

TOWN OF BRANCHVILLE  
NEEDS ASSESSMENT- PUBLIC HEARING  
MARCH 19, 2014  
MAYOR GLENN MILLER, PRESIDING

The Needs Assessment Public Hearing for the Town of Branchville was held on March 10, 2014 at 6pm at the Town Hall. Mayor Miller called the meeting to order.

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call indicated that Mayor Pro-Tem Tom Jennings, Councilman Sam Whisenhunt, Councilman Chris Ott and Councilman Gregory Oliver were present.

Mayor Miller welcomed the guest.

**Backhoe:** Mayor Miller said the auctioneer, Joe Burns, said he did not think the town would get \$15,000.00 for the backhoe. Councilman Michael Blankenship walked into the meeting. Mayor Miller said Ethan Beeks from Metts Engineering had walked in. Mayor Miller asked if council would allow Mr. Beeks to be moved up on the agenda. Mayor Pro-Tem made the motion to allow Mr. Beeks to speak to council now. Councilman Gregory Oliver seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Beeks said that a Needs Assessment-Public Hearing is needed to apply for federal based grants and needs to be done once a year.

Mayor Miller asked if a grant could be applied for building a house. Ms. Beeks said no but a grant with CDBG could be applied for lighting in an area or housing development.

Ms. Marianna Street asked if the town would have to put up money. Mr. Beeks said a 10 percent match. Councilman Blankenship asked what role Metts would play. He asked if Metts would bid on the project. Mr. Beeks said that with Metts being in Branchville they just wanted to help the community. Mr. Beeks said it depends on the job if they would bid on it or not.

Councilman Whisenhunt said he had a list for the grants: youth trade program facility, demo old Lockett School, old freight depot, solar panels for street lights, replace asbestos water lines, replace motors at pump stations, and repave Fairey St. Mayor Miller said he liked the idea of the pump station, water lines, and solar panels.

Mr. Beeks said he would like go down the list on the agenda. First on the list was housing, Mayor Miller asked what could be used for housing. Mr. Beeks said if there was trouble with lighting around a house. Second on the list was public safety. Councilman Blankenship asked for more detail for public safety. Mr. Beeks said crime watch, speed bumps, or stop lights. Councilman Chris Ott asked if it could go for a new police car or hiring a new police officer. Mr. Beeks said no, it would go for capital projects not operational expenses. Third on the list is

infrastructure. Mr. Beeks said that is water, waste water, drainage and sewer. Councilman Blankenship asked if it would fix a pothole. Mr. Beeks said no, the minimum for this grant is \$50,000.00 and the maximum is \$1,000,000.00 for this year. Fourth on the list were public facilities. A library, a community center, the old school, and a ball field were talked about. Ms. Pam Jones said Branchville needs a library. Mayor Miller said he would have more information on a library at the next meeting. Fifth on the list was economic development, Mr. Beeks said it would be used to make the businesses here more efficient or streetscapes. Sixth on the list were obstacles to economic competitiveness. Seventh on the list was neighborhood and downtown revitalization. Mayor Miller said solar panels. Eighth on the list was workforce development. Mayor Miller said training.

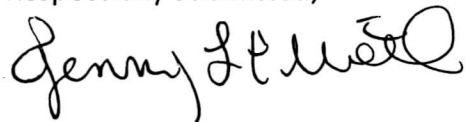
Councilman Blankenship asked where do we go from here. Mr. Beeks said to pick what is most important. He said he heard asbestos lines, library, and lighting were important. Councilman Blankenship asked what the public's thoughts were. Ms. Marianna Street said a library. Ms. Luvenia Williams said more businesses. Mr. Beeks said we need three specific needs. Mayor Miller asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

Councilman Gregory Oliver made motion to reduce the price on the backhoe to \$13,000.00 for one week if it does not sell, after one week reduce it to \$12,000.00. This will be a first come sale. Councilman Blankenship seconded the motion. The motion carried. Mayor Miller said he would make sure it is legal to sell it that way.

Mayor Miller said someone would like to put a Dollar General Supermarket on the Industrial Park. Mayor Miller said if the Dollar General fails the land will come back to the town. Councilman Whisenhunt made the motion to pursue a contract with Steven Allen for a Dollar General Supermarket providing that the land comes back to the town if the Dollar General fails. Councilman Ott seconded the motion. The motion carried. Councilman Whisenhunt said council wants to meet with Mr. Allen along with the town's attorney.

Councilman Whisenhunt made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Ott seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:18.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jenny Elliott  
Town Clerk