



**MIDDLEBURG TOWN COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, January 10, 2011**



**PENDING APPROVAL**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Betsy A. Davis  
Vice Mayor C. Darlene Kirk  
Councilmember Trowbridge Littleton  
Councilmember Catherine “Bundles” Murdock  
Councilmember Kathy Jo Shea  
Councilmember Mark T. Snyder (arrived late)

**STAFF:** Martha Mason Semmes, Town Administrator  
Rhonda S. North, MMC, Town Clerk  
David M. Beniamino, AICP, Town Planner  
Cindy C. Pearson, Economic Development Coordinator

**ABSENT:** Councilmember Kevin Hazard  
Councilmember David B. Stewart

The Town Council of the Town of Middleburg, Virginia held their regular monthly work session on Monday, January 10, 2011 in the Town Hall Council Chambers, located at 10 W. Marshall Street. Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Councilmember Murdock noted that President Obama was calling for a moment of silence at 11:00 a.m. as the result of the shooting of Congresswoman Giffords this past weekend. She asked whether, as an elected body, the Council should do so now since they would not be present at 11:00 a.m. The Council held a moment of silence in recognition of the country’s elected officials.

**Council Discussion** (continued) – Council Goals List

Councilmember Shea presented Council with a copy of the goals list she prepared. She noted that the first section was an evaluation of how far the Council had come over the past year. Ms. Shea advised that the second part involved a review of the Council’s goals that were established in 2008 and the identification of what has not been chosen in the past as an active goal. She noted that the third page included her ideas for goals for the coming year. Councilmember Littleton expressed his opinion that Councilmember Shea did a great job.

Mayor Davis asked whether the Council would take the document home and then review it in a future work session. Councilmember Shea suggested the members of Council send in their individual responses for compilation. She further suggested that the goals for the coming year be whatever came out on top. Mayor Davis asked whether the Council wanted to discuss the goals in a work session. Vice Mayor Kirk and Councilmember Murdock confirmed they did. Councilmember Murdock asked whether it would be on this month’s agenda. Town Clerk North suggested the Council may want to reserve that meeting for the follow-up discussion from the joint meeting with the Planning Commission.

Councilmember Shea suggested the members of Council send their comments to the Town Clerk for compilation. She noted that she had the document. Councilmember Littleton asked that the document be sent to Council electronically. Mayor Davis asked that if the members of Council had any comments prepared by the regular meeting, they bring them at that time.

Councilmember Shea suggested that the members cross out any items that they did not want to be on the list and add what they did. She further suggested that they assign each item a priority. Councilmember Littleton expressed his opinion that everything needed to be done. Councilmember Shea agreed; however, she noted the need to prioritize the items. Councilmember Murdock asked whether the Council should discuss their priorities. Councilmember Shea noted the need to choose from the categories. She reminded Council that last year, they adopted four goals. Ms. Shea expressed her opinion that the Council did fairly well on those goals.

Mayor Davis thanked Councilmember Shea for assembling the document. Councilmember Shea noted the need to add any new goals that were not selected as active goals to the master list so they would be available for consideration in the coming years.

### **Council Discussion** – Future of old wastewater treatment plant

Town Administrator Semmes advised Council that she was unable to get with the Street Superintendent last week to discuss this item. She reminded them that the old wastewater treatment plant was sitting idle, with the Town having no money to demolish it. Ms. Semmes suggested the need to look at potential uses for the building before moving to demolition. She asked whether there had been any Council discussion regarding the future of this building.

Councilmember Murdock asked whether there were any uses for it. Town Administrator Semmes noted that Mr. Triplett suggested it be used for storage. She reminded Council that the building could be a liability for the Town.

Vice Mayor Kirk asked whether there were any holes in the building. Town Administrator Semmes confirmed there were cracks in the foundation. She noted, however, that it would not “fall down anytime soon”. Ms. Semmes explained that she wanted to touch base with the Council to see if this was something the staff should spend time on. She asked whether the Council was interested in getting rid of the building; and, noted that she was unsure of the cost for doing so.

Councilmember Murdock expressed her opinion that the Town needed additional storage. She asked whether it was cheaper to tear the building down and construct a new one or renovate it. Councilmember Littleton asked that he be allowed to look at the building. He suggested that the Street Superintendent give him a call. Town Administrator Semmes noted that she would like to be present during their walk through. Councilmember Littleton noted that he was not sure what remained inside the building; however, he suggested it would be easy to clear. He suggested that renovating the building would be cheaper than constructing a new one, even if it needed a new roof. Mr. Littleton noted that the building was a masonry structure; therefore, it would not fall down. He expressed his opinion that the Police Department could use a corner of the building for the storage of supplies.

