

**Narrows Town Council Meeting
September 13, 2021**

Mayor Tom Spangler called the meeting to order. Council Members present were Clyde Turner, Sara Bowles, George Conley, and John Mills. Joe Goorskey was absent.

Staff members present were Lindsey Caudill, John Davis, Susan Kidd, Cindy Laws, Landon Patteson, Benji Ratcliffe, and Debbie Thomas.

Attorney Mike Bedsaul was present.

Mayor Tom Spangler gave the invocation.

Council and audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Presentation

Jonathan McLaren with Peed & Bortz gave a presentation on the Preliminary Engineering Report concerning the Narrows Sewer Study. They have been working on this for the past 2 years. There was an excessive amount of water that was infiltrating into the sewer system so more water was being treated than was being sold. If there are ever 3 consecutive months at the wastewater treatment plant where they are treating more than 95% of the permitted capacity, DEQ will require an action plan. This PER can be the action plan. They have been working with the town to install level sensors in a lot of the manholes to check the depth of the water and combine that with a rain gauge at the wastewater treatment plant. When it rains the depth of flow immediately spikes. Infiltration is water that comes from broken pipes and the water infiltrates into the ground, whereas inflow is from sump pumps, storm drains, and where surface water gets into manholes. Inflow seems to be the larger problem in the town's system. The town did smoke testing and camera work back in 2018 and those reports have been reviewed. They have found discreet areas where sewer lines need replacement in their entirety. There is a list of proposed projects and proposed improvements they could make to the system. Manhole inserts look like trash can lids that have been turned upside down and those collect water. They are the most cost-effective way of treating inflow. There are around 20 manhole frames and covers that need to be replaced and sealing needs to be done around the manhole base. There are 3 streets that need pipe replacement: Cumberland Road (Robinhood Lane), Main Street, and Hill Street. Pump station improvements are needed for the health of the system. They have looked at several funding sources for this project and there are written terms and periods on the loan term. This is still being worked on.

Mayor Spangler said in the documentation that was provided it showed that a 38" – 40" manhole insert was \$108 but the cost estimate states \$300. Why is there a price difference?

Jonathan McLaren said it is a combination of things being more expensive every day and paying someone to install them.

Councilman Conley asked if all their figures included labor?

Jonathan McLaren said yes.

Councilman Mills said he believes they understand influx and manholes. There was a common practice years ago where people would have their floor drains going into a sump pump and it would then pump that into the sanitary sewer. He knows the town has made an effort to do away with some of that stuff, but he suspects there are still numerous residents that have them.

John Davis said they touch base on that in their report, but they did not go into ways to fix that. The town needs to address those on an individual basis.

Jonathan McLaren said when the town did smoke testing in 2018 there were some storm drains that showed smoke and there were houses and sump pumps that showed smoke.

Mike Bedsaul asked Jonathan McLaren if he knew the length of term of a loan through the Virginia Resource Authority (VRA) compared to some of the other loans?

Jonathan McLaren said he did not, but he would find out and get back to him.

John Davis said the pipe replacement that is listed in the project is not near to what the town needs in pipe replacement. Those are just 3 areas that are in bad shape and need attention.

Mayor Spangler thanked Jonathan McLaren for his presentation.

Approval of August 9th Meeting Minutes

Councilman Conley made a motion to approve the June 12th and June 20th meeting minutes. Councilmember Bowles seconded the motion.

Ayes: Bowles, Conley, and Mills

Abstain: Turner

Nays: None

Motion Carried 3-0

Consent Agenda

Library Report

Cindy Laws said when the town receives their ARPA money she would like to request that council look into placing HVAC in the library. Right now there is oil heat and 2 window air conditioners. She is guessing the building is around 1,500 square feet. She is willing to get some estimates and bring them back to council.

Susan Kidd said she has asked staff to compile a list of items they would suggest using ARPA funds for and present it to council at the next meeting so they can add items if they choose to. It can then be discussed as a whole.

Councilman Mills made a motion to approve the library report. Councilmember Bowles seconded the motion.

Ayes: Turner, Bowles, Conley, and Mills

Nays: None

Motion Carried 4-0

Parks & Recreation Report

Lindsey Caudill gave council a report showing wages and income for the splash pad and concessions. From June 17 to September 6 there was a deficit of \$3,419.76.

Mayor Spangler said he noticed they had an anticipated income for the splash pad of \$10,000.

Susan Kidd said they anticipated receiving this since it was the first year the splash pad was open.

