

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD
TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 2010 – 5:15 P.M.
COLONIAL BEACH TOWN CENTER**

**MAYOR:
VICE MAYOR:
COUNCIL:**

**FREDERICK C. RUMMAGE
TRISH KING
DAVID COOMBES - *absent*
STEPHEN KENNEDY
BURKETT LYBURN - *absent*
KAREN PAYNE
RONALD RIDGELY - *absent*
VAL FOULDS
ANDREA G. ERARD
JOAN GRANT
BARBARA A. GOFF**

**TOWN MANAGER:
TOWN ATTORNEY:
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER:
TOWN CLERK:**

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Rummage called the Special Meeting of Tuesday, June 1, 2010 to order at 5:15 p.m. and stated the purpose of the Special (Emergency) Meeting was for the purpose of accepting the resignation of the Chief of Police.

Present: Ms. King, Mr. Kennedy, Ms. Payne and Mayor Rummage.

At this time, Ms. Foulds the Town Manager, read the Chief of Police's resignation letter into the record.

'Ms. Foulds stated this letter is addressed to Mayor, Fred Rummage, Town Council, Val Foulds, Town Manager, from Chief Christopher C. Hawkins, Subject: Resignation
It is with a saddened heart that I resign my position as Chief of Police effective Monday, June 28, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. I have accepted a job opportunity that is beneficial to me and my family. When I was hired I was asked to address the items listed in the Reynolds report that was requested by Council to improve morale, and achieve accreditation status for the department. These goals were met as well as many others such as reducing the crime rate. Your police department is a professional agency that is respected by many other law enforcement entities and there is no doubt in my mind that reputation will continue. There are many well trained, loyal, and dedicated employees in the department that I know will continue to carry the torch. I am proud of each and every one of these fine men and women. Many of our achievements are also a result of the willingness to accept change and the support given by Council and the Town Manager. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and the citizens of the Town of Colonial Beach. CCH'

Mr. Kennedy stated in the four years prior to the last election, the biggest mistake that I made in that four years was not voting for Chief Hawkins when it came time to select a Chief to replace

the outgoing Chief Turner. With that said, the Town is going to be missing an intricate part of what we have had for the last 2 ½ years. It is with sad heart that I accept this. I wish Chief Hawkins well. He has done tremendous things with our department. He has gotten us to a point we didn't think we would realize. Somebody is going to have some big shoes to fill. What he has given us to work off of you can't put a price tag on it. I am talking about the involvement with the Tri-County Drug Taskforce and the Accreditation. The Accreditation was something that many departments much larger than ours have tried to achieve and could not do. We did it in a short timeframe. It was done with the guidance he created with the officers and men and women in that department. They believed in what he was doing. We have a great basis to build on. This is a testimonial for the things he has done and brought to this department. I wish him well and I am going to miss him as a golf partner.

Ms. King stated she remembered when Chief Turner decided he was going to leave and it was very difficult for us to make the decision and Chief Hawkins came on board and started to really turn things around. One of the most important things that he did was that he gave each and every person in the department a sense of pride and accomplishment and by his leadership he has established a relationship with the Sheriff in Westmoreland County and also the Sheriff in King George. He created a larger force because he works with other people and other people have come in to work with us. I am very proud of him. I think he has done a fine job and we can all be very proud as citizens of Colonial Beach to have him here. I am sorry he is leaving. I do understand why. I think he has a bright future and is a relatively young man. He has a good future and I am sure some day he will be the chief or sheriff of some of the larger counties and he will say I can remember when. Personally as a Councilperson, Chris thank you so much and when I make pineapple cake I will think about you.

Ms. Payne stated she didn't make pineapple cake but everything has been said. Thank you for all for all of the hard work and I know your department is going to miss you. I wish you well.

Mayor Rummage stated there are two items that I have mentioned time and time again. When the Chief first came on board he asked me what I would like to see him do. I told him one of the first things I would like to see you do is integrate the department. We have a small police force and there is only so much that can be accomplished with a small force. If you are integrated with the County and the State Police and through them with the Feds, you can do astronomical things which he has done. The other thing that I talked about with him and I remember mentioning it to him right before his probation period had ended on July 3, 2008, I asked him that day if he remembered the importance of this day and he said yes, I am getting ready and I am worried to death about the 4th of July. I said no, this is the end of your probation period. He said you didn't have to say that and I laughed because I knew that he had come up with a plan that I thought was certainly going to work for the 4th of July for the first time since I have been here. The 4th of July has been handled extremely well starting with that one. As a matter of fact he had two backup plans. He was into the second one and perhaps a part of the third one before we were through the 4th of July. I have heard nothing but positive remarks about that 4th of July 2009. We are going to miss you in 2010, but I hope whoever succeeds you implements your plan and continues to improve upon it. I too hate to see you leave, but you are a young man who has a lot of potential and I wish you well.

AGENDA - #20-10

RESOLUTION - ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION OF COLONIAL BEACH POLICE CHIEF CHRISTOPHER HAWKINS

WHEREAS, Christopher Hawkins, the Colonial Beach Chief of Police has submitted a letter in which he states that he wishes to resign his position as Chief of Police effective June 28, 2010; and

WHEREAS, the Colonial Beach Town Council is grateful for the service of Christopher Hawkins as Chief of Police and wishes him future success.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Colonial Beach Town Council, in a specially called meeting this 1st day of June, 2010 does hereby accepts the resignation of Christopher Hawkins as the Chief of Police; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Colonial Beach Town Council releases Christopher Hawkins from the terms of his Employment Agreement with the Town of Colonial Beach effective June 28, 2010.

Motion was made by Mr. Kennedy, second by Ms. King.

With no further discussion on Resolution - #20 – 10, Mayor Rummage called for a vote. Mr. Kennedy **aye** with much sadness and don't you go down there and make us look bad, Ms. King **aye**, I will miss you Chris and good luck, Ms. Payne **aye**, Mayor Rummage **aye**, motion carried and the **Acceptance of the Resignation of the Colonial Beach Police Chief Christopher Hawkins was Approved.** Mr. Lyburn, Mr. Coombes and Mr. Ridgely were absent from the vote. *Motion Carried.*

Motion was made by Mr. Kennedy to adjourn the Special Meeting of June 1, 2010 at 5:25 p.m. at the Colonial Beach Town Center. *Motion Carried.*

Respectfully submitted:

Barbara A. Goff,
Town Clerk

Frederick C. Rummage,
Mayor

