

MINUTES-TOWN OF POUND, VA
February 17, 2026 @ 6:30 P.M.
8422 North River Road, Pound, Virginia 24279

Mayor Cauthorne states the session is in order.

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

Pastor Greg Cyphers opens in prayer. Followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Cauthorne asks for a motion to approve the consent calendar. Councilman Cauthorne makes the motion to approve the consent calendar, Councilman Hall seconds.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Cauthorne - Yes

Hall - Yes

Kennedy -Yes

Mullins - Yes

Powers - Yes

Mayor Cauthorne states the consent calendar is approved

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Angela Meade: Out of town. Ms. Meade makes comments on disincorporation stating she has weighed both sides cautiously, and feels that the county would not have the town's best interest at heart if it were to give up its charter. She also states she saw the WCYB segment and she was bothered by Councilman Cauthorne stating that the town didn't want anything. She also states that it was her understanding of the motion from the last meeting that the town attorney would speak to the county attorney to see what the terms would be.

Brenda Hurst: In town limits, She states that she agrees with Ms. Meade. She also expresses concerns with a presentation by Councilman Cauthorne at the Board of Supervisors meeting. She questions the motivation for the charter being dissolved.

Glen Cantrell: In Town Limits, states he is a former council member and states that Councilman Powers and Councilman Hall have targets on their backs. He states that Councilman Cauthorne went to the Board Of Supervisors and a proposal was made that was not agreed to by council.

He states that the proposal stated that the town did not want street lights or police coverage. He states that he loves this town and will continue to fight for this town.

Daphne Williams: Out of town limits, property owner in town. She speaks on a land issue. She states that since she was last here there is now a home on their property.

Sierra Noble: Stacy Branch Rd, She states that she is against the hunt club getting the camp ground property. She states it is a safety concern and a nuisance. She also states they want to buy the property.

Harold Greer: Out of Town, He states that the county is in a mess because of the school consolidation. He states he favors county consolidation. He states it's hard on all towns right now.

Debi Hale: Out of limits, She states that she was raised here and taught her for many years. She states that she was asked to help with tourism. She explains that the town has a lot of outdoor recreation opportunities. She explains the Virginia Outdoors Foundation grant. She asks that that property be given to the hunt club.

Diana Smith: In Town Limits, She states she is in favor with "Cliff" and she doesn't want to pay double taxes

Renea Bell: In Town Limits, She states that people are concerned with double taxes and no one wants to do that, but she feels that withholding information about the repercussions is wrong and fraudulent. She states it is the council's responsibility to properly educate people on the situation rather than allowing them to rely on assumptions.

Jennifer Everidge: In Town Limits, She speaks on the property that the hunt club is wanting. She states that the right of way is only certain lots.

Brett Hall: Out of Limits, He speaks on behalf of the Cumberland Mountain Fur, Fish, and Game club. He states that Mr. Powers does a lot for the county. He explains that it should not be a nuisance because there has never been an issue. He states that the hunt club is just a place to meet up not where they actually do the hunting. He states it would be very beneficial to the Town of Pound to give that property to the hunt club.

Dakota Noble: Out of Town, He states that he deals with hunters all the time and it is a property. He states that they just bought a home and land and they don't want the issues. He states he wants to buy that property

Tony Powers: Out of town, He asks if the council is wanting to build the town or not. He states these hunts would bring lots of people in to the town. He states that the grant debbi got ha more than paid for that property, and they are being given the property on the other side of it. He states some of the people interested in that property cannot own it because they are convicted felons.

Conner Gent: Out of town, He states he has been hearing about the taxes and no one is thinking of the state taxes. And they will raise taxes overall. He encourages everyone to be well educated on it before a choice is made.

Stacey Carson: Out of Town, He states there is a spirit of deception in this town, county, state, and country. She states that many are forgetting they are letting personal feelings and agendas blindly control their reasoning. She states transparency and accountability are key, and voters should decide what to do with their money.

Sandy Anderson: Out of town, owns property in town. She states that losing the charter would be like losing a parent. She states that if you worked as hard to build the town up as they are to get rid of it. Great things could be done.

Gerald Bentley: In town limits, He states his family has been on town property for generations. He speaks about offering to buy that property for his Son Rise park. He states that this would help his park with access.

REPORTS

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

Glen Cantrell states nothing to report. Councilman Cauthorne asks about the fire department becoming a non-profit. Mr. Cantrell states it is coming along.

TOWN MANAGER

Mrs. Carter states that there was a meeting with the Coalfield Expressway Authority and Jonathan Belcher is here tonight to give a presentation. She also states there is a report going out for the ARC grant. She states her other items are already on the agenda.

EDA

Councilwoman Mullins states that it has been hard lately with bills and things.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Councilwoman Kennedy states that they have nothing new

OLD BUSINESS

AUDIT UPDATES

Mrs. Carter states that David Cox was at town hall today, and was showing us some papers and numbers. She states he asked for some additional things that she will be sending to him tomorrow and he states that he can have it finalized and back to the town the next day. She also states that Mr. Cox also reduced the price of our pre-audits. Councilman Cauthorne states that he was of the understanding at the last meeting that the pre audit was done. Mrs. Carter states that at the last meeting he was supposed to have the pre audit to her by that Friday, but that did not happen.

