

# TOWN OF DOBSON, NORTH CAROLINA

Board Of Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes September, 28<sup>th</sup> 2011

## PRESENT

**Mayor:** Ricky K. Draughn



**Mayor Pro Tempore:** Lana Brendle

**Commissioners:** Wayne Atkins  
Todd Dockery  
John Lawson  
Gerri Martin

**Staff:** Town Manager Josh Smith  
Town Attorney Hugh Campbell  
Police Chief Shawn Myers  
Public Works Director Michael Frazier

## MINUTES

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

Town Manager Josh Smith informs the Board that Beasley's Wascomat was erroneously zoned residential. Mr. Smith informed the Board that the Town Planning Board made a recommendation to zone the business as B-1. There were no comments from the public. Commissioner Gerri Martin made a motion to re-zone the property. Commissioner Lawson seconded and all were in favor.

- **Agenda Item 1: Consider Minutes From August 25th, 2011 Meeting**

Minutes were not available and will be presented at the October Meeting.

- **Agenda Item 2: Public Comment**

The Mayor opened the meeting to public comment. Charles Dockery asked questions about the Town Park. C.W. Newman also addressed the Board about the Town Park and expressed concerns about the Water Plant. Town Manager Josh Smith told C.W. Newman that the money has been budgeted and as ORC of the Water Plant that he needed to fix those problems. Public Works Director Michael Frazier and C.W. Newman said they would meet and call to get the problems fixed at the Water Plant. Nanny Lou Kidd also asked about the Park. Josh Smith told her that nothing has been decided on and explained the process of building the Town Park. Ron Atkins expressed his concerns for the citizens that don't want a park. Larry Paterson spoke about the citizens of the Town not knowing about the Town Meetings. Commissioner Martin told the concerned citizens at the meeting that they can only do what they think people want and the surveys for the park said 95 percent wanted a park in the town limits. Commissioner Martin made it clear that the

Board meets the fourth Thursday of every month. Mayor Ricky Draughn discussed rumors he heard from citizens that thought the park was a done deal and the land had already been purchased. Town Manager Josh Smith addressed the Board and all the citizens to let them know that any questions or concerns or information they wanted to know they were always welcome to come to Town Hall or ask a Board Member.

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

Town Manager Josh Smith presented the staff's fiscal update to the Board. General fund revenue is at 8 percent and expenditures are at 17 percent. He noted that revenues will increase when the two major revenue sources start to come in. Everything is on track with spending.

➤ **Agenda Item 4: Discuss Land acquisition for the proposed Town park**

Town Manager Josh Smith spoke about a conversation with Withers and Ravenel's Greg Lambert. The Town needs to find land for the park and another study would take place as well as six to ten public hearings, more surveys, and a site plan will be drawn up. After this is done we will be on a point system and the points will make the town eligible for grant monies. Josh makes it clear to the Board that this is not something we want to rush into and we need more public meetings. Land needs to be located that can accommodate the park, then an acquisition will be made and a waiver will be obtained stating the Town will be using this land for a park. The identified parcels include 6 acre lot behind Draughn's Auto Parts, the Reynolds Lot off of Kapp Street, and 2 adjacent lots downtown (one owned by Surry County and the other owned by Paul Jackson). Wither's and Ravenel said the downtown properties would be best suited for the park. This land will require little grading and it is in a central location. The 6 acre lot would require a lot of grading. The Reynolds lot would cost the town \$500,000 to acquire the land. Commissioner John Lawson asked Town Manager Josh Smith to get an estimate for each of the properties.

➤ **Agenda Item 5: Town Projects**

Town Manager Josh Smith updated the Board on the possible Twin Oaks Road Water Extension Project. He noted that he is waiting for drawing from the engineer and is exploring funding options. The Prison Camp Road paperwork is complete and Mr. Smith is hopeful that the funding agreement with DOT can be approved at the October meeting. If approved the engineer will submit paperwork and it will go to bid contingent upon funding being available. Mr. Smith next informed the Board that he is exploring an Economic Infrastructure Grant to upgrade several water lines around the Sheetz lot. Public Works Director Michael Frazier informed the Board that he has had several problems with broken lines the past several winters in that area. Mr. Smith informed the Board that the water plant improvements have been put on hold because the Town is not eligible for a grant due to the water rates being too low. Mr. Smith informed the Board that DENR uses a formula based on the median household income to determine how much a municipality should be charging for 4,500 gallons of water consumption. He said the new median household income figures released a few months ago were high enough to drop the Town below the required threshold.

➤ **Agenda Item 6: General Town Business**

Town Manager Josh Smith informed the Board that the TDA has discussed some beautification ideas and constructing cross walks in Town. He said the TDA wants to contribute monies to the cross walks if DOT doesn't cover the costs. The TDA also wants to change the parking downtown from curbside to diagonal parking and explore the possibility of holding events downtown. Mr. Smith next told the Board that a survey of the cemetery needs to be done before any additional plots are sold. He said this would cost about \$8,000, and that the Trustees may approach the Board in the near future for a donation. Mr. Smith next mentioned that the Dobson Police Department won 3<sup>rd</sup> place in a vehicle graphics design contest. Mr. Smith next said that he wanted to explore the possibility of increasing water deposits for renters who do not provide a social security number. He said a social security number is required if the Town wants to participate in the State's debt setoff program. Mr. Smith also said he wants to change several Ordinances so civil penalties can be assessed and collected as revenues for the Town. He said he would address this in the next few months. Mr. Smith informed the Board that the Homecoming Parade for Surry Central will be on October 14<sup>th</sup> and Fall Fest will be on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. He asked the Board to consider moving the October meeting due to a scheduling conflict. Commissioner Todd Dockery made a motion to move the October meeting to October 20<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Gerri Martín seconded the motion and the Board approved unanimously.

➤ **Agenda Item 7: Acknowledgement of Gaye Layell and Angela Schmoll for service on the Dobson Library Board**

Gaye Layell was acknowledged for 5 years of service on the Library Board. Angela Schmoll was acknowledged for 4 years of service on the Library Board.

➤ **Motion to Adjourn : Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(A)(3) – City of Mount Airy vs. The Town Of Dobson**

Commissioner Martín, seconded by Commissioner Lawson, made a motion to go into closed session reference the lawsuit with the City of Mount Airy. The Board approved unanimously.

After returning from closed session, Commissioner Lawson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Dockery seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

**OFFICIAL COPY**

[TOWN SEAL]

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CLERK'S SIGNATURE