Town Administrator Semmes asked whether Councilmember Littleton would estimate the cost to demolish and remove the building debris at \$20,000. Councilmember Littleton confirmed that he would. He noted the value of having this building on Town land.

Town Administrator Semmes noted that the down side of keeping the building was that the Town would have to insure it. Councilmember Littleton noted that it would also have to maintain it.

Town Administrator Semmes advised Council that there was currently power to the building. She noted that the pole serving the structure was in the path that needed to be paved. Ms. Semmes asked whether the Council wanted to remove the power. Councilmember Littleton suggested it be left on. Vice Mayor Kirk noted that lighting would be needed, especially if the Town used the building for storage. Mayor Davis noted that it was possible to secure lights that were not electric. Councilmember Littleton noted that, depending on what was stored in the building, the Town may want to install a propane heater to keep it at forty degrees.

Town Administrator Semmes noted that Salamander planned to pave the road today. She asked where they were going to find asphalt at this time of year. Ms. Semmes advised Council that the representatives from Salamander have been told that it was not a good idea to pave at this time as the pavement would probably break up. Councilmember Littleton suggested they be told that they should wait until the weather was better. Town Planner Beniamino confirmed that Salamander planned to move forward with the pavement. He noted that he told them of the potential problems that could surface; however, they told him they were using guys with “special provisions” for cold weather paving. Mr. Beniamino advised Council that Salamander seemed to be confused as to their responsibility for pulling a final occupancy permit prior to the Town taking occupancy of the building. He explained that they did not think this was their job. Mr. Beniamino reported that he told them the Town Attorney would discuss this matter with their attorney. He advised Council that Salamander was aware of the potential challenges.

Councilmember Littleton asked about the status of the electric pole. Town Planner Beniamino expressed his opinion that Salamander must relocate it. Town Administrator Semmes asked whether Salamander planned to pave around it. Councilmember Littleton suggested that Dominion Power may want to bury the electric line; and, noted that they would cover the cost. He further noted they would not do this if the area was paved. He suggested that Salamander be reminded that they have not addressed the power line issue.

Councilmember Murdock expressed her opinion that the Town needed to stop the paving project. Councilmember Littleton recommended the staff alert Salamander of the need to address the power line issue. Mayor Davis asked whether the Town could tell Salamander that they could not do the paving yet. Town Administrator Semmes confirmed the Town had no veto power over the timing of construction. Mayor Davis suggested the Town tell Salamander that they could not do the paving until the power line was addressed. Councilmember Shea suggested the Town say that the power line was in the way and that the Town needed to be assured it would be addressed before the paving occurred. Town Planner Beniamino advised Council that he would call Salamander again. He noted that he would check the plans to determine whether the pole was shown on them.

Mayor Davis suggested the staff and Councilmember Littleton check the old wastewater treatment plant building and offer a recommendation to the Council.

### **Review of January 11<sup>th</sup> Joint Meeting Agenda**

Town Planner Beniamino reminded Council that the agenda was one that he and Councilmember Shea worked on several months ago. He noted that the staff met with the Mayor last week to identify the responsibilities associated with the agenda; and, to discuss how the meeting would go. Mr. Beniamino expressed his opinion that the meeting was more of a listening exercise. He explained that the Planning Commission members would be present in order to bring their issues to the Council.

Councilmember Murdock asked who would be listening to whom. Town Planner Beniamino explained that the Council would be listening to the Planning Commission and asking them questions. Vice Mayor Kirk expressed her opinion that it was supposed to be the other way around. Mayor Davis confirmed that it would not to start. She suggested the Planning Commission be allowed to give the Council their suggestions.

Councilmember Murdock asked who would talk about the roles of the Council, Planning Commission and staff. Town Administrator Semmes confirmed the staff would do so. Councilmember Shea expressed her opinion that it would be easier to understand if the staff identified who would be handling each item.

Town Planner Beniamino advised Council that the Mayor would handle the welcome during the joint meeting. He further advised that Town Administrator Semmes would talk about the roles and different focuses of the Council, Commission and staff. Town Administrator Semmes advised that she would also talk about how the meeting would be run; and, would essentially set the rules. She noted that there was not a lot of time to address the items on the agenda; and, explained that she wanted to make the most efficient use of the participants' time.

