

MINUTES-TOWN OF POUND, VA  
January 20, 2026 @ 6:30 P.M.  
8422 North River Road, Pound, Virginia 24279

Mayor Cauthorne states the session is in order and all stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. Eddie Mullins is asked to lead prayer.

Mayor Cauthorne moves to the roll call of council for the regular session of council.

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL

Cauthorne - Here

Hall - Here

Kennedy - Here

Mullins - Here

Powers - Here

Before moving to the consent calendar Councilwoman Kennedy states that there is some information that she needs to provide before council proceeds. She states that Mr. Greg Whitaker has been in town hall and that there have been several conversations with the commissioner of revenue regarding that situation. She states that Mr. Whitaker brought up information that raised a lot of questions and that she has reached out to VML and has asked them for advice on how to proceed. Councilman Cauthorne asks if this can just be added to the agenda; Councilwoman Kennedy states no that VML has advised that we should not be having a meeting. She shares some deeds and explains that one of the deeds is one of another council member's deeds (Mr. Cauthorne), and the language in that deed makes it questionable whether or not his property is in the town limits. She states that VML thinks it best to further investigate the issue before having any meetings or votes. Councilman Cauthorne states that he is comfortable with having the meeting, and dealing with consequences later. He states that he has been paying town taxes for a number of years. She states that per the advice of VML she thinks it would not be appropriate to have the meeting. Mr. Dotson states that whether or not to move forward with the meeting would be a vote of council. Mr. Dotson states that it can be voted on to approve the agenda or have an empty agenda. Councilwoman Kennedy makes the motion to have an empty agenda and adjourn. Councilwoman Mullins seconds. Councilman Cauthorne says it is a tactic to keep the council from voting on the charter. He states that she never went to the attorney which means she is not really serious about this. He states he has been paying taxes in the town for several years. He states that he refuses to accept this and he thinks we should move forward with the meeting. Councilwoman Kennedy states that the only reason this had been investigated is because another citizen questioned if their own property was in town limits. Mayor Caurthorne asks what she wants to do; does she want to put off the meeting and not do business for five months. She states that is not what she is saying. Councilman Cauthorne says they're going to do business in that town hall it just won't be with council approval. Mayor Caurthorne agrees. Councilwoman Kennedy states that she she has reached out to all the

proper channels and they feel it needs further investigation. Councilman Cauthorne states that this is just a political tactic, and that if it was a serious thing she would have told the attorney. Mr. Dotson states that Councilwoman Kennedy did speak with him about this matter, and he wanted it raised in council so it could be discussed. He states that he feels Councilwoman Kennedy has gone through the correct channels, he just feels that it is something that needs to be looked in to. He states that as far as the question of whether or not to have the meeting that is up to the members of this body. He asks again what VML advised and Councilwoman Kennedy explains. Councilman Cauthorne says lets just have the meeting then she can have her friend Time Mcafee to sue him.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Cauthorne - No  
Hall - No  
Kennedy -Yes  
Mullins - Yes  
Powers - No

Mr. Dotson states to clarify for the record that vote was to change the agenda to have nothing on it and to adjourn the meeting.

Mayor Cauthorne asks if there is a motion to approve the consent calendar. He also states that the attorney did come to him about the agenda. Mr. Dotson states that if we are going to have meetings in 2026 then those meeting times need to be set. The Mayor asks if that can be done under other business. Mr. Dotson states yes, as long as it is done at this meeting. Councilman Cauthorne makes the motion to approve the consent calendar. Councilman Hall seconds.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Cauthorne - Yes  
Hall - Yes  
Kennedy -No  
Mullins - No  
Powers - Yes

Mayor Cauthorne states the consent calendar is approved

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

Hearing none the meeting moves forward

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Mayor Cauthorne asks if the police department would like to give a report. Chief Wilcox advises he has nothing to report.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

No one present

#### TOWN MANAGER

Mrs. Carter states that W2s have been distributed and all quarterly reports have been completed. She states that there is a meeting with the Department Of Energy this week about the AMLER grant. She states that they have been working with the county to learn how to best use DMV stops and how to set up debt to get the back taxes that are owed to be paid. She states that her other items are on the agenda. Councilman Cauthorne asks if the valero at the other end of town has shut down. Mrs. Carter states that she believed they were changing hands, but no new business license has been obtained through the office yet. Councilman Cauthorne also asks about the old New Peoples bank building. Mrs. Carter states that it is her understanding that is owned by Kerney Rental Properties and that is their home office.