Lindsey Caudill said the splash pad is never going to make money for the town. They cannot charge more than the Town of Pearisburg charges for their pool. The splash pad used around 24,000 gallons of water this season.

Councilman Mills said with everything going on in the world today he believes it is a great idea to subsidize the splash pad so kids have somewhere to go to.

Lindsey Caudill said the splash pad is only attracting the younger kids and kids under 2 get in free.

Mayor Spangler asked John Davis if the issues with the splash pad were able to be fixed before the end of the season, including the water that was running off the pad?

John Davis said yes.

Councilmember Bowles asked Lindsey Caudill if parks and rec would be included in the ARPA funding?

Lindsey Caudill said she is not sure.

Susan Kidd said she could add it to the list.

Councilman Conley asked Lindsey Caudill if she is telling council the splash pad will never make a dime?

Lindsey Caudill said no because the town not only has to pay for the water, but they have to pay the workers and minimum wage is going up to \$11 next year. The rentals for the splash pad have been good this year.

Councilman Mills made a motion to approve the parks and recreation report.

Councilman Turner seconded the motion.

Ayes: Turner, Bowles, Conley, and Mills

Nays: None

Motion Carried 4-0

Police Report

Councilman Turner asked Police Chief Ratcliffe if he had any success with catching the kids on high school hill that are knocking on doors at 1:00 a.m. – 2:00 a.m.?

Police Chief Ratcliffe said they have not, but they are on the lookout.

Councilman Conley said he saw in the police report where they have hired a new part-time policeman.

Police Chief Ratcliffe said he wanted to thank council for letting him hire Tommy Gautier. He is working 20 hours/week.

Councilman Mills said he would like to commend the police department for the tickets they have given for speeding.

Councilman Mills made a motion to approve the police report. Councilmember Bowles seconded the motion.

Ayes: Turner, Bowles, Conley, and Mills

Nays: None

Motion Carried 4-0

Financial Report/Treasurer's Report

Debbie Thomas said Robinson, Farmer, Cox, and Associates performed the town audit on August 30th and 31st. Corbin Stone will be at the November or December council meeting to present the audit.

Councilman Turner made a motion to approve the financial report/treasurer's report. Councilman Mills seconded the motion.

Ayes: Turner, Bowles, Conley, and Mills

Nays: None

Motion Carried 4-0

Director of Strategic Development's Report

Councilman Mills made a motion to approve the director of strategic development's report. Councilman Turner seconded the motion.

Ayes: Turner, Bowles, Conley, and Mills

Nays: None

Motion Carried 4-0

Public Works Director's Report

Mayor Spangler said there is an upcoming meeting concerning Camp Success. The town has collected almost all of the revenue that was anticipated for this year so they need to keep up Camp Success to draw individuals there.

Councilman Turner made a motion to approve the public works director's report. Councilmember Bowles seconded the motion.

Ayes: Turner, Bowles, Conley, and Mills

Nays: None

Motion Carried 4-0

Communications, Concerns and Requests from the Public

(Mark Clyburn was on the agenda to discuss complaints but was not present)

John Davis said he went and looked at Mr. Clyburn's property and did not see any issues with flooding.

Jared Adkins said he lives at 704 Main Street and had a small leak prior in the year and asked for an adjustment and received one. He had another leak, and that bill was around \$1,000 for almost 37,000 gallons of water. He was in Asheville, NC and when he came home the water hose was running.

Susan Kidd said the rules are the customer can receive one adjustment per year and council can approve another adjustment within that time frame. Council can approve adjusting the sewer off the bill and adjusting the water to a six-month average.

John Davis said he spoke to Tasha Riddle about this and she said council could approve adjusting the sewer to the minimum and average the water to a six-month average.

Councilman Conley made a motion to adjust Jared Adkins utility bill to the minimum sewer amount and taking a six-month average of the water. Councilman Mills seconded the motion.

Ayes: Turner, Bowles, Conley, and Mills

Nays: None

Motion Carried 4-0

Communications from Mayor and Council

None.

New Business

Susan Kidd said she wanted to make council aware of our street light account that is automatically taken out of our bank account every month. It runs around \$2,000/month and a payment has not been taken out since May 2021. It is supposed to be taken out September 21st, the bill is \$7,742.48, but if not it would increase for the next month. There are several credits on the account and AEP said that is why it has not been taken out.

Mayor Spangler said the water and sewer overtime pay in the budget is up to 80%. What is the reason for that?