Town Planner Beniamino expressed his opinion that item #3 on the agenda (cooperation/communication/efficiency) would be a brain storming session. He noted that the staff would have easels of paper available on which to write down the ideas that were generated. Mr. Beniamino advised that he would handle agenda item #4, which was the division of the tasks that the Council saw on a regular basis, in addition to those items the Planning Commission saw. (Councilmember Snyder arrived at the meeting at 8:17 a.m.) He explained that he wanted the participants to be aware of the processes and the time it took to go through them.

Town Planner Beniamino advised Council that agenda item #5 would involve a discussion of the Commission's priorities. He reminded them that they had asked the Commission for their list of priorities; and, noted that they have assembled the larger items under this agenda item. Mr. Beniamino advised that when the staff talked about listening, this was the item where the Council would listen to the Planning Commission. He explained that the expectation was that after the joint meeting, the Council would meet to digest what the Commission told them and set their priorities for the Commission. Mr. Beniamino suggested that those goals then be incorporated into the Council's goals list.

Vice Mayor Kirk expressed her opinion that the staff was suggesting that the Commission talk to the Council about what they thought their goals should be, with the Council then deciding what they should do. Mayor Davis noted that even though the agenda indicated that it would be a "discussion" of priorities, while the Council could ask questions, it was not intended to be a time for the Council to discuss the goals. She suggested that this was the time to listen and ask questions for clarification purposes, with the Council discussing it later. Ms. Davis noted that the Council would then meet with the Commission once more to review their decision.

Town Planner Beniamino expressed his opinion that this exercise should be done once a year. He suggested the Council and Commission meet annually to discuss where the Commission had been and what problems they had encountered. Mr. Beniamino suggested the Council should set the direction and priorities for the Commission so they were not working on projects in which they did not understand what the Council was looking for and so the Council understood what the Commission felt was important.

Councilmember Shea expressed concern about the new agenda format. She noted that the Commission had already met and identified their goals, which were submitted to the Council. Ms. Shea expressed concern that the Commission was now being asked months later to explain rather than discuss them. She advised that she would really like to have more interaction than was being suggested.

Town Planner Beniamino noted that the Council has not had the opportunity to discuss the Commission's ideas. He explained that the staff did not want the Commission to watch the Council hold such a discussion. Mr. Beniamino suggested the Council should understand the Commission's position and ask questions.

Councilmember Shea suggested there was a third possibility, which was an exchange. She expressed her opinion that the Council has held a discussion of the Planning Commission's proposed goals. Mayor Davis questioned whether they had. Councilmember Shea expressed her opinion that they had. Town Administrator Semmes asked whether the Council felt they had a consensus with regard to the Commission's proposed goals. Councilmember Snyder expressed his opinion that they did not; and, advised that he had "major problems" with the items on the list. Town Administrator Semmes suggested that since the members of Council had not reached a consensus, the Commission should be provided the opportunity to explain why they thought their proposed goals were important. She further suggested that the Council then get together to reach a consensus. Ms. Semmes reminded Council that the issue was resources; and, noted the need to know where the staff should spend its time and the Town's money.

Mayor Davis expressed her opinion that the Council should ask questions if they did not understand what the Commission was proposing as they went through their list. She suggested that the Council should not discuss the proposed goals and try to reach a consensus on them during the joint meeting. Ms. Davis further suggested that the Commission be allowed to explain why they thought their priorities were important. She expressed her opinion that the Council could discuss this further in a work session.

Councilmember Shea expressed her opinion that there were other ways to address this item other than the Planning Commission explaining their goals. Mayor Davis stressed that the Council did not want this agenda item to turn into a work session discussion. Councilmember Murdock expressed her opinion that the issue was discussion versus decision. Councilmember Shea noted that she was not encouraging the Council to reach a decision; however, she suggested that they be allowed to add to or subtract from what the Commission was proposing. She further suggested that there had been a breakdown in communication; and, expressed her opinion that this type of format was the reason it had occurred.

Mayor Davis reiterated that the Council and Planning Commission would get together again to communicate; and, noted that there was not enough time on January 11<sup>th</sup> to accomplish everything. She expressed her opinion that the proposed agenda would take a couple of hours. Town Planner Beniamino noted that this was why he wanted to hold a day-long session. Councilmember Snyder noted that this was why he suggested the meeting be held on a Saturday. Town Planner Beniamino noted that he could not get the meeting scheduled for a Saturday. He suggested that the staff track and quickly turn around the discussions. Mr. Beniamino expressed his opinion that the Council could hold their discussion during the January work session. He suggested that the Council include their goal list in this discussion; and, suggested they were related. Mr. Beniamino expressed his opinion that there should not be two different sets of goals. Councilmember Murdock suggested the Town should have the same goals.

