

REGULAR BOARD MEETING of November 4, 1998, with Mayor Buck Trott and Commissioners H. N. James, Mike McCall, Ron Sanders, Zeke Sossomon, and Amy Patterson present.

Also present were Richard Betz, Lamar Nix, Selwyn Chalker, Kim LeWicki, Alan Marsh, LaDonna Keener, Steve Pierson, Eric Pierson, John Dotson, Karin Potts, Rosemary Fleming, Tony Chambers, Charlie Gibson, Dan Chapman, and others.

I. Mayor Trott called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. The Mayor reported that he had received a letter from Joel Setzer, D. O. T. District Engineer, requesting input from the Town on several requests for the paving of Bowery Road from property owners in that area. The matter had not been placed on the agenda; however, the Clerk had provided each Board member with a package, provided by Bowery Road resident Dan Chapman, containing letters from a great number of residents in the area, as well as the letter from Mr. Setzer.

The Clerk recommended placing this matter on the agenda for December 2, and the Board agreed to do so.

The Clerk also asked that approval of two tax releases be added to the agenda, and that two items of New Business—the paving of Satulah Ridge Road, and Police Department policies on speed measurement devices, in-car videos, and body armor—be postponed until a later date. The agenda was approved by consensus.

III. The minutes of the October 21 Regular Board Meeting had been distributed by mail.

MOVED BY COMM. PATTERSON, SECONDED BY COMM. SANDERS, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS DISTRIBUTED.

#### IV. Reports.

1. Each Board member had received a copy of the Town Engineer/Public Services Administrator's written report for the month. Lamar Nix said that the Wastewater Treatment Plant was operating well, but reported that there had been a malfunction of a motor starter and/or control panel at the Water Treatment Plant, which he was working to correct. He also reported that the Pre-Construction Conference for the Main Street Project had been scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on November 16 in the Conference Room.

2. Each Board member had received a copy of the Police Chief's written report for the month. The Clerk said that Chief Cook had been unable to be present, but had asked him to report that the in-car video had been installed in one vehicle and was operating well; he had invited any interested Board members to come by his office and review the equipment and a sample of the video produced thus far.

He said grant money was available on a 50% reimbursement basis, up to \$2250, for the \$4500 camera, and the grant application had been prepared. He asked the Board to clarify its motion of August 19 concerning the additional two cameras. The Board agreed to proceed with ordering the additional cameras provided the Town is assured that grant money is also available for those units.

3. Each Board member had received a copy of the Recreation Director's written report for the month. The Board briefly discussed the large crowds at the Halloween festivities on Saturday night; Selwyn Chalker reported that the event would be scheduled for Monday night next year.

He also reported that the Recreation Committee had met and reviewed some additional information he had received on pre-fabricated picnic shelters; the Committee recommended obtaining two (2) 20 X 28 structures known as "The Raleigh" model, manufactured by Enwood Structures. The cost of both shelters would be \$9,360 plus shipping, and the company would erect both of them for \$4,400.

MOVED BY COMM. SANDERS, SECONDED BY COMM. SOSSOMON, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO SUBMIT THE PLANS TO THE APPEARANCE COMMISSION FOR APPROVAL,

AND UPON THEIR APPROVAL TO PROCEED WITH ORDERING THE UNITS.

Mr. Chalker had proposed that the Town consider having its own forces install the slabs, but Comm. James felt that informal bids should also be obtained for concrete slabs.

The Recreation Committee had also approved purchase of a portable ice skating rink that could be installed at the Ball Field; the rink would be 100 feet X 90 feet in area, and would cost less than \$3000.

It was pointed out that Fibber Magee's Closet had donated \$1500 to the Recreation Department, and the Women's Club had donated \$3000; Mr. Chalker proposed using these funds for purchasing the rink.

MOVED BY COMM. SANDERS, SECONDED BY COMM. SOSSOMON, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO PROCEED WITH ORDERING THE ICE SKATING RINK.

The Recreation Committee had also discussed evening desk help at the Civic Center; Mr. Chalker said he would bring additional information on this matter to the next Board meeting.

4. Each Board member had received a copy of the Town Planner/ Zoning Administrator's written report for the month. The Clerk reported that Eddie Madden was not present because he was attending a Zoning Administration course in Chapel Hill, but that they had discussed an annexation study with Geoffrey Willett, as requested by the Board at the October 21 meeting. He said that Mr. Willett would be able to attend the December 16 Board meeting and outline for the Board what an annexation study would involve; however, he had said that his Division would not be able to provide the engineering portion of the study. The Clerk said that W. K. Dickson Company, the Town's consulting engineer, would be the most appropriate source for such a study since they had accumulated most of the necessary information.

In order to obtain an estimate from W. K. Dickson on the cost of conducting the study, however, he needed to know the extent of the area the Board wanted to study. Comm. James suggested that the Board review the maps prepared by the Land Use Planning Committee and consider this matter in detail at the November 18 meeting, and meanwhile tentatively scheduled Mr. Willett to attend the December 16 meeting.

5. Each Board member had received a copy of the Treasurer's Report for the month.

MOVED BY COMM. PATTERSON, SECONDED BY COMM. JAMES, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO ACCEPT THE TREASURER'S REPORT.

6. Each Board member had received a copy of the Town Administrator's written report for the month. Richard Betz reported that the Town's Web Site was now up and running, providing information on various topics on the internet.