Susan Kidd said it was for water breaks and busted meters.

Unfinished Business

None.

Matters for Consideration by Council

Jon Butler said the fire department is anticipating starting soft billing for cost recovery when being called out. This would run through a company called Fire Recovery U.S.A.

They do not have the manpower to administer it themselves. Their budget is 35-40% from fundraising, and that money is very volatile in a Covid world. This will not be a money-making venture by any means, and they will not be making money off of the victims. The only way the fire department would do this is if the company promises that the victim will never see a bill.

Mayor Spangler stated that the homeowner would never see a bill.

Jon Butler said that is correct. They will have a contract that states the homeowner will never see a bill.

Councilman Conley said he has received a lot of phone calls concerning this. Who wrote this ordinance?

Mike Bedsaul said he did.

Councilman Conley said he had some questions he would like to be answered. If the fire department would go on a call in the county how would that be billed?

Jon Butler said he does not believe that should be under council's consideration, but the county already has this in place and the county's attorney said the town's ordinance would cover the fire department if this should happen.

Councilman Conley asked if council should adopt this ordinance it would be valid in the county?

Jon Butler said yes.

Mike Bedsaul said he believes what Jon Butler is saying is that the county would be able to reimburse the fire department if they go on a call in the county because they already have one in place.

Councilman Conley said he could not find another locality that uses anything like this.

Mike Bedsaul said there are a lot of localities that have soft-billing programs like this.

Councilman Conley said if you Google the term "soft billing" it states *soft billing is charging the insurance company and accepting the amount they pay for the service as payment in full. Any balance due, after insurance payment is written off. By law the billing company must make a reasonable attempt to collect the amount not covered by the insurance provider.*

Jon Butler asked whose law was that?

Councilman Conley said he does not know if that is a federal or state law, but it came from Google search.

Mayor Spangler said in the ordinance it says if a fire is started where permits are required and no such permit is obtained then they would be billed. What if the person has the necessary permits and the fire gets away from them? Does anything change?

Jon Butler said, in that instance, they would not bill. They do not issue any permits.

Councilmember Conley said Jon Butler keeps saying the billing company will not do this or that, but they have nothing in writing and no guarantees. All they have is an ordinance they are being asked to pass. When he talked to someone at Hundley Insurance Agency, they said most of these are debt collectors that have changed the names on their companies to entice public works companies, first responders, fire departments, rescue squads, and ambulance companies. Most of these are nothing more than debt collectors that want you to turn your bills over to them for a percentage.

Jon Butler said Fire Recovery U.S.A. is going to take 22% of anything they collect. If they do not collect anything the company does not receive anything.

Councilman Conley said then Fire Recovery U.S.A. is going to report whomever to the credit agencies.

Jon Butler said nothing is going to the credit agencies.

Councilman Conley said he also spoke with Ben Wheeler and most of the limits he spoke of are way under what is listed with this ordinance. That is all the insurance company is going to pay. The document they were given states they will receive \$250 for a house fire in town and \$500 for a house fire in the county. If someone only has liability coverage on their vehicle the fire department will not receive anything.

Jon Butler said in that case the insurance company will not receive a bill.

Councilman Conley said he does not see that in the document. He is being told that, and he wants to believe it, but he does not see it.

Mike Bedsaul said this ordinance could be amended to state that amounts shall not be charged over and above what the limits are. In the first paragraph of the ordinance, it provides that, under Virginia Code Sec. 24-14, ordinances in relation to the powers and duties of such fire departments or fire companies, and chiefs and other officers of such fire departments or fire companies, as it may deem proper, including billing property owners on behalf of volunteer fire departments as provided in Virginia Code Sec. 38.2-2130. It also states that the Fire Department shall establish a fair and equitable procedure by which to collect the mitigation rates and shall establish a billing system in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and guidelines, including but not limited to, the provisions in Virginia Code Sec. 38.2-2130. Virginia Code Sec. 38.2-2130 states that *Every insurer writing a fire policy or fire policy in combination with other insurance coverages shall provide coverage for the cost charged by a volunteer fire department that is not fully funded by real estate taxes or other property taxes for service charges where the fire department is called in to save or protect property insured under such policy from a peril insured against. The limit of such coverage shall be no less than \$250. Higher coverage limits may be offered by an insurer for an additional premium. Any bill for such service charges shall be sent to the owner of the property for which the services were rendered. The amount billed shall not exceed the limit of such coverage. This coverage shall not apply to service charges made in response to a call outside of the volunteer fire department's fire protection district, city, or municipality pursuant to a contract.*

Councilman Mills said without these people they would be in a hell of a mess. They sometimes go out and serve us all night and have to work the next day. He thought he heard that without something from this governing body the fire department cannot get anything. He asked Mike Bedsaul if that was correct.