Councilmember Snyder disagreed; and, noted that the two bodies had different functions. Councilmember Murdock suggested the two bodies should agree on something that the Town would work towards. Councilmember Snyder agreed with the need for the two bodies to agree on the Commission's priorities. He noted the need to understand the Commission's concerns. Mr. Snyder suggested the need for listening on both sides; and, noted that the Commission was the Town's planning body. He suggested the need for the Commission to focus more on planning and less on the site plan review process. Mr. Snyder noted that the Commission was not a building department; however, he suggested they were acting as if they were.

Councilmember Littleton suggested the Council needed to hear the Commission's frustrations and plan. He further suggested the need to absorb what they said and for the Council to then talk about it as a body. Mr. Littleton expressed his opinion that this should not be done in front of them as it would only frustrate the Commission. He noted that the Council may have different ideas about what the Commission was saying; and, suggested that they sort out their views and then get back to the Commission on a united front. Mr. Littleton expressed his opinion that this was the best approach, as opposed to discussing the Commission's priorities as individuals.

Town Administrator Semmes suggested the Council wanted there to be positive energy during the meeting. She expressed her understanding that there was friction between the Council and Planning Commission; and, suggested the Council needed to give as much time to this process as was necessary to eliminate the friction. She expressed her opinion that having a "free-for-all" could be destructive. Ms. Semmes reminded Council that the Commission members spent a lot of time on government business, more than any other volunteer body. She suggested the need to respect them and let them know the Council was listening to them without judging. Ms. Semmes noted that sometimes a discussion could evolve into judgment. Councilmember Shea disagreed with some of the staff's assumptions.

Vice Mayor Kirk expressed frustration because she did not believe the Commission was listening to the Council. She suggested they "went off on tangents". Ms. Kirk asked whether the Commission was going to follow what the Council told them they wanted them to do.

Town Planner Beniamino noted the need for the Council to discuss the Commission's proposed priorities and then to set the priorities for them. He expressed hope that item #3 would involve a discussion on how the two bodies could reach a common understanding in order to move forward in the future. Mr. Beniamino noted that he sat in the Council meetings and tried to understand and take a synopsis to the Commission; however, sometimes, the staff had differing opinions as to what occurred during the Council meetings. Vice Mayor Kirk expressed her opinion that this was Councilmember Hazard's role.

Councilmember Shea suggested the agenda be broken into two meetings. Councilmember Snyder expressed his opinion that this was not appropriate. Councilmember Shea explained that she was not saying the Council should set the priorities for the Commission during the joint meeting. Vice Mayor Kirk and Councilmember Snyder suggested this would not occur. Councilmember Shea reiterated that she was not saying the Council should discuss the priorities proposed by the Commission during the joint meeting. Mayor Davis noted that this was what she was saying. Councilmember Shea explained that she was suggesting that the presentation of the Commission's goals should be done separately. She suggested that the joint meeting simply cover items 1-4. Mayor Davis asked whether Councilmember Shea was suggesting that the Council not hear from the Commission on what they thought was important. Councilmember Shea expressed her opinion that if items 1-4 were discussed, the Council would hear about the priorities. She suggested that if the Council was not willing to discuss the differences and priorities because they had not set them, this agenda item should wait.

Councilmember Littleton expressed his opinion that what Councilmember Shea was suggesting was what the remainder of Council was saying. Mayor Davis expressed her opinion that it was important for the Council to hear what the Commission thought was important. She noted that the Council could then discuss that later and have another meeting with the Planning Commission.

Town Administrator Semmes reminded Council that the Commission's priorities have all come in the form of paper. She noted that they have not heard from the Commission in person. Ms. Semmes suggested that to do so would inform the Council and show respect for the Commission.

Councilmember Shea expressed her opinion that the Council was saying it did not want a discussion of priorities but rather wanted a presentation by the Commission to the Council. The remainder of Council agreed this was what they were saying. Mayor Davis suggested the agenda be changed to read "presentation of priorities". Town Planner Beniamino apologized; and, noted that it was originally entitled "goal setting". He explained that he thought that to title these items as goals as too confusing since the Council was also looking at their own goals. Councilmember Murdock noted that these were the Commission's goals.

