

TOWN OF DOBSON, NORTH CAROLINA

Board Of Commissioners Special Meeting Minutes April, 20th 2011

PRESENT

Mayor: Ricky K. Draughn



Mayor Pro Tempore: Lana Brendle

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

Staff: Town Manager Josh Smith
Police Chief Shawn Myers
Public Works Director Michael Frazier

MINUTES

- **Mayor Draughn Called the Regular Meeting to Order at 6:00PM**
- **Agenda Item 1: Consider Minutes From March 24th, 2011 Regular Meeting**

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

- **Agenda Item 2: Public Comment**

Commander Marty Cook from the Sons of Confederate Veterans returned to address the Board. Commander Cook informed the Board that the Town's Cemetery Board had approved his request to fly the First National Flag of the Confederacy at the Town Cemetery on Confederate Memorial Day (May 10th) and requested permission to fly the flag above the Town Hall as well.

Commissioner Atkins asked for clarification as to how long the County had been flying the flag. Commander Cook informed the Board that his organization had been flying the flag for eighteen years at the County Courthouse without controversy.

Commissioner Atkins made a motion that the Town **allow the Sons of Confederate Veterans to fly the First National Flag of the Confederacy at the Town Hall** below the American Flag. Commissioner Brendle seconded the motion and the Board approved unanimously.

No other members of the public wished to address the Board and Mayor Draughn continued with the Agenda.

➤ **Agenda Item 3: Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

Rachael Cotter from Withers and Ravanel presented the finalized Parks and Recreation Master Plan to the Board. The survey of citizens indicated that residents place a strong degree of importance on walking trails and sports fields and courts. The survey also indicated a willingness to pay increased taxes to support recreation facilities. National standards were used to determine that the Town needs approximately 10 acres park land and approximately 5 miles of trails. Among the recommends made by Withers and Ravanel were: the formation of a Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, entering into joint use agreements to gain access to existing resources, begin constructing facilities in the next two years. Withers and Ravanel reported that many state and federal funds previously available to build park facilities are in danger of losing funding but presented other alternative funding sources.

Commissioner Lawson, seconded by Commissioner Dockery, made a motion to adopt the Parks and Recreation Master plan presented by Withers and Ravanel. The Board approved unanimously.

The Board asked that Town Manager Josh Smith to solicit volunteers to form a Parks and Recreation Committee.

➤ **Agenda Item 4: Fiscal Performance Report**

Town Manager Josh Smith presented a fiscal update to the Board. Revenues have continued to outpace expenditures in both the General Fund and Enterprise Fund. Sales tax revenues are now expected to come in approximately \$20,000 below projected level. However, other revenues sources are expected to make up the deficiency.

➤ **Agenda Item 5: Consider Inter-Local Agreement with Surry County Planning**

Town Manager Josh Smith advised the Board that the Inter-Local Agreement for planning services that was approved by the Board at the previous meeting was sent before the Surry County Board of Commissioners for approval. The Surry County Board amended the Agreement to make the duration of the Agreement 4 years instead of 5. Commissioner Martín inquired as to why the County had sought to change the duration of the Agreement and asked if the Town Attorney had reviewed the Agreement. Town Manager Josh Smith, advised the Board that the Surry County Board gave no reason for changing the duration and confirmed that the Agreement had been approved by the Town Attorney.

Commissioner Dockery, seconded by Commissioner Lawson, made a motion to approve the amended Inter-Local Agreement with Surry County for planning services. The Board unanimously approved.

➤ **Agenda Item 6: Consider Resolution of Intent to Close Alleyway**

Town Manager Josh Smith requested that the Board approve a Resolution of Intent to abandon an unpaved alleyway between Main Street and Crutchfield Street. Todd Stanley had built a property adjacent to the Alley and was under the impression the alley had been abandoned. When it came to light that the alley was not abandoned he requested that the Town abandon the alley. The Resolution of Intent is the first step the Board must take to close the alley and the Board will need to hold a Public Hearing during the next meeting. Todd Stanley will be advertising for the Public Hearing. Three of the four adjacent property owners have signed a petition indicating they would like the alley abandoned.