Mike Bedsaul said that is correct. He received a rate schedule from Susan Kidd that had been sent to her by Jon Butler and he believes they are standard rates, he is not sure how they were established, and that is why he included in the language of the ordinance that the actual cost billed to the property owner would not exceed the actual cost. If the actual cost was lower than the rate schedule the property owner would only be billed the lower amount. He suspects the rate schedule may be based upon rates in a large geographic area or average rates across the United States.

Jon Butler said he believes the rates, which were provided by the company, are an umbrella used across that company. He does not know how to put a value on their calls.

Councilman Conley said something else he discussed with the insurance agent was water damages/incidents. The only type of insurance that is covered under that is flood insurance.

Jon Butler said if insurance denies it then it will not be sent back to the property owner. That is in the contract.

Councilman Conley said that is not what he is seeing. What he is seeing is if there is a water incident, they are going to make a claim that states they will be billed at \$455 plus \$57 per hour, per rescue person.

Jon Butler said when they receive the contract he is more than welcome to look at it.

Councilman Conley asked if this would bring up a new liability that would make the town liable?

Mike Bedsaul said that if he understands it correctly the fire department will be responding to the incident either way.

Councilman Conley said the Good Samaritan Act covers them under one.

Mike Bedsaul said it would not be under the Good Samaritan Act. They are going to be responding to the emergency, whatever it is. This has to do with if there is insurance coverage available under the automobile insurance policy or the homeowners insurance policy where they can at least be reimbursed up to the amount of what the coverage is under the policy. If they go out and put out a car fire and the automobile insurance of the car owner has a provision that says \$250 can be paid toward the fire department that responded to the fire, then they can at least receive the \$250 under the benefit of the policy.

Councilman Conley said the example that was given to him was if he has a car and only has liability insurance on it and it catches on fire and the fire department responds to it then he has no insurance to cover that.

Jon Butler said in that case his insurance would not be billed.

Councilman Conley asked if the fire department responds to a car fire in town and sprays water on the car and the car blows up and there is a bystander there that gets injured would the town be liable?

Mike Bedsaul said under the scenario that Councilman Conley described the soft-billing program has no bearing on the town's liability in that situation. It does not make it greater or less.

Councilman Conley said the insurance broker was very adamant about the town being liable.

Mike Bedsaul asked Councilman Conley to explain how the town would be liable because it adopts a soft-billing program.

Councilmember Bowles said at that time they do not even know if the insurance would be billed.

Councilman Mills said he is certain the town could be sued for a plethora of evils, but he would never begin to go out on a limb and contest the scenario about the engine exploding. He thinks what they must do is support the fire department and what they do for the town. They must trust town council until the fire chief messes up. Without this action the fire department cannot collect anything. He is not for putting it to insurance companies in any way, shape, or form but they all realize that insurance fraud makes them all pay more. If it comes down to their fire department and an insurance company, then they need to pony up. They can argue all night about the verbiage, but the town's attorney is supposed to keep council straight and he is certain once they receive a contract from this vendor it will not be signed until the attorney said it is all right.

Mike Bedsaul said all he was given at the time he drafted the ordinance was basically Susan Kidd saying the fire department was considering implementing a soft-billing program. The only information that he had was this schedule of rates, which he did not come up with but came from the soft-billing company. That is why he came up with item 2 in the ordinance, which states: *Now, Therefore, be it ordained by the Council of the Town of Narrows, Virginia, as follows 2. That the Fire Department shall initiate mitigation rates for the Services in accordance with the attached "Exhibit A – Mitigation Rates Based on Per Hour": provided, however, that the mitigation rates shall not exceed the actual costs of the Services, which may include any services, personnel, supplies, and equipment.* He does not know whether the standard rates are comparable to the rates for

Narrows or Giles County. Council needs to adopt this ordinance in order to establish or authorize the program. The fire department would be the one that is responsible for the development and implementation so they would establish the terms and conditions as to how the billing would work and when they would make a claim and when they would not.

Councilman Conley said when he spoke with Ben Wheeler today, he said State Farm has never failed to pay a claim from the fire department and Hundley said the same thing.