#### EDA

Councilwoman Mullins states that we are breaking even on bills and things as far as the Lloyd house. She states that they don't have many volunteers to help with much. Councilman Cauthorne asks if we still need two more members to the EDA. Councilwoman Mullins states that she has approached people, but most have been unwilling. Mr. Dotson asks how many are active and Councilwoman Mullins states there are 5. Mr. Dotson asks if it was full and those other two spots went vacant, and Councilwoman Mullins says yes.

#### PLANNING COMMISSION

Mr. Carter states they did not meet in December due to the holidays. Councilman Cauthorne states there are also two vacancies on that board as well.

#### OLD BUSINESS

#### AUDIT UPDATES

Mrs. Carter states that she has talked to David Cox and has been assured that we will be able to pick up the pre audit this week. Councilman Cauthorne asks about the regular audit. Mrs. Carter advises that we could not get on their schedule until the pre audit is completed.

#### GRANT UPDATE

Councilwoman Kennedy states the DEQ grants have been reported out on, and are awaiting reimbursement. She states for VDEM we are still waiting on FEMA. She states that for the MAAV grant we have a contractor and they are working to get started with construction, and with the AMLER grant we are awaiting the audit.

#### POCKET PARK/SLID UPDATE

Councilwoman Kennedy says that is covered in the grants. Councilman Cauthorne asks if the monument is still on schedule. Councilwoman Kennedy states yes. He also asks if Cecil form UMWA is coming. Councilwoman Kennedy states that once the date for the unveiling is nailed down he will be reached out to.

## BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT

Councilman Cauthorne states that can be taken off the agenda until next month.

## SPEED LIMIT

Mrs. Carter states she has been working VDOT to get to the proper channels. She also states that she had to rework her letter requesting the speed limit change. She states that we may have to get our own contractor to do the traffic study, and she is trying to find a way around that.

## COMMITTEE/COMMISSION VACANCIES

Mayor Cauthorne asks if there is any more discussion on that. Councilman Cauthorne states to keep him updated as time goes on.

## EVENTS COMMITTEE

Councilwoman Kennedy asks about the events committee

## NEW BUSINESS

### NEW ASSESSMENTS

Mayor Cauthorne asks if there is any discussion, and asks who's item this was. Ms. Meade states she doesn't have her email in front of her so she is unsure of who sent that item. Councilman Cauthorne states it could have been his. He states he wants people to know the county assessments have gone up.

### DISINCORPERATION

Councilman Cauthorne makes the motion to instruct the town attorney to consult with the county attorney about the terms by which the Wise County would accept us back into the county and allow the Town of Pound to disincorporate. Councilwoman Mullins makes a substitute motion that we do not do anything right now. Mayor Cauthorne asks for a second to the original motion. Councilman Hall seconds the original motion. Councilwoman Kennedy seconds the substitute motion. Mayor Cauthorne asks for discussion on the substitute motion. Councilman Cauthorne asks for clarification on the substitute motion. Councilwoman Mullins states the substitute motion is to either drop the disincorporation vote or to table it until another time. She states it can be tabled until next January. Councilwoman Mullins asks who they think will come in and help this town. She asks if they think the county will come in and work for grants and work for this town. She states that disincorporation means there will be nothing here. She states that she was born and raised here and this is her home town and she wants to work to make it come back and some want to just give it to the county. Mayor Cauthorne states why don't we just let the people decide in the fall and if they want to keep it or not. Mr. Dotson asks for clarification again on Councilwoman Mullins' motion. Councilwoman Mullins states that her motion is to table disincorporation until next year. Councilwoman Kennedy seconds the motion. Mayor Cauthorne asks for discussion. Councilwoman Mullins states that she was born and raised in Pound and she wants to fight for the town to remain incorporated. She states that the county will not come in a help or work like what is being done now. Councilwoman Kennedy states that she feels there is a misconception that if the town is disincorporated that if the charter is gone for a few

