

OLDEST TOWN  
IN WEST VIRGINIA  
BETWEEN CHARLESTON  
AND POINT PLEASANT

FOUNDED IN 1837

# Town of Buffalo

P.O. BOX 307  
BUFFALO, WEST VIRGINIA 25033

OFFICE OF THE TOWN RECORDER

HOME OF  
HISTORIC  
BUFFALO ACADEMY

ERECTED 1849



September 20, 2017 Special Town Council Meeting

Pledge to the flag. Meeting was called to order by Mayor Dave Melton at 7:00 p.m.

Roll call by sight. Four present Billy Whittington, Alisa Scott, Barbara Reed, Leah Higginbotham.  
Not Present, Jenny Leighton.

Ordinance approved by Lisa Moye, edited by Brian Wood and the final version for the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of "REPEAL OF PRIOR ARTICLE 1-IN GENERAL AND AMENDMENT OF CURRENT ARTICLE 105-ELECTIONS TO CHANGE THE DATE OF THE TOWN OF BUALO ELECTION TO COINCIDE WITH THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA AND PUTNAM COUNTY GENERAL ELECTION". No request to read entire Article title reading only was unanimous.

The following Amended Ordinances have been Amended to allow the Town to place a lien on property, that was not allowed for in the original Ordinances.

Title reading was unanimous.

1<sup>st</sup> Reading of "AN ORDINACE AMENDING ARTICLE 931.03(d) MAINTENANCE PREMISS TO INCLUDE THE AUTHRORITY O THE TOWN TO FILE A NOTICE OF LIEN FOR VIOLATIONS(S) OF THIS ARTICLE."

1<sup>st</sup> Reading of "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE TOWN OF BUFFALO DILAPIDATED AND ABANDONED BUILDING ENORCEMENT AGENCY IN ACCORDANCE WITH WEST VIRGINIA CODE AS AMENDED TO INCLUDE THE AUTHORITY OF THE TOWN TO FILE A NOTICE OF LIEN FOR VIOLATION(S) OF THIS ORDINANCE."

Mayor elaborated on the appointments needed to the Dilapidated and Abandoned Building Enforcement Agency shall include the town engineer, the Fire Chief of the Buffalo Fire Department, the Mayor and 2 council members appointed by council.

Mayor requested to skip to number 8 on the agenda to appoint 2 council members to sit on the Agency. Time flexibility is an issue to work with all agency members. Roger Randolph is willing to serve and understands that it is a volunteer position. Amos Whittington, Buffalo Fire Department Chief, is willing to serve. Volunteers were requested and, Alisha Scott, Barbara Reed volunteered and Leah Higginbotham, volunteered to help in the event one of the Council member cannot be present.

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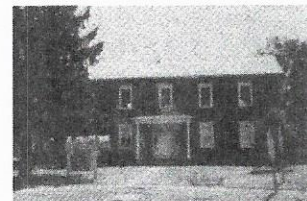
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Billy Whittington, asked where hearings would be held. Mayor answered at Town Hall and elaborated that it would be before Town Council.

Mayor presented a list of letters requesting that residents clean up property including all but one letter. They were given 30 days to do something on their own before Town would begin enforcing ordinance. Some letters have been ignored. One letter went to the wrong person. Letters are being sent to Property owner and Renter if both are known. Junk Car violators will be sent a second letter first because it is the only ordinance with a provision for lien and because it will take longer and be more costly. No complaints have resulted from letters.

One owner on Sycamore Street (Truman Harts place) does not have the funds to demolish the house and has offered title to the property if the Town can demolish the building. The Town is too small to apply for HUD money and Block Grants such as Charleston and other large cities use. Dunbar set up a demolition fund and will take the title to property in exchange for demolition of the structure or in the case of a landlord that needs a tax right off. Give the town the property for a tax right off for the assessed value of the property, the city then demolishes the building and sell the lot at an auction with a beginning bid at the lowest assessed value or cost of demolish. In this instance the Town must be careful about liens on these properties as well as property taxes.

As the governing body of the town of Buffalo we need to continue on the current paths to clean up and beautifying the town. It will get more difficult from this point on. Mayor requested an inventory of Junk Cars, dilapidated buildings and other violations, so that the Agency can begin inspections. Town Council will divide town into territories to cover and report to the Mayor.

Territories will be:

1. Wright's Lane to Cross Creek (Circle) - Billy Whittington
2. Cross Creek Road to the S-Curve – Alisa Scott
3. S-Curve to end of Town – Leah Higginbotham & Barbara Reed
4. Pickens Avenue area – Jenny Leighton

Discussion regarding Sewer bills and annual report and bad debt that needs to be shown as an expense on the annual report and recommendations for write-off's on the sewer.



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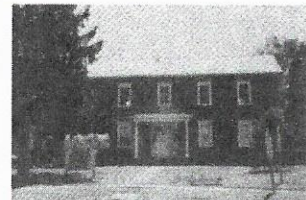
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Discussions on Request by Chad Thaxton for review of Ordinances is on the agenda for October 2, 2017 regular meeting.

Discussion of need to appoint Town Recorder/Treasurer and the possibility of splitting the job. There is an immediate need to appoint a Town Recorder. Barbara Reed stated that it would be a good idea to split the job. Discussion held about the job description for Town Recorder/Treasurer. Mayor stated that he had a proposed Ordinance Separating the office of Recorder/Treasurer. Immediate need is for Council to appoint a recorder.

Motion to adjourn –

2<sup>nd</sup> by Barbara Reed

Unanimous Vote

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Mayor

Acting Recorder