GRANT UPDATE

Councilwoman Kennedy gives an update on each grant that the town currently has.

POCKET PARK/SLID UPDATE

Mayor Cauthorne states that this was covered in the grant update.

SPEED LIMIT

Mrs. Carter states that our speed limit request has gone up the line but a determination has not been made at this time.

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION VACANCIES

Nothing new

EVENTS COMMITTEE

Mrs. Carter states that planning for Heritage days will be beginning. She states that some people that have helped in the past will not be able to have help this year. She states any help is welcome. Councilman Cauthorne states historically there has been a committee and you don't have to live in town to participate.

DISINCORPERATION

Councilman Cauthorne states that he makes the motion to pass a resolution for the town's disincorporation. Councilman Hall seconds. Mayor Cauthorne reads the resolution aloud. Mayor Cauthorne asks for discussion. Councilman Cauthorne states he would like to clarify a few things. He states he has been honest from the beginning that if this were to happen that we would be just like people outside the town. He gives a recount of how he came to be on council. Councilwoman Kennedy states that she has questions. Mr. Dotson gives an explanation of the legal process for annulling the charter. Councilwoman Kennedy states the motion was to allow the attorneys to speak, but she feels that Councilman Cauthorne greatly overstepped. Councilwoman Mullins states that she was offended by his presentation. Councilman Cauthorne states that he admits that good things have been done in the town, but he is tired of paying town taxes. Councilman Cauthorne states the county could just take over. Councilwoman Kennedy shows the document that she provided to the county showing the town's growth. She explains how the town was brought out of debt. Councilman Cauthorne states he came to council asking for this to come up for a vote and no one listened so he ran for council again. Councilwoman Kennedy states she feels he circumvented the process by his presentation to the board of supervisors. Councilwoman Kennedy calls for the question. Mayor Cauthorne asks for a vote on the call for the question.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Cauthorne - Yes

Hall - Yes

Kennedy -Yes

Mullins - Yes

Powers - Yes

Mr. Dotson clarifies that this resolution is not binding. Mayor Cauthorne asks for a roll call vote on the original motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

Mayor Cauthorne states the motion does not pass.

NEW BUSINESS

COALFIELD EXPRESSWAY

Jonathan Belcher gives a presentation for the Coalfield Expressway and asks for two letters of support to apply for two separate grants for that. Which would include Pound instead of bypassing it. Councilwoman Kennedy makes the motion to provide the letters of support. Councilman Powers seconds.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

APPALACHIAN VOICES

Emma Kelley gives an overview of the projects App Voices have worked with the town on, and explains how keeping the charter helps when applying for and attaining these grants. Councilman Cauthorne states that while he disagrees with her feelings on the charter he appreciates all the work they have done. Councilwoman Kennedy states that this town was told they would not get any grants and now it has several. Councilman Powers states that he has had 6 people contact him over the past 2 days to keep the charter. He states that he has run in to others that all they would say is to get rid of taxes but they don't keep in consideration the loss. He states without the charter the town would not have a voice. He also voices concern for town employees. Councilman Cauthorne states they would be laid off and tax payers would get the salary money.

HUNT CLUB

Mr. Dotson states the property is subject to a deed of dedication, and it is open space land and must be open to the public. He further explains what that entails. Mr. Powers states if they had the property they would not try to block that property. Mr. Powers explains again how they would use the property. There was discussion about who owns the surrounding properties and Mr.

Dotson asks just a few clarifying questions. Mr. Powers also explains that the only property where they do their hunting is National Forest land, not the property in question. Mr. Dotson also states that this property is designated as open space and must be made available to the public, and that hunting is included in that. Mr. Dotson suggests giving permission for the hunt club for this specific event they are having just to cover all bases. Councilman Cauthorne states that if what Mr. Powers is saying is correct then the only person it would be of any value to is him, so why don't we just do an auction then the proceeds will be divided equally among tax payer funds. Mr. Powers states that the town has been paid by the VOF grant a more than adequate amount. Mr. Cauthorne expresses his desire to have an auction. Mr. Dotson states if there is a bidding process the town would have to be very specific with disclaimers about the property Councilman Cauthorne asks Mr. Cauthorne if that is a motion that can be made to have an auction. Mr. Dotson states that he would not feel comfortable calling it an auction. He states that the town needs to be careful about how this process is done because this property has the potential for several legal issues. Councilman Cauthorne makes the motion to table this until next month so the attorney can research more. Councilman hall seconds. Mr. Dotson interrupts to say that he would like more specific instruction from the council. Councilman Cauthorne states his motion is because there are 3 people who have expressed interest in obtaining this property through purchase to table this til next month to allow the attorney to research and give us the options to sell this property by auction. Councilman Hall maintains his second. Councilwoman Kennedy makes a substitute motion to convey the property to the Hunt Club and in the meantime give them authorization to use that temporarily. Mr. Dotson states that would be with the conditions lined out in Va Code 10.1-1704(B) Councilwoman Mullins seconds. Councilwoman Kennedy states the town has lost no money in this and actually gained money in this. She states the hunt club is familiar with making it available to the public, and feels there are really only two probable buyers. Councilman Cauthorne states that there are three people interested in buying the property and if Tony is correct then he will be the only one to bid. Councilwoman Kennedy states her motion. Councilwoman Kennedy calls for the question.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

The Mayor calls for a roll call vote on the substitute motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

The substitute motion passes. Councilman Cauthorne asks what exactly this does. Mr. Dotson explains that this creates an intent by the town to sell the property. He states that he is trying to research on the spot. The Mayor calls for a 5 minute recess.

