

REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF March 4, 2009

Present: Mayor Don Mullen, Vice Mayor Amy Patterson, Commissioners John C. Dotson, Hank C. Ross, Dennis DeWolf and Larry Rogers

Staff Present: Town Manager, Jim Fatland, Police Chief Bill Harrell and Code Enforcement Officer Josh Ward

I. Call the Order

Mayor Mullen called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

II. Approve Agenda

The Mayor asked if there are any additions or deletions to the agenda.

III. Approve Minutes

The Minutes of February 11, 2009 Regular Town Board Meeting were approved by the Town Board subject to a typographical error.

IV. Public Comments

None

V. Reports

A. **Mayor** – A meeting in Asheville will be attended by Jim Fatland and Lamar Nix regarding the stimulus package and the proper procedures to request funds. It will meet the needs of many people.

B. Committees

1. **Recreation Committee** – no report.

2. **Greenway Committee** – Hillrie Quinn was unable to appear before the Town Board for a presentation regarding an appropriation request of \$28,000.00. Although the Board has recommended that the appropriation request be approved, the same has been removed from the agenda and will be heard at the next regular Town Board Meeting set for March 18, 2009.

3. **Architectural Review Committee** – Dennis DeWolf reported that progress is being made at the Houston House. By the end of the week of March 2, 2009, electrical work will begin. In an effort to keep expenses down, all work has been done at cost. A gift of a new door has been received.

C. Town Manger

Jim Fatland presented the Board with a plan showing how renovations/modifications to the current Town Hall will be made in order to keep costs at a minimum in lieu of new building. Efforts are being made to obtain cost estimates for the much needed renovations.

Hank Ross inquired about the conversion of the ABC Store as the new permanent home of the Highlands Police Department. A meeting is scheduled with the USDA regarding the conversion. The process of interviewing architectural firms is in the works. John Dotson asked if there were any estimates available, however none are currently available. Mayor Mullen advised the Board not to speculate until the actual estimates were received.

Jim Fatland further advised the Board of the letter of intent needed for the sewer project. Further, four applications have been submitted for the water project and Jim Mitchell has come to the office regarding the stimulus package information

6. Consent Agenda

Mayor Mullen explained to the Town Board the purpose of the Consent Agenda.

- a. **Public Services Department.**
- b. **Police Department**
- c. **Parks & Recreation Department**
- d. **Planning and Zoning Department**
- e. **Treasurer's Report for Month Ended February 28, 2009 -**
Jim Fatland requested that the Treasurer's Report be moved to the second regular meeting of the Town Board in order to have sufficient time to compile the information.
- f. **Monthly Calendar**
- g. **Grant Status Report**

Amy Patterson moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Dennis DeWolf. The same was unanimously approved.

- 7. Antenna Lease with Charisma Radio Corp. – The Town of Highlands entered into a lease with Charisma Radio Corporation on March 3, 1999 which expired on March 1, 2009. Charisma Radio Corporation is desirous to enter into a new ten (10) year lease. Town Attorney Bill Coward advised that Mr. Cooper would prefer a longer lease. The Board authorized a ten (10) day notice that the Town of Highlands will consider entering into a lease at the next meeting scheduled for March 18, 2009. Charles Cooper appeared before the Board and advised that he would not be available on March 18, 2009 as he has prior commitments. Amy Patterson moved to in the ten day notice, seconded by Han Ross. The same was unanimously approved.
- 8. Fire Department By-Laws. Bob Houston appeared before the Board regarding the proposed amendments to the By-Laws. Dennis DeWolf moved to approve the changes and the same was unanimously approved.
- 9. Set March 17, 2009 as Joint County -Town Meeting – the meeting is on a quarterly basis and is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on March 17, 2009 however, the location is to be determined. Dennis DeWolf moved to approve and the same was passed unanimously.
- 10. **Closed Session** – Mayor Mullen requested that the Board move to a closed session and seconded by Amy Patterson. Police Chief Bill Harrell discussed a personnel matter.
- 11. **Open Session** - Mayor Mullen reconvened the Town Board meeting back into open session. No additional action taken.
- 12. **Adjourn** – Amy Patterson moved to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

James R. Fatland
Town Clerk

Jane J. Capman
Recording Secretary