dealing with limited staff services, often covering both the emergency department as well as hospital rooms. There are problems with the transfer delays to Greenville, Gurganus agreed, and solutions need to be analyzed and determined because the need is growing all the time.

Another situation described by Ms. Delsie Williams occurred when taking her husband to the Martin General emergency department and was told that the department was not equipped to handle their medical need at that time. Because of that experience, Ms. Williams explained they now go directly to Pitt Memorial’s emergency department, commenting as an insight as to why anyone would go to Martin General once they have been told such.

Gurganus noted Martin General has shut down its ICU, and the mammogram and dialysis machines no longer work. Some of the x-ray and CT equipment is outdated and also does not work. The staff’s hands are tied, and the county’s hands are tied because of the 30-year contract in place with five years remaining.

**Homeless Housing** - A question by the mayor addressed whether or not the hospital building is salvageable, and Gurganus offered there have been conversations about alternative uses and that the consultant will consider any form of repurposing such as a rehab building which requires less standards than a hospital. Commissioner Craddock brought forward the county’s need to address housing for the homeless, with Commissioner Cockrell noting that current housing is provided as needed by the county’s social services department paying for hotel accommodations. Discussion noted the homeless are not always visible but that the increasing need is real and involves more than just providing shelter. Gurganus stated he would make inquiries with the county manager and education himself as to options and update at a later time. Though the county’s social services department has limited resources, other federal monies can be sought once an issue has been clearly identified.

Board members gratefully thanked Gurganus for attending and providing the updates.

**Health Concerns** - In offering appreciation for prayers and concern expressed to him, Commissioner Williams reported that after the holidays he was in the hospital but is now doing better, adding that other tests have indicated he is cancer free. Commissioner Craddock noted she is doing as good as possible since her fall injury and also appreciates everyone's care and prayers.

**XI. Adjourn**

Commissioner Allen moved to adjourn at 9:10 p.m., with a second by Commissioner Craddock. The motion unanimously passed. 4 Ayes – 0 Nays.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Kimberly Cockrell,  
Town Clerk/Finance Officer