



**TOWN OF INDEPENDENCE**  
**Special Called Meeting**  
**December 2nd, 2025**  
**5:30pm**  
**Independence Police Department/Public Works**  
**136 East Main Street**  
**Independence, VA 24348**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Mark Miller, Vice Mayor Joan Collins, Jason Cassell, Buddy Halsey, Lance Hart, Aaron Davis, Kit Marshall

**COUNCIL ABSENT:** None

**TOWN STAFF PRESENT:** Kathy Knutson, Town Manager.

**CITIZENS & GUESTS:** None.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Mark Miller at 5:30pm. A quorum was present.

**Purpose of Meeting**

The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a second round of interviews for the position of Director of Public Works. The Council interviewed three candidates.

Each candidate was given the opportunity to further discuss their qualifications and respond to questions from the Town Council and the Town Manager. Discussions were held regarding their experience, certifications, leadership approach, and visions for managing public works operations in the Town of Independence. Two candidates requested a tour of the Public Works facilities

**Council Discussion**

After the interviews, the Council briefly discussed the strengths and qualifications of each candidate. Town Council asked the Town Manager Kathy Knutson to have the tours completed before next week's council meeting.

**Next Steps**

The Council agreed to continue deliberations at the next council meeting, where a selection or further direction regarding the hiring process will be determined.

**COUNCILMAN AARON DAVIS made a motion to extend the town residents payment window of Personal Property and Real Estate until February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026. COUNCILMAN LANCE HART seconded; motion carried with all ayes.**