Mr. Dotson states he was trying to research and suggests a public hearing before the conveyance of that property. This will allow him some time to look into some issues as well. Councilwoman Kennedy makes a motion to have a public hearing next month for the conveyance of property to the Cumberland Fur Fish and Game Club but still in the meantime provide Mr. Powers with authorization to use that property. Councilman Powers seconds. Councilman Cauthorne asks about a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote and Mr. Dotson states that is what he wants to research.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Cauthorne - No

Hall - Yes

Kennedy -Yes

Mullins - Yes

Powers - Yes

BUDGET

Councilman Cauthorne states that not only are the county taxes going up because of the reassessments, but the town taxes would go up as well because the towns taxes are based on that. He states that he would like for the town manager to provide us with what the tax rate would need to be changed to in order to maintain either a slightly higher or the same amount of income based on the new assessments. He thinks that rather than being .44 cents per 100 dollars to around 35 cents. He also asks the attorney if there is a state law that says if assessments go up by so much that you have to adjust your rate down? Mr. Dotson also states that the council needs to go ahead and have a budget workshop because the budget would need to be voted in by the May meeting to allow time for all the proper notices to go out. Councilwoman Kennedy suggests April 2nd. Councilman Cauthorne states that at the first of April there should be a trial budget. He suggests a budget workshop before the March council meeting. The Mayor states the 12th through the 17th would work for him. Councilwoman Kennedy makes the motion to have the budget workshop on April 2nd at 6pm. Councilman Cauthorne asks the town manager to prepare a budget that reflects collecting the same amount or slightly more which would mean we would have to lower the tax rate. He also would like to know a list of the business taxes paid in 2025. Councilwoman Kennedy asks what kind of taxes. He says sales tax. Mrs. Carter states they do the business license which is based on their gross receipts.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jimmie Vanover. Owns property out of a corporation. She states she would like to know where some people who pretend to be lawyers get their information. She states she is tired of the way

council treats people, like Debbie Hale. She states Debbi has been disrespected. She states it doesn't have to be complicated.

Billy Large Highland Drive. He asks if anyone has thought about the elderly with this tax increase. Councilman Powers states Mr. Cauthorne wants it lowered. Mr. Large says do away with the charter and do away with the taxes.

Brenda Hurst. In town. She states that she doesn't understand why someone would want to come and destroy what this council has done. She states that the only things certain in life are death and taxes. She states we have to have taxes to have roads, street lights, maintenance, etc. She asks why you would move into town limits if you didn't want to pay town taxes. She states everyone has to pay taxes for the things we want in need and we give back. She states that the previous council got this town out of a rut. She states Mr. Cauthorne is no kind of member of this community.

Tony Powers, he thanks council for their time and talks about the property once more, and states the hunt club wants to be part of the community and help the town.

Dakota Noble, he states it must be nice to go home and not worry about people coming up on your land. He states he is still interested in the property even if it is for public access. He states he doesn't understand giving it to them and he hopes the town disincorporates. He states Debbi has been a problem for his family, and must be nice for the council to not worry about it. He states his concerns have not been listened to.

Glen Cantrell, he states the reassessments went up and it is common sense to adjust the tax rate. He states we come into a town because that protects us somewhat from the county. He asks about what benefits we would receive from the county if there was no town because there isn't much now. And if you unincorporate the town they would have no say in anything.

Jeffery Everidge states that we have to look around us to see that 90 percent of the people around us are older people. He states they are closing schools and older people are being double taxed. He states everyone should have a vote on if the town remains.

Sandy Anderson, she asks if we lose the charter who is going to maintain the town, like mowing, lights, decorating. She states if we don't have police in the town it is a problem because it takes the county longer to get there. She states we would be giving away so much.

Conner Gent, He states he has seen so much in fighting. He suggests that everyone educates themselves. He states his mom's name was mentioned and there have been problems in the past with that. He states there are some that want to keep the town and some that don't, and thinks there needs to be a vote by the people on that.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Kennedy makes the motion to adjourn. Councilman Hall seconds.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Cauthorne - Yes

Hall - Yes


Kennedy -Yes

Mullins - Yes

Powers - Yes

The Mayor states the meeting is adjourned.

APPROVED ON THIS THE 21 DAY OF April, 2026.



JOHN CAUTHORNE, MAYOR

ATTEST:



COURTNEY MEADE, CLERK