Jon Butler said he was sure they had not failed to pay.

Councilman Conley asked why the need for an ordinance if they had never failed to pay a claim from the fire department?

Jon Butler said the ordinance is required by law to be able to do the soft billing.

Councilman Conley asked why?

Jon Butler said he did not know and maybe Councilman Conley should ask a state legislator why.

Councilman Conley asked Jon Butler if the fire department had problems with the insurance companies?

Jon Butler said no because they have never done this. It cannot be done until the ordinance is established.

John Davis said the fire department does not bill insurance companies now for these costs.

Jon Butler said they have never received payment from State Farm or any insurance company.

Councilman Conley said the fire department had never received payment from State Farm, Hundley, or any insurance company.

Jon Butler said no.

Mike Bedsaul said concerning the liability issues that have been brought up there are certain statutes that provide for liability protection for fire departments. Whether or not a fire department has a program in place to receive cost reimbursement from an insurance policy does not affect any liability that the fire department may or may not have. They would be responding to the incident either way.

Councilman Conley said they do not have it in black and white and he believes they need to have a public hearing on this ordinance so the town is included before any action is taken by council.

Jon Butler said he has spoken to and worked with the town attorney so he does not know what else he can do. The fire department will not receive a contract if council does not approve the ordinance. He will be glad to submit a request to council for an additional \$25,000 for the next budget year.

Councilman Conley said that is up to him. He would like to see something in black and white to protect the citizens of this town.

Mayor Spangler asked Jon Butler if the soft-billing company would be interacting with the insurance company and not the owner of the policy?

Jon Butler said that is correct.

Mayor Spangler asked if the contract, once received, will be reviewed by Mike Bedsaul?

Jon Butler said that is correct.

Mike Bedsaul said he does not know what the terms of the contract will be but if council was displeased with how the contract is administered they could change the ordinance.

Jon Butler said it is his understanding that the contract is not that strict. They can choose which calls they wish to be paid for so if they do not submit a call to the soft-billing company no money is collected.

Councilman Mills asked if the contract would be reviewed by the town's legal counsel?

Jon Butler said yes.

Councilman Mills said they have a document prepared by the town attorney, is that correct?

Mike Bedsaul said yes.

Councilman Mills said Mike Bedsaul represents the fire department who serves the town beautifully on a daily basis. He sees no benefit by having a public hearing concerning this document. It is a delay that is unnecessary.

Councilman Mills made a motion to accept the fire department soft-billing ordinance, as written, and upon receiving the contract from the vendor Mike Bedsaul shall review it and approve it before any signatures are added.

Jon Butler said the approval of this ordinance does not mean they will be entering into a contract with any company to do any billing. This is just a step they have to take to go any further.

Councilman Mills said he believes that is a step council should grant.

Councilman Turner seconded the motion.

Councilman Conley asked if they were going to have a discussion on this? He objected to Councilman Mills' motion. He believes the town should be apprised of this ordinance and he believes there is a need for a public hearing at the next council meeting. The town should know what is going on with this ordinance and have the right to ask questions as he has.

Councilman Mills said they would just have to agree to disagree because anyone that wants to review this can surely have it made available to them.

Councilman Conley said Councilman Mills is saying they should approve the ordinance tonight without having the public look at it. As far as he knows council is the only one that has a copy of it.

John Davis said they have never had a public hearing for an ordinance.

Councilman Conley asked if there was anything saying they could not have a public hearing for an ordinance?

Mike Bedsaul said they could hold a public hearing for an ordinance if they chose to. If there are sections of this ordinance council would like to see worded or laid out differently he could make those changes.

Councilman Conley said council did not see this until Friday, that was the first time he laid eyes on it. He believes if they take a second look at it then it could benefit everyone.

Mike Bedsaul asked Councilman Conley to share what his concerns are, other than the liability issue.

Councilman Conley said reports and reporting, is this a collection agency?

Mike Bedsaul said he does not know about the billing.

Councilman Conley said it states there will be a 1.5% annual increase.

Mike Bedsaul said where that came from was the fire department had a form with a certain percentage increase and he based it upon the Virginia statute. This method was to keep the rates current.

Councilman Conley said he would like to study it and look over it. The public has a right to know what it is and it should be published because it deals with everyone.

Mayor Spangler said it is his understanding that if this is implemented and a contract was entered into, the vendor will bill the insurance company for any allowable amount that will never involve the homeowner.