Commissioner Dockery made a motion to adopt the resolution of intent. Commissioner Lawson seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve the Resolution of Intent to abandon the alley.

➤ **Agenda Item 7: General Town Business**

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

The next Surry County **Elected Officials Meeting** will be held May 12th in Pilot Mountain.

There were no updates on the **Prison Camp Road Project**. The **601 Project** is nearing completion, and staff is hoping to close the account before the end of the Fiscal Year. Because the funds from Surry County were used in improper chronology, staff will be going before the Surry County Board to ask if the County's funds can be used to pay the final invoices on the project.

Construction on the **BB&T** branch is progressing and the building should be completed in May or June. Sheetz is still in planning their new location and is working with NCDOT to resolve several traffic concerns relating to the intersection at Atkins and Main.

Police Chief Shawn Myers addressed the Board with a request from **Quality Pest Control** that the Board temporarily suspend the Town Ordinance forbidding the discharge of firearms, so that they may use small caliber rifles to solve a Ground Hog issue at Surry Manor. Commissioner Martín requested that the Board consult with Town Attorney Hugh Campbell prior to making a decision on the matter. The issue was tabled until the next meeting.

A letter from a resident was shared with the Board in which the resident thanked the Board for the informative nature of the **open letter** regarding the lawsuit with Mount Airy that was mailed to water customers.

Staff advised the Board that in the next few meetings it would be requested that the Board adjust the Town's fees related to the **storage of seized vehicles** and the fines issued to businesses for **false alarms**. Currently

the fees do not cover the administrative cost of impounding the vehicles and the alarm fines are not sufficiently deterring repeated false alarms.

The Town is still working with several garbage collections services to **solicit quotes for garbage and recycling collection**.

Staff are working with several vendors to explore the feasibility of improving the automated monitoring systems at the Town's pump and lift stations and are working with several engineering firms to examine the feasibility of GIS mapping the Town's infrastructure.

The **ABC Board** has requested that the Board continue to allow the ABC Board to disburse fund to the Town annually instead of quarterly. Commissioner Atkins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dockery, that the **Board continues to allow the ABC Board to make annual disbursements** to the Town. The Board approved unanimously.

The **TDA Board** has several vacancies. The TDA bylaws allow the Board to be comprised of anywhere from three to seven members and is still compliant with their own bylaws with four members but it is advisable that another member be appointed. The Mayor asked that Town Manager Josh Smith try to find members of the community who may be interested in serving on the TDA Board.

The **ABC Board** has a single vacancy because Paul Jackson's term will be expiring. Commissioner Martín asked Mondee Tilley, of the Mount Airy News, that the paper announce that the Town is looking for interested members of the community who may want to serve on the Town's ABC Board, TDA Board, and newly formed Recreation Committee.

Town Manager Josh Smith advised the Board that Paul Jackson was willing to serve again on the ABC Board but that no other parties had expressed interest in serving on the Board. Commissioner Martín expressed concern that Mr. Jackson did not reside within Town limits. Commissioner Brendle posited that many of the Town's appointed Boards had members that did not technically reside within the Town. Mayor Draughn indicated that the ABC Board was different than many of the Town's other Boards because the ABC Board required a referendum of the Town's residents to be formed in the first place, the Board had never had a non-resident serve on it, there is a history of Board members resigning if they moved out of town. Town Manager Josh Smith advised the Board that there were no state laws regulating the issue. Commissioner Martín pointed out that regardless of anyone's wishes as to whether a resident of the Town serve on the Board, if Paul Jackson was the only person who wanted to serve on the Board that may need to dictate their decision. Commissioner Lawson expressed concern that the tasks required of the ABC Board were becoming increasingly complex and that Mr. Jackson was the only person on the board with substantial experience.

The Board tabled both the TDA and the ABC Board appointments until the May 26th Meeting and requested that Town Staff and solicit volunteers.

➤ **Motion to Adjourn at 7:15PM**

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

➤ **Annual Budget Workshop**

The Board proceeded to hold its annual Budget workshop and work on the preliminary Fiscal Year 2011/2012 Budget.

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CLERK'S SIGNATURE