

REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF May 6, 2009

Present: Mayor Don Mullen, Vice Mayor Amy Patterson, Commissioners John Dotson, Hank Ross and Larry Rogers. Commissioner Dennis DeWolf was not in attendance.

Staff Present: Town Manager, Jim Fatland, Town Engineer/Public Services Administrator Lamar Nix and Fire Chief James Manley.

1. Call to order

Mayor Mullen called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M.

2. Swearing in Auxiliary Police Officer

Fire Chief James Manley advised the Town Board that this matter was to be moved to the next meeting.

3. Approve agenda

Mayor Mullen asked if there are any additions or deletions to the agenda. Vice Mayor Amy Patterson moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Larry Rogers, and was unanimously approved by the Town Board.

4. Approve minutes of April 15, 2009

The Minutes of April 15, 2009 Regular Town Board Meeting were approved by the Town Board subject to the following corrections: Paragraph 12, last paragraph: replace the name of Hank Ross with Dennis DeWolf in line one and line three.

5. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

6. Reports

A. Mayor

Mayor Mullen advised that the Scholarship Committee is looking to build up the endowment fund and is looking for different ways to raise monies.

B. Town Manager

Town Manger Jim Fatland advised that the grant monies for the Mirror Lake project have been received. He further advised that the deadline for the Hutchinson Park application is June 3, 2009.

7. Fire Truck Purchase

This agenda item has been reviewed and approved by the Highlands Fire Department Volunteers on April 7, 2009; Reviewed and approved by Town Attorney for the use of piggyback procedures to purchase said fire truck.

The FY10 Highlands Fire Department Budget was presented and approved by the Town Board of Commissioners on April 1, 2009. Included in the budget recommendation was a new ladder truck and garage addition. On April 7, 2009 the Highlands Fire Chief and Volunteers approved moving forward with the purchase of a ladder truck at a cost of \$440,000 and a garage addition totaling \$50,000. North Carolina General Statutes require formal bidding on equipment purchases exceeding \$80,000. However, Towns can bypass this requirement by using piggyback rules set out in NCGS Section 142-129(g). The Town Board at its regularly scheduled meeting on April 15, 2009 authorized the publishing of intent to utilize the piggyback rules and to consider said purchase at its next regularly scheduled meeting on May 6, 2009 to be held at Highlands Fire Department.

The Highlands Fire Department is desirous to finance a portion of the purchase cost. Bids have been obtained to secure the best possible terms. In addition, approval of a budget amendment for the purchase and loan is requested. The loan amount is \$290,000 to be financed for three (3) years.

It is recommended to the Town Board the following:

- (1) Approve piggyback rules under NC General Statutes to purchase 75 Foot Tradition Aerial (Ladder Truck) at a cost of \$440,000;
- (2) Approve contract with Morton Buildings for garage plus grading/foundation improvements for an amount not to exceed \$53,000;
- (3) Approve FY09 Budget Amendment for the Highlands Fire Department Budget to purchase the fire truck and finance \$290,000 of the purchase cost; and
- (4) Approve financing with RBC Bank for a term of three (3) years at an interest rate of 3.08%.

Highlands Fire Chief James Manley answered questions posed by the Town Board concerning the dates for acceptance shown in the paperwork received. James Manley advised that RBC Bank and Morton Buildings, Inc. are aware of the criteria of the Town and the approvals needed and have agreed to extend the deadlines in order to obtain approvals.

Larry Rogers moved to approve the piggyback rules under NC General Statutes to purchase a 75 Foot Tradition Aerial (Ladder Truck) at a cost of \$440,000, was seconded by Hank Ross and was unanimously approved by the Town Board.

Hank Ross moved to approve entering into a contract with Morton Buildings for the garage plus grading/foundation improvements for an amount not to exceed \$53,000, was seconded by Vice Mayor Amy Patterson and was unanimously approved by the Town Board.

Vice Mayor Amy Patterson moved to approve the financing with RBC Bank for a term of three (3) years at an interest rate of 3.08% and the FY09 Budget Amendment for the Highlands Fire Department Budget to purchase the fire truck and finance \$290,000 of the purchase cost, seconded by Hank Ross and was unanimously approved by the Town Board.

8. Stormwater Improvements at Kelsey Hutchinson Park—Set Special Meeting Date

Due to a pending deadline of June 3, 2009, a special meeting has been set for the Stormwater Improvements at Kelsey Hutchinson Park for May 13, 2009.

Hank Ross moved to approve setting a Special Meeting to discuss the Stormwater Improvements at Kelsey Hutchinson Park for May 13, 2009, was seconded by Vice Mayor Amy Patterson and was unanimously approved by the Town Board.

9. Other

Town Manager Jim Fatland expressed his gratitude to all who attended the lunch and golf tournament. Jim Fatland also advised the Town Board that Irene P. James passed away at the age of 103 and to remember her.

Bob Houston wished to thank everyone in attendance and was appreciative that the Town Board agreed to meet at the fire station.

10. Adjourn

As no additional action was taken, the Town Board moved to adjourn at 7:26 pm.

James R. Fatland
Town Manager

Jane J. Capman
Recording Secretary

Don Mullen Mayor