

TOWN OF BRANCHVILLE
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE WORK SESSION
January 20, 2015

The organizational structure work session for the Town of Branchville was held on January 20, 2015 at 6pm at Town Hall. A notice was placed on the door of the Town Hall with the time, date, and place of the meeting at least 24 hours before the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Glenn Miller at 6pm. Mayor, Council, along with all those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by prayer.

Roll call indicated all Councilmembers were present.

Mayor Miller welcomed the guests.

Bill Taylor: Bill Taylor with the MASC said he knew there had been issues in Branchville. He said he was there to bring everyone up to date or to help clarify these issues. Bill Taylor said Branchville has a council form of government meaning Branchville has a strong Council weak Mayor. He said the Mayor serves as another member of council. Bill Taylor said the rules and procedures of the town and the administration falls on council. He said in a strong council/weak mayor form the mayor only has the authority that council gives the mayor. Bill Taylor said the rules and procedures need to be kept up and council needs to come together and move forward.

Employee Comments: Jenny Elliott said the town employees would like to work in a fair and non-hostile environment. She said when she came to work she was not properly trained. She has heard rumors that the mayor has said she does not know how to do her job and that is why Lee Hendren stays late. Jenny Elliott said she was told by Mayor Miller she could be fired and she needed to think about her children for giving Councilman Whisenhunt papers he needed. She said the mayor has stood at her door and said negative things about councilmembers. She said at the last meeting the mayor said she was being insubordinate for calling Councilman Whisenhunt about the pay raise issue but the personnel policy states council gives pay raises. Jenny Elliott said Mayor Miller said at the last meeting that all officers had received a pay raise after 6 months but Officer James waited a year before he received his. She also said she had heard Mayor Miller threaten the customers.

Brian Delk said he called Mayor Miller on three different occasions to let him know that he was going to be late or not able to make it that day and Mayor Miller didn't let anyone know. He said he was told he almost lost his job for this. Brian Delk said there was an issue with a piece of equipment and when he mentioned Councilman Whisenhunt's and Town Clerk's name Mayor Miller cussed him. He said Mayor Miller treats people differently. He said he has heard Mayor Miller talking about the employees. Brian Delk said he has heard Mayor Miller threatening council and Mayor Miller calls council names.

Lee Hendren said the Mayor hired him and made it clear that he was his supervisor. Lee Hendren said when councilmembers give directions to a town employee without going through the Mayor it breaks the chain of command. He said it results in 7 different people telling the employee 7 different things and puts the employee in a no win situation. Lee Hendren said he is not on the Mayor's side or Council's side, he is on Team Branchville.

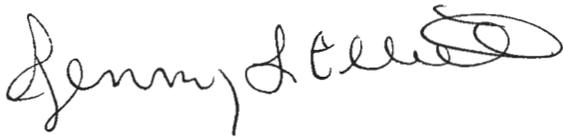
Councilman Whisenhunt said when he was voted to council he tried to do what was right for the Town. He said Mr. Taylor gave him a book on how the town should be run and he has tried to follow the book. He said some may view it as a power struggle he sees it as trying to do what is right. Councilman Whisenhunt said Mayor Miller will ignore what council votes on or do the opposite. Councilman Whisenhunt said customers have come to council meetings about their water bills and Mayor Miller told the customers it was their fault. Councilman Whisenhunt said when checked the meter it was not the customer's fault. Councilman Whisenhunt said Mayor Miller has no regards for budget and has spent \$15,000 in unapproved spending. He said Mayor Miller does not keep order during meetings and does not stay on task. Councilman Whisenhunt said council can not be heard during meeting due to the public speaking out of turn. He said council voted on having the Town's Christmas party in town and the next day Mayor Miller petitioned the town's employees to go to Ryan's. He said at the next meeting council said they were going to keep the Christmas party in town, the day after the Town had the Christmas party in Branchville Mayor Miller had a private party at Ryan's using the town's credit card to pay. Councilman Whisenhunt said Mayor Miller stood beside a former employee that was caught stealing from the town twice during court. He said Mayor Miller is hostile toward the customers. Councilman Whisenhunt said Mayor Miller creates a hostile work environment for the town's employees. Councilman Whisenhunt said he was recommending that Mayor Miller submit his resignation or he should have no further authority over departments, he not consult with customers for the Town, return the truck and credit cards and vacate his office. Councilman Blankenship said he fully supported Councilman Whisenhunt's recommendation. He said he would like to apologize for the meeting. He said the last meeting was a travesty. Councilman Blankenship said he would like to thank Bill Taylor and the town's employees for coming forward. He said he is tired of all the confrontation. Councilman Ott asked if the Christmas party at Ryan's was paid with the town's funds. Mayor Miller said they were supposed to have the Christmas party at the cheapest place. Councilman Blankenship said council decided to keep the money in Branchville. Councilman Blankenship asked Bill Taylor if he had any more comments on what he heard. Bill Taylor said there is a recognition that there is a problem. He said council needs to come together. Bill Taylor said council can not make another councilmember resign. Councilman Oliver said if each councilmember took a task he thought they could work together. Mayor Miller said the town was paying McGregor \$300 a month to write checks that is not in the budget. Jenny Elliott said McGregor doesn't write checks. Mayor Miller said he just signed a check for payroll. Jenny Elliott said McGregor does payroll taxes. Mayor Miller said a few months ago council was ready to pay for a septic tank to be cleaned out that was not budgeted. Mayor Miller said Councilman Whisenhunt had the maintenance workers working overtime to clean out the septic tank that was not budgeted. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said there was a clause in the lease that the repair had to be \$1,500 and Council didn't know about it. Mayor Miller said that as far as cussing someone out when he saw a piece of equipment that had been abused it got on his nerves, and if he had cussed Brian Delk out Brian Delk would have jumped up and he would have lost. Councilman Blankenship asked Mayor Miller if he had told employees not to talk to council. Mayor Miller said no. Councilman Blankenship said there were there three employees that said he did say it. Councilman Whisenhunt made a motion that a new presiding officer be elected. Councilman Blankenship seconded the motion. The motion passed. Councilman Whisenhunt made a motion that Councilman Tom Jennings preside over meetings. Councilman Blankenship seconded the motion. The motion carried. Mayor Miller said that as of now Mayor Pro Tem Jennings will preside over the meetings. Councilman Whisenhunt made a motion that Mayor Miller not have day to day authority over the employees. Councilman Blankenship seconded the motion. The motion passed. Mayor Miller, Councilwoman Bryant and Councilman Oliver nay. Mayor Pro Tem Jennings, Councilman Whisenhunt, Councilman Ott and Councilman Blankenship yay.

Executive Session: Councilman Ott made a motion to go into executive session for a personnel matter. Councilwoman Bryant seconded the motion. The motion carried. At 7:36 Council returned from executive session. Councilman Blankenship made a motion to return to public session. Councilwoman Bryant seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mayor Pro Tem Jennings said what was discussed in executive session did not require a vote now.

Adjourn: Councilman Oliver made the motion to adjourn. Councilman Whisenhunt seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:38pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jenny Elliott". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Respectfully Submitted,".

Jenny Elliott
Town Clerk