

REGULAR BOARD MEETING of June 18, 1997, with Mayor John Cleaveland and Commissioners H. N. James, Mike McCall, Ron Sanders, Donnie Calloway, and Zeke Sossomon present.

Also present were Richard Betz, Lamar Nix, Eddie Madden, Steve & Brenda Pierson, Cynthia Strain, Rosemary Fleming, Virginia Fleming, Hank Urbanek, Alan Marsh, Georgia Allen, and Curtis Hayes.

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

II. The minutes of the June 4 Regular Board Meeting had been distributed by mail.

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

III. Reports.

1. Mayor Cleaveland reported that he had written a letter to Senator Robert Carpenter voicing concerns over HB-515, the Clean Water Responsibility Act. While directed at other river basins, he explained that the broad language of the bill could apply new "nutrient sensitive water" standards to other areas of the State, which would be unreasonable and expensive for taxpayers.

2. Public Works Director Lamar Nix reported that W. K. Dickson Company, the Town's consulting engineers, had written a letter outlining a possible savings on the Water Treatment Plant general contract. Instead of being filled with sand and covered with a concrete slab as called for in the contract, the two old C-T basins could be enclosed and covered with a metal roof, at a savings of approximately \$8000. In addition to the cost savings, the basins would be available for possible use as equalization basins if the State decided at some time in the future to require the Town to discharge the backwash from the Plant to its sewer system. Mr. Nix recommended proceeding with the original design. He felt that there were some advantages to be gained from the additional storage space and elimination of possible use of the basins. The Board agreed.

MOVED BY COMM. JAMES, SECONDED BY COMM. SANDERS, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO PROCEED WITH THE ORIGINAL DESIGN TO COVER THE OLD C-T TANKS.

Mr. Nix also reported that the contract for sidewalk work had been completed today, with the exception of the section in front of the Masonic Lodge building on Main Street where the property owners had not agreed to participate. Street paving on Lucerne Drive and Oak Street had also been completed, and Satulah Road was scheduled to be paved tomorrow. The new street sweeper had been received today, and the new pickup truck for the Electric Department had been received last week. Final testing had been completed on the Highlands School sewer line, and he recommended paying the retainage on the contract as soon as requested by the Contractor.

3. The Clerk reported that the results of the May water quality monitoring on Lake Sequoyah by Fish & Wildlife Associates had been received and the water quality looked generally good. The second series of sampling, involving one-time samples for a wide variety of chemicals, was scheduled for later this month. He also reported that the Wastewater Treatment Plant had been inspected on May 14 in an unannounced visit from the Water Quality Section; the inspection had indicated "excellent performance of the facility," according to the report received.

The Clerk also reported that he understood the Macon County budget contained all of the items requested by the Town this year, including the \$150,000 request for the Recreation Park, funds for the purchase of land north of Town for a ballpark, and complete funding of the dispatcher position.

The Clerk said that he had discussed the paving of Satulah Road with

Public Works Director Lamar Nix and Comms. James and McCall. The original price had been \$83,630 for this road, but the Board had agreed at the May 7 meeting to deduct the lower portion in order that funds not exceed the \$75,000 budgeted. It now appeared that it would be desirable to pave this entire road, however, as well as an additional section of Third Street between Spring Street and the Walhalla Road which had been patched last year, estimated at approximately \$2550. Adequate contingency funds were available in the budget.

MOVED BY COMM. CALLOWAY, SECONDED BY COMM. MCCALL, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO PAVE THE REMAINDER OF SATULAH ROAD, AND ALSO A PORTION OF THIRD STREET BETWEEN SPRING STREET AND THE WALHALLA ROAD.

IV. New Business.

1. Each Board member had received a copy of the Macon County Solid Waste Management Plan at the previous meeting.

MOVED BY COMM. JAMES, SECONDED BY COMM. SOSSOMON, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:

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TOWN OF HIGHLANDS
RESOLUTION TO APPROVE
THE MACON COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

WHEREAS, better planning for solid waste will help protect the public health and the environment, provide for an improved solid waste management system, better utilize our natural resources, and control the cost of solid waste management; and

WHEREAS, N. C. General Statute § 130A-309.09A(b) requires each unit of local government, either individually or in cooperation with other units of local government, to develop a ten-year comprehensive solid waste management plan; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Highlands was represented on the Macon County Solid Waste Advisory Committee and has been actively involved in the planning process.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Highlands hereby approves the Macon County comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan.

