

Crewe Appoints Tessie Bacon Town Attorney

CREWE – After long not having an attorney, Crewe Town Council last week appointed a counsel.

During its monthly meeting at Crewe Library and Conference Center, council approved the appointment of Tessie Bacon as its attorney.

She is not on retainer, according to Mayor Lee Simmons. She will be paid an hourly rate of \$150.

“This should actually save money,” said the mayor in an email to The Journal, “and I was impressed with her and her firm during the interview.

Ms. Bacon is from Kenbridge and works for the Richmond law firm of Cowan & Gates.

She is not expected to handle the town’s lawsuit with Ben Jones, a hearing in which is scheduled at 1 p.m., April 28, in Nottoway Circuit Court.

In the past, the mayor has said not having an attorney has handicapped the town on many fronts.

The appointment was in addition to moves reported in last week’s edition of The Journal, including raising sewer rates for residential and business customers, approving a zoning request to allow a property on Melody Lane to revert to its former use as a trucking company, and adopting an international building code to allow the county building inspector to serve the town.

Other action and information emerging from last Monday night’s meeting included the following:

- Council agreed to hold a work session on March 28 primarily to discuss the future

of Crewe Community Center. An independent building inspector recently recommended to the municipality to demolish the aging building, saying it would be less expensive to build a new building rather than attempt to renovate the present structure. There remains support for trying to save the old building. Resident Vince Taylor, in a letter published in last week’s Journal, said demolishing the building may not be a smart move. It remains how much the project would cost, and it may be a moot point at the juncture because of the town’s tight finances.

- It was announced that the council’s budget committee

would begin meeting to start shaping the 2011-2012 budget.

- The governing body’s public works committee is scheduled to make a recommendation to council at its April meeting on whether to hold a town-wide spring cleanup similar to the one held last fall.

- Bids will be sought on the cost to paint town hall.

- The panel’s finance committee said it would study the impact of purchasing two new patrol cars for the police department. Initial cost is in more than \$60,000 (including making the vehicles police-ready). The vehicles would

replace two 2001 Ford, one of which is not in service and the other is showing signs of what the mayor called “heavy wear.” The mayor favors purchasing the cars, but council will have the final say at its April meeting.

- Council’s parks and recreation committee said it would present a proposed design for a veterans memorial during next month’s council meeting. Councilwoman Shirley Daulton, who heads the

committee, said it has facilitated obtaining new mulch for the town playground and ordered a brighter light for the playground.

- Council gave the mayor permission to write a letter to Prince Edward County stating that the town is interested in that county’s water authority. The mayor said the letter would not commit the town to the project financially.