Councilmember Snyder agreed with the need to listen to the Commission. Councilmember Littleton noted that the Council owed this to them as they were a volunteer body. Councilmember Shea suggested that the staff change the title for agenda item #5 to "presentation of priorities". She further suggested that rather than "discussion of future actions", another item be added to identify that the Council would meet again. Town Planner Beniamino explained that this item was left on the agenda so the Commission would know when the next Council meeting would be. Councilmember Snyder suggested that agenda item #6 be removed.

Councilmember Murdock inquired as to the proposed seating arrangements. Mayor Davis noted that everyone would be seated at one large table. Town Planner Beniamino confirmed the plan was for the bodies to sit in a mixture, rather than separately. Vice Mayor Kirk suggested that the Commission be seated together in order to make their presentation. Town Planner Beniamino noted that there were only four Commission members. He agreed to get with Councilmember Murdock after the work session to discuss the seating arrangements.

Councilmember Snyder advised that he wanted the meeting to be efficient, as he did not want to stay more than an hour. He further advised that he would not be there for two hours as it was too long for him. Mayor Davis noted that the agenda, as proposed, would take two hours. She further noted that this was no different than a normal meeting. Ms. Davis suggested the two bodies do whatever they could get done.

Councilmember Shea asked that the agenda be revised to reflect the review, brain storming and other changes. She suggested this was an entirely different focus than was previously presented. Vice Mayor Kirk suggested that Mayor Davis be placed at the head of the table. There was some discussion regarding the seating arrangements.

Vice Mayor Kirk suggested the Council set an alternate date for the meeting in the event of inclement weather. Town Planner Beniamino asked that they not do so; and, noted the difficulty in setting this date. Councilmember Murdock expressed her opinion that the person this most affected was the Town Clerk. Town Clerk North advised Council that she would be present for the meeting regardless of the weather. Town Planner Beniamino noted that the weather may cause difficulties for Councilmember Hazard as he would be returning from Washington, DC that evening. Town Administrator Semmes noted that she may have jury duty that day, in which case, she may be traveling from Alexandria.

Council asked that the revised agenda be sent out electronically.

### **Review of January 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting Agenda**

Mayor Davis reminded Council that the only action items on the regular agenda were the Resolution of Appreciation for the volunteers for the Christmas in Middleburg event and the project agreement regarding the Middleburg Meandering Trail.

Councilmember Shea expressed her opinion that there would be public comment made during the meeting. She explained that she has been approached by citizens about the issues associated with DeeDee Hubbard and the fact that interviews occurred at the Town Hall. Ms. Shea expressed her opinion that people were angry. She explained that individuals were called to the Town Hall and interviewed about the Christmas in Middleburg event. Town Administrator Semmes confirmed that Chief Webber and the State Police used the Council Chambers to conduct interviews for their continuing investigation into Ms. Hubbard's case. Councilmember Murdock noted that there was no space at the Police Department for such interviews. Councilmember Littleton asked why the citizens were upset about the use of the Council Chambers space. Councilmember Shea expressed her opinion that they were upset about being asked about the Christmas in Middleburg event and the issue of the use of its funds. Councilmember Murdock noted that this was a police matter. Councilmember Shea reiterated that some people were upset, frightened and angry; and, would make comment. Town Administrator Semmes expressed her opinion that there were concerns about the police investigation. Vice Mayor Kirk noted that there were also concerns about the use of the Town Office.

Vice Mayor Kirk asked whether something had been sent to the merchants regarding the Christmas in Middleburg event. Economic Development Coordinator Pearson reported that she had heard that something was sent out on behalf of the Middleburg Business & Professional Association soliciting funds for Ms. Hubbard's expenses. She noted that she was trying to get a copy of the document; however, she advised that it did not come from the Business & Professional Association.

Vice Mayor Kirk noted that she heard something about a questionnaire that went out asking about the success of the Christmas in Middleburg event. Economic Development Coordinator Pearson confirmed that a survey was sent to area businesses by the Town and the Middleburg Business & Professional Association. Vice Mayor Kirk requested a copy of the survey and its results.

Councilmember Murdock expressed her opinion that the agenda item related to the Middleburg Meandering Trail was just a formality.

Vice Mayor Kirk inquired as to the details of the presentation by Loudoun County's Economic Development Director. Economic Development Coordinator Pearson advised Council that Mr. Flynn would be in Town that day for a tour; and, wanted to appear before Council to introduce himself. She noted that his presentation would be very short.