years it can be gotten back. She states there won't be anyone here to work to build it back. Councilman Cauthorne asks do the people really want to continue paying taxes for what the Town of Pound offers them? He states that it is not that good things are not happening at town hall, it is just that people might not want to rebuild a crumbling infrastructure. Councilwoman Kennedy states that it has already been confirmed that there are grants out there to help pay for building repairs if that is what he is referring to. Councilman Cauthorne states what if the people just don't want to pay the taxes, and they just want to be a community. Councilwoman Kennedy states that Councilman Cauthorne is putting it out there that this will be an untaxed community which is not correct. Councilwoman Kennedy states they will still be getting taxes from the county and what is not being told to the community is that the county can create a special tax district that would charge the people of Pound more. Mayor Cauthorne asks if they can do that if the town is incorporated. Councilwoman Kennedy states the county does not set the town's tax rate, and that she thought he was supposed to be running the meeting. Mayor Cauthorne states he is. Mr. Dotson states that could be done through the agreement that is being discussed. Councilman Cauthorne states that is why it needs to go to the county to see about the rumor going around that we would have to be in a special tax district. He states that he has been told by a member of the board of supervisors that they would not do that if the town had no debt. Councilman Cauthorne states that there is nothing wrong with going to the board of supervisors and see what they will offer us. He states that we would be shutting down town hall and no longer paying employees, and that we are not getting rid of the community, we are getting rid of town hall. Councilwoman Kennedy states that there would also be no in town police coverage, and per a previous conversation with Councilman Cauthorne the people would take up arms and protect themselves. She also explains that people wind up at the Y and by the time they get to her house they will already be at 50 or 60 mph. Councilman Cauthorne says let the people decide if they want police coverage and continue to pay taxes. He states the board of supervisors is not going to make any move on the land adjustment until the charter issue is put to rest. He states that when she is up for re election she can run on the charter issue. Councilwoman Kennedy states she is not about a popularity contest. She states that she is here to help and to do something good, and that she is here to accomplish something. Councilman Cauthorne states that he is not saying that what she is doing is not good for the town he just wants a vote on whether people want to pay taxes for what is provided. He states this is simply going to the county and asking the question of whether or not there will be a special tax district. Councilwoman Kennedy states that he has tried to get rid of the charter from the very first day he stepped on council and that he is not here to help the town he is here to destroy it. Councilman Cauthorne states he is here to represent the tax payers. Councilwoman Kennedy states it is evident that he wants to destroy the town by the fact that since he came on council things have gone down hill. Councilman Cauthorne states that when water and sewer were gone there is no real benefit to being in town limits. Councilwoman Kennedy states that happened on his watch. He states he was not in the majority in those votes. Councilwoman Kennedy states that part of the problem there is that no one was willing to admit the water and sewer system needed work. Councilman Cauthorne agrees. Councilwoman Kennedy calls for the question. Mayor Cauthorne calls for a roll call vote on the substitute motion made by Councilwoman Mullins.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Cauthorne - No  
Hall - No  
Kennedy -Yes  
Mullins - Yes  
Powers - No

The motion does not pass. Mayor Cauthorne asks for a roll call vote on the original motion to have our attorney to discuss with the wise county attorney about the terms with which they would accept us back in to the county and disincorporate the Town Of Pound. Councilman Cauthorne clarifies that this is not a vote for disincorporation it is simply seeing for instance whether or not the county would put us in a special tax district and that it is informational only.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Cauthorne - Yes  
Hall - Yes  
Kennedy -No  
Mullins - No  
Powers - Yes