Mr. Betz had also prepared a memo summarizing the costs and expenses of the Town's cardboard collection system and the transportation and disposal contract with Asheville Waste Paper. The cost of transportation the previous fiscal year had been \$10,500, and revenues had been \$5,223; however, Asheville Waste Paper had announced an increase from \$250 to \$300 per load effective with the expiration of their current contract on December 1. He said that he had obtained a verbal commitment from J & B Disposal Inc. to transport the Town's cardboard to the Macon County Landfill for \$150 per trip, and also a verbal commitment from Larry Lackey, the new Macon County Solid Waste Director/County Engineer, to accept the cardboard at the landfill at no charge and bale it with County cardboard. The savings would be at least \$1000 annually, and he recommended not renewing the contract with Asheville Waste Paper.

Comm. McCall asked about County tipping fees, which he understood were currently \$60/ton for the Town at the Wilson Gap Transfer Station, but only \$40/ton for other commercial trash at the Macon County landfill. The Clerk said he had discussed this with County Manager Sam Greenwood, and Mr. Greenwood had offered to look into

the discrepancy, which had been in effect for many years. Comm. James said he recalled that the Wilson Gap Transfer Station had originally been established as a satellite of the landfill, and the tipping fee for the Town should be \$40/ton. He felt that this should be discussed with the County Manager and/or the County Commissioners.

He also wanted to approach the County to see if it would share in the hauling cost, and he wanted an assurance that the County would not charge for Town cardboard delivered to the landfill. The Clerk agreed to obtain this information by the next meeting.

#### V. New Business.

1. The Clerk reported that, according to the Zoning Administrator, the Planning Board had approved the final subdivision plat for Synergistics Inc., a subdivision on Satulah Mountain owned by Bob Morris, as discussed at the June 17 and July 15 Board meetings. He had also obtained a corrected copy of the Guarantee and Escrow Agreement for the subdivision prepared by the Town Attorney which included the updated cost of \$17,380 suggested by the Town Engineer, as reported in his memo of July 14. The improvements were to have been installed within twelve (12) months—or by August 31, 1999, according to the Agreement— since the plat had originally been scheduled for approval at the September 2 meeting, but had been delayed by several minor corrections.

David Hourdequin was present, and reminded the Board that the purpose of postponing the installation of the pump in the water system was to avoid having it possibly become damaged due to its remaining unused for a period of several months. He also requested that the deadline be extended to twelve (12) months from the date of execution of the agreement, as had originally been intended.

Comm. James asked if the Town Engineer had reviewed the plat; Mr. Nix said that he had not. The Clerk explained that he, Mr. Nix, and Mr. Madden had reviewed the necessary changes to the plat, and he confirmed that they had all been made. The Board agreed by consensus, however, to defer approval of the plat until the November 18 meeting, pending Mr. Nix again reviewing it.

2. Each Board member had received a copy of the Town audit for FY 97-98, prepared by Lucas & Keener, PA. LaDonna Keener was present and briefly reviewed the audit, explaining that it had again gone smoothly. Changes this year included a different method of accounting for the motor vehicle tax collected for the Town by the County, which affected the overall collection percentage, and assurance of "Year 2000" compliance by June 30, 1999. The audit report had already been filed with the Local Government Commission. The Clerk thanked Ms. Keener for doing a good job on the audit report.

3. The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from Kevin M. Jones, District Manager for Culligan Operating Services Inc./ U. S. Filter, requesting a 30-day extension to the Town's existing contract for operation of the Wastewater Treatment Plant, which had expired on October 31. The letter had also requested a meeting to discuss the Scope of Services due to new State requirements, and he now understood such a meeting would be held on November 19.

4. A petition to set a speed limit for Talley Road had been received from several property owners on the road; 13 persons had requested the speed limit be set at 15 mph, and two at 20 mph. The Clerk said he had discussed the matter with Chief Cook, who recommended either speed limit; if the speed limit on the road was not specifically set in the Traffic Schedule, it was 35 mph.

Comm. McCall felt that a standard should be established for roads with speed limits less than the standard 35 mph, and suggested 20 mph. Comm. James agreed; he felt that the Police Chief and Town Engineer should conduct a comprehensive review of all speed limits in Town.

MOVED BY COMM. SOSSOMON, SECONDED BY COMM. JAMES, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO SET THE SPEED LIMIT ON TALLEY ROAD AT 20 MPH.

5. MOVED BY COMM. SOSSOMON, SECONDED BY COMM. SANDERS, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS, PURSUANT TO G.S. §143-318.11(a)(6). All present left the meeting room except Town staff.

A. Public Services Administrator Lamar Nix reported that Clyde Brown's employment with the Town had been terminated on October 26, as authorized by the Board at the August 5, 1998 meeting. The Board authorized him to advertize for another employee in the Sanitation Department.

B. The Board discussed personnel matters at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

MOVED BY COMM. SOSSOMON, SECONDED BY COMM. PATTERSON, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO GO INTO OPEN SESSION.

6. MOVED BY COMM. SANDERS, SECONDED BY COMM. MCCALL, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE TAX RELEASES R-38 FOR \$11.70 AND R-39 FOR \$11.70, BOTH FOR MACON COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY.

VII. There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was declared adjourned by the Mayor at 8:30 p.m.

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Richard Betz, Town Clerk