Jon Butler said that is correct. The fire department does not want to see bills sent to homeowners.

Councilman Conley asked who would enforce this?

Jon Butler said there is nothing to enforce, it is a soft billing.

Councilman Conley asked if this company reports one person on his credit who is going to enforce it?

Jon Butler said they are not going to report anyone.

Councilman Conley said Jon Butler is saying that but where is it at in black and white?

Jon Butler said that would be a matter of the contract. If the ordinance is not approved there is no need for the vendor to draw up a contract.

Chris Stump said he has been talking to this company's board of directors and no contract can be received until the ordinance is passed. Glen Lyn Volunteer Fire Department uses this vendor now.

Councilman Conley said if he is an honest person he is not going to hide anything from anyone.

Chris Stump said he is not hiding anything from anyone.

Councilman Conley asked Chris Stump if the soft-billing company is hiding anything from him?

Chris Stump said no.

Councilman Conley asked why the company will not tell them anything?

Chris Stump said because the fire department cannot receive a contract until the ordinance is approved.

Jon Butler asked Councilman Conley why the soft-billing company would waste their time and resources if the ordinance is not approved?

Mike Bedsaul said in Virginia Code Sec. 38.2-2130 it states *any bill for such service charges shall be sent to the owner of the property for which the services were rendered.*

Councilman Conley said Chris stump stated the property owner would not receive a bill.

Jon Butler said there is nothing to enforce. It is not even considered a bill.

Councilman Conley said Mike Bedsaul just read that the homeowner will receive a bill.

Jon Butler told Councilman Conley that he would be glad to show him the contract if he would approve the ordinance. This is as far as this is going to go and he is not going to continue arguing with him.

Mike Bedsaul said it does state the bill will be sent to the property owner and the amount billed will not exceed the limit of such coverage. He suspects that is because the bill has to be sent so a claim can be filed toward their insurance policy.

Councilman Conley said there are a lot of little homeowners out there and if they receive a bill they are going to panic and will pay it out of their pocket. That is how they were raised to do business.

Jon Butler said they will not receive a bill.

Councilman Conley said Mike Bedsaul just said they would receive a bill.

Jon Butler said this ordinance provides them to explore the option with the county. If council does not approve the ordinance they will not explore it. If they approve the ordinance that does not mean they are entering into a contract to approve this program.

Mayor Spangler said if council approves the ordinance and the company provides the fire department a contract and it is shared with Mike Bedsaul and the contract states they will bill the homeowner then the fire department will not enter into the contract.

Jon Butler said that is correct.

Mike Bedsaul said he is happy to review it and a copy can be provided to council.

Councilman Conley said he still believes they should have a public hearing. The people in town still need to know what is going on.

Councilmember Bowles said she appreciates everything the fire department does and she has never had to experience a tragedy where she needed them. She does trust they would never enter into a contract where the in-town or out-of-town people would be put in peril where they would incur an extra cost. The homeowner should never see a bill. She does not even know if this is on any of her insurance policies.

Mayor Spangler said it is his understanding that if this ordinance is not approved they will not even receive a contract they can look at. They have a motion and a second on the floor to approve this ordinance.

Ayes: Turner, Bowles, and Mills

Nays: Conley

Motion Carried 3-1

Jon Butler thanked council.

Susan Kidd said there is a program the county is doing to help senior citizens. She spoke with Chris McKlarney and he said the senior citizens are called every day and in speaking to them they not only need food but also cleaning supplies. Celanese has agreed to buy cleaning supplies, fill a tote for 3 months, and take them to all seniors on the list. Celanese, Carilion, and Giles County have donated money to do that (around \$2,500/quarter). They do not need any monetary help but could use help in packing the totes. If anyone is interested, they can let her know and she can check to see when they are doing this.

Councilman Mills said they are definitely interested.

Councilmember Bowles said there may be some high school students that could help.

Mayor Spangler said he attended a luncheon and found out Amtrak will be providing service out of Christiansburg in 2025. There are a lot of good things coming to this area that could benefit everyone.

Susan Kidd said the Fall Festival is September 25th.

Mayor Spangler said he had been contacted by several residents about different houses with debris in the yard. They believe council could help alleviate this and the town needs to be proactive toward this.

Councilman Mills made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Bowles seconded the motion.

Ayes: Turner, Bowles, Conley, and Mills

Nays: None

Motion Carried 4-0

Clerk, Debbie Thomas

Mayor, Tom Spangler