Vice Mayor Kirk noted that the Town Administrator's written report indicated that the Town was checking on what could be a faulty meter. She asked whether this had been checked yet. Town Administrator Semmes advised that she would have to check with the Town Treasurer; however, she believed that it had been and that the meter had been found to be in proper working order.

Vice Mayor Kirk asked about the status of the Lee-Jackson holiday. She reported that the County was not observing it but rather was giving their employees a floating holiday. Ms. Kirk asked whether the Town wanted to follow what the County was doing; and, noted that it usually did. Mayor Davis inquired as to the date. Vice Mayor Kirk reiterated that they were not observing it.

Town Clerk North explained that the Lee Jackson Holiday had normally been observed the Friday before Martin Luther King Day. She further explained that the County was staying open that day, but giving their employees a floating holiday. Councilmember Littleton asked whether the employees could take either day off. Town Clerk North explained that an employee could take their floating holiday on Lee Jackson Day or they could take it another day of the year, it was their choice. Councilmember Snyder noted that it was simply paid time off. Vice Mayor Kirk asked whether the Town wanted to follow what the County was doing, since they usually did. Councilmember Snyder confirmed that he did as it kept things simple. Vice Mayor Kirk asked whether a motion was needed. Town Clerk North expressed her opinion that it was not as the Employee Handbook was written to follow the County's holiday schedule. Councilmember Snyder agreed. Councilmember Shea suggested a motion be made and approved so it was in the minutes.

*Councilmember Littleton moved, seconded by Councilmember Snyder, that the Town follow the County's holiday schedule by giving the employees a floating holiday in lieu of the Lee-Jackson holiday.*

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers Kirk, Littleton, Murdock, Shea and Snyder

No – N/A

Abstain: N/A

Absent: Councilmember Hazard and Stewart

(Mayor Davis did not vote as there was no tie to require her vote)

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Town Planner Beniamino displayed the bronze plaque the Town purchased in recognition of the Great American Streets Award. He noted that he was bringing this matter to the attention of the Streetscape and HDRC Committees within the next month so they could identify proposed locations. Mr. Beniamino reminded Council that they wanted the plaque to be placed on Washington Street; and, suggested the area in front of the Safeway may be a nice location. He noted that the Streetscape and HDRC Committees would look at other locations as well. Mr. Beniamino advised Council that John Ralph, of Quail Run Signs, recently informed him that the plaque could not be placed in the sidewalk due to its raised lettering. Councilmember Snyder noted that it would have been great in the sidewalk; however, he expressed his opinion that the Streetscape Committee would have ideas for its location.

Councilmember Shea expressed her opinion that the community dinner that was held at the Back Street Café on Christmas Day was a success, with about fifty meals being served. She noted that money was donated in an amount that more than covered the costs. Ms. Shea advised Council that she has approached the Middleburg Business & Professional Association about taking over this event as an annual project next year. Councilmember Littleton expressed his opinion that the dinner was a great idea. Councilmember Shea reiterated that approximately fifty meals were served, including those that were sent to the Fire Department. She noted that the police officer on duty also joined them for dinner. Ms. Shea advised Council that anyone who served also ate a meal. She noted that it was an enjoyable day for all involved.

Councilmember Littleton asked whether a lot of people participated who could not afford meals. Councilmember Shea confirmed there were some. She noted that some people were just walking by and saw that the restaurant was open. Ms. Shea advised Council that the meal was not intended to be for poor people, but was intended for those who were alone or who could not fix their own dinner. Town Administrator Semmes noted that the Methodist Church in Purcellville held a similar dinner on Thanksgiving; however, the participants had to pre-qualify. She expressed her opinion that it was nice that the town was willing to share.

Councilmember Shea noted that there was not a lot of PR this year regarding the event; and, suggested that this was something for the Business & Professional Association to work on next year.

Mayor Davis asked whether the diners had to pay for their meal. Councilmember Shea confirmed that no one paid. She explained that citizens volunteered to donate money to cover all the costs; and, noted that Councilmember and Mrs. Littleton donated a substantial amount. Ms. Shea advised that the service, cooking and restaurant space were all donated. She reiterated that the donations covered the cost of the meal. Mayor Davis expressed her opinion that this was a nice idea. She thanked Councilmember Shea for organizing it.

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 a.m.

APPROVED:

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Betsy A. Davis, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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Rhonda S. North, MMC, Town Clerk