

TOWN OF DOBSON, NORTH CAROLINA

Board Of Commissioners Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes March 24, 2011

PRESENT

Mayor: Ricky K. Draughn



Mayor Pro Tempore: Lana Brendle

Commissioners: Wayne Atkins
Todd Dockery
John Lawson
Dr. Gerri Martin

Staff: Town Manager Josh Smith
Assistant Town Manager Tom Hart
Town Attorney Hugh Campbell
Public Works Director Michael Frazier

MINUTES

➤ **Public Hearing on FY11/12 Budget Convened at 6:00PM**

Town Manager Josh Smith presented a preliminary proposed budget to the Board. Nani Lou Kidd and Stan Newman were the only members of the public to attend the Hearing and did not wish to address the Board regarding the next year's budget.

➤ **Mayor Draughn Called the Regular Meeting to Order at 6:23PM**

➤ **Mayor Draughn Opened the Meeting for Public Comment**

Nobody wished to address the Board.

➤ **Agenda Item 1: Consider Minutes From February 24, 2011 Regular Meeting**

Commissioner Lawson, seconded by Commissioner Dockery, made a motion to accept the Minutes as presented. The Board unanimously approved the Minutes from the February 24, 2011 Regular Meeting.

➤ **Agenda Item 2: Fiscal Performance Report**

Assistant Town Manager and Finance Officer Tom Hart presented a fiscal update to the Board. Staff reported to the Board that the previous confusion regarding transfers into and out of the 601 Project account had been sorted out and corrected. However, there is still an outstanding \$25,000 principal and interest payment due to the USDA that was not budgeted for. Staff is hopeful that revenues will come in over and expenditures under on the water/sewer fund but cannot rule out the possibility of having to appropriate fund balance to cover the expense.

The Board expressed displeasure with the fiscal administrative services provided in relation to the 601 project by All American Associates of Mount Airy and requested that staff send a letter of inquiry to All American owner, Ron Nyland.

➤ **Agenda Item 3: Consider Lease Agreement With T-Mobile**

Richard Waddell representing T-Mobile, addressed the Board regarding T-Mobile's intention to install a cellular device on the Town's Spoon Street water tank. Town Manager Josh Smith advised the Board that at this time it was recommended that the Town enter into a Lease with T-Mobile. The proposed Lease contains an option to add equipment to the tower and pay the Town \$1,750 per month. Commissioner Martín asked Attorney Hugh Campbell whether he had reviewed the Lease. Mr. Campbell advised that he had reviewed the lease and that the Lease could be executed tonight but that it contained an option allowing the Town to hold a required Public Hearing before the lease could truly be finalized. Mr. Campbell advised the Board to approve the Lease contingent on exercising that option. Commissioner Atkins made a motion to approve the option of the Lease and was seconded by Commissioner Martín. The Board approved unanimously.

➤ **Agenda Item 4: Consider New Agreement with Surry County Planning**

Town Manager Josh Smith advised the Board that the Town's current Agreement for Planning services with Surry County is slated to expire in June and recommended that the Town enter into a newly drafted Interlocal Agreement. The new Agreement shifts the cost of advertising various required hearings from the County to the Town, and changes the term of the agreement to five years. Town Attorney Hugh Campbell had reviewed the Agreement. Commissioner Tod Dockery, seconded by Commissioner John Lawson, made a motion to enter into the proposed Interlocal Agreement for Planning Services with Surry County. The Board unanimously approved.

➤ **Agenda Item 5: Consider Ordinance to Implement School Zone**

Town Manager Josh Smith advised the Board that the School Zone on Main Street in front of the High School is not criminally enforceable until the Town votes to declare the new speed limit and the Town complete a Certification of Municipal Declaration making the speed limit on Main Street in front of the High School 25 mph 30 minutes before and after school ends. Commissioner Dockery, seconded by Commissioner Martín, made a motion to implement a 25 mph school zone in front of the High School. The Board approved unanimously.

➤ **Agenda Item 6: Consider Request to Fly First National Flag of the Confederacy**

Commander Marty Cook from the Sons of Confederate Veterans advised the Board that May 10 is Confederate Memorial Day and that with the Board's permission the Sons of Confederate Veterans would like to fly the First National Flag of the Confederacy at the Town Cemetery and in front of the Town Hall. Mr. Cook advised the Board that the group had been flying the flag at the County Courthouse for seventeen years without incident and that the action is intended to honor our ancestors and nothing more or less.

Town Manager Josh Smith recommended to the Board of Commissioners that the Cemetery's Board of Trustees be allowed to decide whether the flag be flown at the cemetery. Mayor Draughn voiced his support for flying the flag and stated that the Cemetery's had a strong confederate history. Commissioner Lawson asked whether the First National Flag of the Confederacy would be flown in place of the American Flag and Mr. Cook advised that the First National Flag would be flown below the American flag on the Town Hall's flag pole. Mr. Cook advised the Board that this request was part of a countywide effort on the part of the Sons of Confederate Veterans to fly the flag and that flying the flag was intended to honor both the white and black soldier who fought in the Confederate Army.