VT APPALACHIAN FUTURES LAB

Councilwoman Kennedy states that because of our association with VT Pound was chosen to participate in the Appalachian futures lab through the architecture. They will be in Pound next week to look at buildings. There will be a community meeting on that Wednesday.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Cauthorne asks if there is a motion to set the meeting times. Councilman Caurthorne states third Tuesday at 6:30pm at town hall. Councilman Hall seconds

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Cauthorne - Yes  
Hall - Yes  
Kennedy -Yes  
Mullins - Yes  
Powers - Yes

The motion passes. Mayor Cauthorne asks if there is any other business. Councilwoman Kennedy states fish and game associations property runs adjacent to the property on the Red Fox Trail that was ear marked for the campsites. She states since that is a dead issue the game and hunt club would like the property. Councilwoman Kennedy makes the motion that the sell them the property for the price of \$1.00. She states the town has gotten their money back and then some with what we were able to keep off the VOF grant. She states the money was money that Debbi Hale raised to begin with and that if the town is not going to use the property they should have it. Tony Powers from the hunt club gives a small description of some of the things

they do for the area and children in the area. Councilman Hall states that Debbi Hale lied to him and he doesn't put up with that. Councilwoman Mullins seconds the motion. Councilman Cauthorne asks when the Vice Mayor knew about this. She states that Debbi reached out to her but there was not time to have it on the agenda ahead of time. Councilman Cauthorne states it is an item of such importance that it should have been on the agenda and makes the motion to table it to next month so it can be digested. Councilwoman Kennedy states that she would amend her motion to say to have a public hearing on the sale. Councilman Cauthorne states he made a substitute motion to table it. Councilman Hall seconds the motion. Mr. Powers explains that he has to go through the forest service to get permits for their state hunt. Mr. Dotson states that his only question would be whether or not the town owns it. Councilwoman Kennedy states they are willing to take the property knowing the dead of dedication is there. Mr. Dotson states he does not need time to look into it.

#### ROLL CALL VOTE:

Cauthorne - Yes

Hall - Yes

Kennedy -No

Mullins - No

Powers - Yes

Councilman Cauthorne asks the attorney about giving them a lease permit for their hunt. Councilman Cauthorne states the thing is that council was not told that anyone wanted to have the property before the meeting. Councilwoman Kennedy states that it was a little last minute and she apologizes that it was not on the agenda. Councilman Cauthorne states he wants to be in the loop and that is the manager's job to keep things running at town hall. Councilman Cauthorne speaks again about a lease agreement. Councilman Hall states we don't want to be liable for anything.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Eddie Mullins Church Street Pound, asks if this is the first time we are approaching the county. He states he wants to look at all the options on the table and what the county would offer. And speaks about the slide at church street.

Angie Barnett out of town limits. She states that the question comes to her mind that if we approach the county and they paint a rosie picture who is to say they will stick by that. She states the county is really in no shape to take care of Pound. She states she hopes the people who do live in town make the right decision

Sandra Anderson lives out of the town but owns property in town. She explains she was raised here and she is so upset that the council wants to disincorporate. She states everyone needs to go back and look at the history of town. She states that people need to be more informed.

Jimmy Taylor in town limits, he states that giving the town to Wise county would be terrible for the town. He states people don't understand everything that is going on and that he was raised

here. He states the county is even in debt for their sidewalks and what does anyone think they will do for Pound. He explains the county will not care about us or help us because they are broke.

Councilman Hall states the only thing he knows is we are not getting anything for our tax dollars. Councilwoman Kennedy states that is not true and explains we have street lights, a police department, fire department, street cleaning, mowing, etc.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Cauthorne makes the motion to adjourn. Councilman Hall seconds

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Cauthorne - Yes

Hall - Yes

Kennedy -Yes

Mullins - Yes

Powers - Yes

APPROVED ON THIS THE 17 DAY OF Feb, 2026.

  
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JOHN CAUTHORNE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
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COURTNEY MEADE, CLERK