

TOWN OF DOBSON, NORTH CAROLINA

Board Of Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes May, 26th 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 Josh Smith
Police Chief Shawn Myers
Town Attorney Hugh Campbell
Public Works Director Michael Frazier

MINUTES

- **Mayor Draughn Called the Regular Meeting to Order at 6:00PM**
- **Mayor Draughn Called the First Public Hearing to Order**

The Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing regarding the lease of space on the Spoon Street water tank to T-Mobile. Mayor Draughn solicited feedback from the public present at the meeting. No members of the public wished to address the Board. Commissioner Lawson made a motion to accept the lease as presented, Commissioner Dockery seconded and the Board unanimously approved the Lease with T-Mobile.

- **Mayor Draughn Called the Second Public Hearing to Order**

The Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing regarding the closing of an Alley between South Main Street and South Crutchfield Street. One of the affected property owners present at the Hearing expressed their support for the Board's closing of the alley. Commissioner Dockery, seconded by Commissioner Martín, made a motion to approve the resolution of intent to close the alley. The Board approved unanimously.

- **Agenda Item 1: Consider Minutes From April 20th, 2011 Special Meeting**

Commissioner Dockery, seconded by Commissioner Lawson, made a motion to accept the Minutes as presented. The Board unanimously approved the Minutes from the April 20th 2011 Special Meeting.

➤ **Agenda Item 2: Public Comment**

Nobody wished to address the Board.

➤ **Agenda Item 3: Fiscal Performance Report**

Assistant Town Manager Tom Hart presented the staff's fiscal update to the Board. Revenues are still outpacing expenditures in both funds. However all Departments within the General Fund are limiting their spending. Sales tax revenues are expected to come in \$35,000 under the projected amount. At this point there is no reason to suspect that any fund balance will need to be appropriated and the budget is expected to balance.

➤ **Agenda Item 4: Consider Donation to Library for Summer Reading Program**

Town Manager Josh Smith advised the Board that the local library is requesting a \$288 contribution to help fund their Summer Reading Program. Commissioner Dockery, seconded by Commissioner Martín, made a motion to approve a \$288 contribution to the library. The board unanimously approved.

➤ **Agenda Item 5: Consider Option to Renew the Town's Property/Liability Insurance**

Town Manager Josh Smith presented the Board with an insurance proposal from Simpson Insurance and recommended that the Town remain insured with Simpson Insurance. Commissioner Martín made a motion to enter into the insurance contract. Commissioner Dockery seconded and the Board approved unanimously.

➤ **Agenda Item 6: Consider New Solid Waste Contract**

Town Manager Josh Smith informed the Board of the results of the Town's recent Request for Proposals relating to garbage collection. Waste Management and Republic were the only companies to submit proposals. Waste Management's proposal came in significantly lower than Republic's and the contract was further negotiated to recognize savings for the town. The Waste Management Contract allows the Town to include curbside recycling for the same cost currently being incurred for refuse collection only. Staff recommended that the Town provide both refuse and recycling collection and continue to provide commercial refuse collection. It was also recommended that the town only provide a single cart to each residence and a single 6 yard dumpster to each commercial site. Staff also recommended that the Board consider not providing collection service at tax exempt locations. Commissioner Martín expressed concern that in the past Waste Management had exercised questionable billing practices with commercial accounts. Town Manager Josh Smith assured the Board that any questionable billing would cease and that Waste Management had been advised of the Town's dissatisfaction. Commissioner Lawson, seconded by Commissioner Dockery, made a motion to pursue a contract with Waste Management. The Board unanimously approved.

➤ **Agenda Item 7: Consider Medical Insurance Agreements**

Town Manager Josh Smith advised the Board that Health Insurance was representing a large expense for the Town and that staff had spent time looking for ways to reduce this expense. Staff recommended that the Town secure a \$2,500 deductible plan with United Health Insurance and subsidize 65% of the deductible. Under the plan with United Healthcare employees' deductibles will increase from \$300 to \$875. However because of the amount saved by each employee in premium deductions, the employee will have the opportunity to save well over \$575 each year. Additionally the Town's savings from the reduced premiums will allow the Town to pay for 65% of the deductible for nearly every person covered by the town although such a scenario is unlikely. Commissioner Lawson, seconded by Commissioner Dockery, made a motion to enter a contract for group health insurance with United Healthcare. The Board unanimously approved.

Town Manager Josh Smith recommended that the Town stay with the Municipal Insurance Trust for ancillary coverage's including life, vision, and dental. Staff recommended that the Town continue to have employees purchase ancillary insurances at their own expenses but that the Town area start covering 100% of all employees' life insurance and that the Town provide \$50,000 coverage for general employees and \$75,000 for Department Heads. Commissioner Atkins, seconded by Commissioner Lawson, made a motion to keep the Town's ancillary coverage with the Municipal Insurance Trust and make changes to the Life Insurance provision. The Board approved unanimously.

