

**TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES**  
**Teleconference via GoToMeeting**  
**Wednesday, January 26, 2022**  
**3:30pm**

Vice Mayor Sitoula and Councilwoman Grumbine met in work session via teleconference on Wednesday, January 26, 2022. Also, in attendance was Town Clerk Andrea Brady.

Mayor Paulin and Town Manager Hicks were not able to attend the meeting.

January 7, 2022, Closed Session – Friday, January 7, 2022, the Council and Town Manager held a closed session with RXBSA at 11:00am per §3-305(b)(4) To consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State. The Council received an update on a proposed business and their request to the Town. The closed session adjourned at 12:15pm.

January 14, 2022, Closed Session – Friday, January 14, 2022, the Council and Town Manager held a closed session at 12:00pm per §3-305(b)(5) To consider the investment of public funds. The Council discussed an agreement between the grocery store initiative and the Town. The Council agreed with parts of the agreement and future meetings. The closed session adjourned at 12:45pm.

Roderick Lewis Jr.: Field Representative, Office of Senator Ben Cardin – Mr. Lewis was not present for the meeting.

Grocery Store Initiative Update – RXBSA was not present for the meeting.

Draft MOU – Energetics Technology Center – Vice Mayor Sitoula reviewed the information, and at this time he is not in favor of any agreement and felt the Town should figure out the current agreement with the grocery store initiative before becoming involved in anything additional. Vice Mayor Sitoula also did not feel comfortable binding the next Council to an extended agreement since the requested MOU was for a 10-year time frame. Councilwoman Grumbine agreed with Vice Mayor Sitoula. Both members of Council felt that the situation with the grocery initiative should be handled before becoming involved in another agreement.

Route 210 – South Technology Corridor – Vice Mayor Sitoula felt this is fantastic, it does not cost the Town any resources and focuses on the technology aspect of the area. Councilwoman Grumbine was also in favor of this.

In Person Meetings – Council agreed to remain virtual through the February Town meeting, and they will continue to discuss in person meetings moving forward.

Innovative Pyrotechnic Concepts Quote – Vice Mayor Sitoula suggested the need to potentially tighten up the belt on the budget and consider not having the fireworks. A \$17,000 expenditure may not be warranted at this time, but he suggested further discussion with the Mayor. Councilwoman Grumbine spoke about the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event bringing outside traffic into the Town

which helps bring traffic to local businesses and she feels it may be important to keep it going. Vice Mayor Sitoula suggested contacting the County and La Plata to see if they would be willing to share in the cost since they do not host fireworks and the Town's display is viewed by their residents as well. The Council will come to a final decision via email, to prevent the need to wait until next month's work session for a decision.

February Town Meeting Agenda – No changes or additions.

Roundtable:

Mayor – Not present

Vice Mayor – None

Councilwoman – Councilwoman Grumbine got invited to a meeting of the Mattawoman Creek Foundation in reference to the Bryans Road airport being expanded. The Foundation is trying to avoid the expansion due to concerns on lead contamination. Councilwoman Grumbine has tried to log on for each meeting she has been invited to. Vice Mayor Sitoula spoke about the years that planes have been flying and have not caused contamination in larger areas such as DC. It would be his opinion that the expansion should still happen, but he encouraged Councilwoman Grumbine to continue attending and bring back any important information to share with the Council.

Town Manager – Not present

Town Clerk – None

Vice Mayor Sitoula adjourned the work session at 3:49pm.

  
Andrea Brady, Town Clerk