

**SPECIAL
MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF BANCROFT
March 29, 2021**

PRESENT: Donna McKneely, Bethany Adkins, Thomas Frame, David McClung (ZOOM), Wally Harper, Jami Hayes.

GUESTS: Sheriff Bobby Eggleton, George Woodrum, Jim Cochran, Matt Booth, Speedy Arthur, John Nelson, Ben Moses, Mike McKneely, Ray Asbury, Lisa Luikart, John Lewis, Amanda Lewis.
Via ZOOM: Charity Fellure, Jennifer Moses, Jan Sigman and Angel Gonzales

Mayor McKneely called special meeting to order and recognized Matt Booth.

He feels the town has a problem with dilapidated houses, but most of them are unoccupied. His situation is different because his neighbor's home is occupied. There are no windows in the mobile home, and the smell coming from inside is terrible. He can't sit on his porch or even use his back yard due to the stench. This has been going on for a while, but this year has been worse as there are no windows in the house to keep in heat or to keep the smell inside. If wind conditions are correct, the smell is even coming into his AC unit, thus smelling up his entire home. He doesn't want to see anyone lose their home, but he has a remodeled home with a new pool in the backyard that he won't be able to use.

Mayor McKneely stated the town has no way to enforce the ordinance, and many departments have been contacted to deal with the situation. This special meeting is called to explore adopting a county ordinance that may address this situation.

Sheriff Bobby Eggleton then spoke and agreed with Mr. Booth. He also reached out to the Health Department but had no luck there either. He understands the town has a problem and feels it best the Mayor ask the County Commission to allow Bancroft to adopt the County's Dilapidated and Abandoned House Ordinance, as well as any cleanup funding. He is a member of that Enforcement Agency, and there is a process that must take place before a home is demolished. He also feels the Bancroft Volunteer Fire Department could get more involved by showing their board they are doing more than firefighting.

Mayor McKneely stated that we received funding for two cleanups, and we have a third in the works. She next recognized John Nelson, next on the agenda. Mr. Nelson stated he wanted to attend in person for firsthand knowledge of the proceedings to avoid any "he said, she said" situation.

Mayor McKneely then recognized Amanda Lewis, final person on the agenda. She is representing an area of Showen Hill, that has a dilapidated structure behind her parent's house they have been dealing with for 4 years. The trailer is in horrible condition, with trash piled up all around the trailer, spilling onto their property. Many different families have lived in the trailer over the decades, and she is unsure if there is even water or sewer there. There is also a criminal element that has plagued them from this property over the years.

Sheriff Eggleton laid out the process: written complaint form filled out and turned into Board; DAEA (Dilapidated/Abandoned Enforcement Agency) conducts on-site inspection within 30 days; referred to the County Commission with recommendation and allow landowner to correct identified problem(s); PCC can dismiss case or send back to the DAEA while the Putnam County Planning Office develops procedures to notify and work with property owner to correct or address conditions. There are several other steps and considerations prior to "landowner fails

to comply, fined \$100 per day..." then "...landowner fails to comply...then the County Commission may advertise for and seek contractors to make the ordered repairs, alterations...demolition, removal or cleanup".

After much discussion, Councilman Harper moved to adopt the Putnam County Dilapidated and Abandoned Ordinance – motion passed.

Mayor McKneely stated she is on the Putnam County Commission agenda to ask permission to adopt the County ordinance in Bancroft on April 13. Town Council must then have 2 meetings with this ordinance on the agenda (First and Second Reading) before it becomes part of the Town's Ordinance book. (note: In years past, Council also adopted county rules regarding Floodplain and Election).

Sheriff Bobby Eggleton stated he would stick around to answer any questions after the meeting.

Special meeting then adjourned at 7:05.

DONNA MCKNEELY, Mayor