This resolution is adopted this 18th day of June, 1997.

The Town of Highlands

John W. Cleaveland, Mayor

(TOWN SEAL)

ATTEST:

Richard Betz, Town Clerk

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2. The Clerk reported that the filing period for Mayor and two Commissioners would open on July 4 and close on August 1, and that the Board needed to set filing fees.

MOVED BY COMM. CALLOWAY, SECONDED BY COMM. SANDERS, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO SET A \$10.00 FILING FEE FOR MAYOR, AND \$5.00 FOR COMMISSIONER, AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS.

3. Informal bids had been received for the annual fuel contract through June 30, 1998, at noon today by the Clerk, who had opened and tabulated them. Although Highlands Quick Mart had submitted the low bid on plus and premium gasoline, D & J Express Mart had submitted a lower bid on regular gasoline and diesel fuel, which were used most by Town vehicles.

MOVED BY COMM. SANDERS, SECONDED BY COMM. CALLOWAY, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO AWARD THE ANNUAL FUEL CONTRACT TO D & J EXPRESS MART.

4. The Clerk reported that Smoky Mountain Property Care & Cleaning had agreed to renew their contract to clean, re-stock, and sanitize the public restrooms at the same price as last year—\$30.00/day—for the next year, through June 30, 1998.

MOVED BY COMM. SANDERS, SECONDED BY COMM. MCCALL, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO RENEW THE CONTRACT WITH SMOKY MOUNTAIN PROPERTY CARE & CLEANING FOR AN ADDITIONAL YEAR.

5. The Clerk reported that Interact Systems had agreed to renew their agreement for maintenance of Town radios for the same price—\$2683.80—for next year, through June 30, 1998.

MOVED BY COMM. JAMES, SECONDED BY COMM. SANDERS, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO RENEW THE AGREEMENT FOR AN ADDITIONAL YEAR.

6. The Clerk had received a proposal from Building Maintenance & Controls Inc. for \$3,880 for the annual preventive maintenance service agreement for the Highlands Civic Center, an increase of \$100 over last year. He reported that Recreation Director Selwyn Chalker recommended renewing the contract.

MOVED BY COMM. CALLOWAY, SECONDED BY COMM. SOSSOMON, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO RENEW THE AGREEMENT FOR AN ADDITIONAL YEAR.

7. The Mayor reported that a petition had been received from several property owners on Naiad Terrace, requesting that the road name be changed to Sequoyah Point. The Board agreed to take the request under advisement, and meanwhile asked the Clerk to determine why the road name change was being requested, whether all of the property owners on the road were in agreement, and what the County's position was on the question. Some concern was also expressed concerning the potential difficulties a road name change might have in future land transactions.

8. The Clerk reported that both a resident and a business owner on NC-106 had complained of speeding on that road, and had requested that the speed limit be lowered from 35 m.p.h. to 25 m.p.h. from Main Street to the Highlands Country Club. He had been told that a petition would be circulated if necessary. The Board discussed the request, and agreed that the Police Department should be asked to enforce the existing speed limit on this road more aggressively before considering lowering the speed limit.

9. MOVED BY COMM. CALLOWAY, SECONDED BY COMM. MCCALL, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION TO REVIEW APPLICATIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT IN THE TRIMMING CREW AND TO DISCUSS AN ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL MATTER WITH THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, PURSUANT TO G. S. § 143-318.11(A)(6). The public left the Conference Room.

A. The Board reviewed an application for employment in the Trimming Crew from Mildred Ramey. The position had been re-advertized in the Highlands, Franklin, and Clayton newspapers through July 2.

B. The Board discussed the Town Administrator's salary.

MOVED BY COMM. SANDERS, SECONDED BY COMM. MCCALL, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO GO INTO OPEN SESSION.

10. MOVED BY COMM. SANDERS, SECONDED BY COMM. SOSSOMON, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE AN ADDITIONAL INCREASE IN ANNUAL SALARY OF \$525 FOR THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE COMING FISCAL YEAR.

V. MOVED BY COMM. CALLOWAY, SECONDED BY COMM. SANDERS, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO ADJOURN.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Richard Betz, Town Clerk