The Board decided to table the issue of flying the flag at Town Hall and made motion to approve a resolution encouraging the Cemetery Board to fly the flag at the cemetery and honor the Confederate Veterans buried there. The motion was made by Commissioner Atkins and seconded by Commissioner Lawson. The Board approved unanimously.

➤ **Agenda Items 7, 8, & 9: Form New Piedmont Triad Regional Council of Governments**

Town Manager Josh Smith advised the Board that the Council of Governments was seeking to consolidate. Commissioner Atkins advised the Board that this request had been in the making for years and that the consolidation would likely benefit the rural members of the new COG and voiced his support for the measure. Town Manager Josh Smith advised the Board that three separate motions would be needed to dissolve the existing COG, approve the formation of the new COG, and appoint a member to serve on the new COG.

Commissioner Atkins, seconded by Commissioner Martín, made a **motion to dissolve** the North West Piedmont Council of Governments. The Board approved unanimously.

Commissioner Atkins, seconded by Commissioner Martín, made a **motion to approve** the formation of the Piedmont Triad Regional Council of Governments. The Board approved unanimously.

Commissioner Dockery, seconded by Commissioner Martín, made a **motion to appoint** Commissioner Atkins to serve on the Provisional Governing Body of the Piedmont Triad Regional Council of Governments. The Board approved unanimously.

➤ **Agenda Item 10: General Town Business**

Town Manager Josh Smith addressed the Board regarding the following issues:

Kyle Nowak has replaced Tyler Beardsley and started working with the Town through the Rural Center Grant. The Surry County Board of Commissioners voted to appoint Ron Atkins to the Town's **Planning Board**. Several **Streetscape Banners** have been mounted around the square and down South Main Street. Staff requested that the Board provide feedback as to where the remainder of the banners could be mounted. The Board advised that they would like to see banners mounted along the four main thoroughfares into town

and near the existing welcome to Dobson signs. Commissioner Martín expressed concern about the existing **DOT mileage sign** at the 77 interchange that states the town is 4 miles down the road. The mileage may be inaccurate and is too far from the interchange. Staff agreed to investigate and work with DOT. The Town Manager is going to address the **TDA** at its April meeting and request that more emphasis be placed on promoting the town as a whole and not just the viticulture. A **Parade Permit** has been issued to the Surry Community Child Protection Team for April 8th around the Court House.

Staff requested that the Board approve a banking resolution allowing Town Manager Josh Smith, Police Chief Shawn Myers, and Public Works Director Michael Frazier to get **credit cards** on behalf of the Town. Commissioner Martín asked what sort of supervision would be provided over the procurement process. Town Manager Josh Smith advised the Board that the cards would be kept in the Town Hall vault and controlled with a sign in sheet and imposed spending limits. The Board asked Town Attorney Hugh Campbell whether he had reviewed the resolution. He advised that he had not but that the resolution was a very common standard resolution. Commissioner Lawson, seconded by Commissioner Dockery, made a **motion to approve the banking resolution** and allow staff to take out credit against the Town.

The last **Park Meeting** will be held Monday April 4, 2011 at Town Hall. Withers and Ravelle have advised staff that they will be able to present the Parks and Recreation Master Plan at the April or May Board meeting. The Town is almost ready to move forward with the **Prison Camp Road Project** pending a couple easements from DOT. Town Manager Josh Smith expressed concern about moving forward with the project and wanted to thoroughly examine the long term impact of the project on the Town's finances.

When asked about setting a time for a **budget workshop** the Board expressed a desire to move their April meeting from April 28 to April 20th 2011. Commissioner Martín, seconded by Commissioner Dockery, made a motion to hold a **Special Meeting on April 20th 2011** at 6:00PM followed by a Budget Workshop, instead of holding a Regular Meeting April 28th 2011. The Board unanimously approved.

The Town anticipates getting **health insurance** bids and **garbage removal** contract bids in April. The Mayor brought up the possibility of providing recycling services and the Board requested that recycling be included as an option on the Town's requests for proposals.

CPT Engineering met with Town Staff and DOT to examine the possibility of locating a **Sheetz** at the intersection of Atkins and Main. DOT and the traffic engineers from CPT Engineering requested that the Town consider abandoning the on street parking in front of the parcel. Commissioner Dockery, seconded by Commissioner Lawson, made a motion to **abandon the on street parking** on Main Street between Atkins Street and Folger Street and make the area a no parking area. The Board approved unanimously.

➤ **Motion to Adjourn at 7:32PM**

Commissioner Lawson, seconded by Commissioner Todd Dockery, made a motion to adjourn. The Board approved unanimously.

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[TOWN SEAL]

CLERK'S SIGNATURE