➤ **Agenda Item 8: Presentation of Fiscal Year 2011/2012 Proposed Budget**

Town Manager Josh Smith presented the Board with the Fiscal Year 2011/2012 Proposed Budget. The budget is similar to the previous year's budget and features conservative revenue projections and a 2% raise for all employees. The budget proposes a water rate increase and increases to the Town's false alarm fines and vehicle impoundments fees. Commissioner Martín, seconded by Commissioner Dockery, made a motion to set a Public Hearing for the Budget Ordinance and another Hearing to make changes to the Code of Ordinances related to the alarm fines and vehicle impoundment fees. The Board approved unanimously.

➤ **Commissioner Martín Excused Herself From Meeting at 6:50PM**

➤ **Agenda Item 9: General Town Business**

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

The 601 Project is fundamentally completed. The County has agreed to provide their initially pledged funds for use on the public works building. There are no longer concerns about the project going over budget.

DOT has mandated that the parking spaces on Main Street in front of the courthouse will need to be removed as part of a series of improvements the intersection will have to undergo in order for Sheetz to build at the intersection of Main and Atkins. The improvements to the intersection have been a community concern prior to any speculation about Sheetz. Commissioner Dockery, seconded by Commissioner

Lawson, made a motion in support of a resolution to remove the parking spaces on Main Street and in support of any other improvements recommended by DOT at the intersection of Main and Atkins. All t Commissioners present approved.

The GIS mapping project will be put on hold because grant funding is no longer available.

The Police Department secured a \$4800 grant to replace the printers in their cars.

The County is working with the Town on a joint use agreement that will allow both entities governing bodies to use one another's facilities should any facilities become inoperable. The Town will also be working with multiple entities in the County to look into seeking FEMA funding to commission a secure emergency operations facility for use by any municipality in the County if their facilities become inoperable.

The Town has been approached by a potential business owner wishing to open a tanning salon and internet sweepstakes parlor in the old Movie Gallery building. Staff recommended that the Board rezone the parcel to allow such use. Additionally staff recommended that the Board consider amending the Zoning Ordinance to allow sweepstakes parlors in commercial areas and increasing the licenses and fees associated with sweepstakes parlors. Commissioner Lawson made a motion to set a Public Hearing to rezone the Movie Gallery parcel. Commissioner Brendle seconded and all present members of the Board approved.

Neil Yarborough contacted staff to advise that Mediation has been set for October.

The Town has received four resolutions encouraging the Town to set a mixed drink referendum. The County Chamber of Commerce will be spearheading the referendum allowing the Town to remain neutral and the Budget includes the fees for a referendum. Commissioner Lawson, seconded by Commissioner Brendle, made a motion to hold a mixed drink referendum at the earliest possible date. All present Board members approved.

The DOT has approved the school zone in front of Surry Central High School.

The Board has several Board vacancies to fill. The ABC Board, the TDA Board, and the Parks and Recreation Committe all have vacancies. The ABC Board has a single seat coming up, the TDA Board has between two and four seats available, and the Parks and Recreation Board needs to be formed.

Parks and Recreation Committee:

Commissioner Lawson, seconded by Commissioner Dockery, made a motion to form the Parks and Recreation Committee and appoint Tanya Beck, Bonita Wilson, Maureen Simpson, Kenneth Ernest, and Monica Smith to form the new committee. All present Board members approved.

TDA Board:

Commissioner Lawson made a motion to appoint Mike Hester and Jetty Wilmoth to the TDA Board. Commissioner Dockery seconded and all present Board members approved.

ABC Board:

Kermit Draughn, Paul Jackson, Ron Atkins, Brad Davis, Larry Patterson all expressed interest in filling Paul Jackson's vacant seat that was up for reappointment. Commissioner Dockery made a motion to appoint Brad Davis to the ABC Board. Commissioner Lawson seconded the motion and all present Board members approved.

➤ **Closed Session**

Commissioner Dockery, seconded by Commissioner Atkins, made a motion to go into closed session to discuss a personnel issue at 7:20PM. The present Board members approved.

Commissioner Atkins, seconded by Commissioner Dockery, made a motion to open back into open session at 7:40PM. All present Board members approved.

➤ **Approve Personnel Recommendations**

Commissioner Brendle, seconded by Commissioner Lawson, made motion to approve the personnel recommendations discussed in closed session.

➤ **Motion to Adjourn at 7:41PM**

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

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CLERK'S SIGNATURE