

Regular Meeting Minutes of the Town of Highlands Board of Commissioners Meeting of April 19, 2018, at the Highlands Community Building, 71 Poplar Street, Highlands, North Carolina

Town Board Present: Commissioner John Dotson, Commissioner Amy Patterson, Commissioner Donnie Calloway, Mayor Pro Tempore Eric Pierson and Mayor Pat Taylor

Town Board Absent: Commissioner Brian Stiehler

Also Present: Town Manager Josh Ward, Town Attorney Jay Coward, Public Works Director and Town Engineer Lamar Nix, Police Chief Bill Harrell, Parks & Recreation Director Lester Norris, Planning & Development Director Andrew Bowen and Computer Support Specialist Mark Hall

1. Meeting Called to Order

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

2. Public Comment Period

There were no comments.

3. Adjust and Approve the Agenda

Commissioner Patterson made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Pierson and the vote was unanimous.

4. Approval of the March 8, 2018, Special Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Patterson made a motion to approve the March 8, 2018, special meeting minutes as presented, which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Pierson and the vote was unanimous.

Approval of the March 22, 2018, Regular Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Patterson made a motion to approve the March 22, 2018, regular meeting minutes as presented, which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Pierson and the vote was unanimous.

5. Reports

A. Mayor

Mayor Taylor thanked Jim Tate, Hank Ross, Commissioner Stiehler, Commissioner Dotson, Brian Cabe and the town crews for the work on the Christmas Tree Project. Mayor Taylor also thanked Art and Angela Williams for the donation for the project.

Mayor Taylor stated the annual Plateau pickup was Saturday at 9:30am.

Mayor Taylor stated he saw a young man flying a drone at Founders Park and spoke with him about it, but the Town does not have a policy and it may be something to consider. Mayor Taylor reminded that during the Eclipse planning period he had mentioned the lack of a policy with regard to campers in public areas, which by law can be asked to leave, but asked the Board to consider an additional ordinance.

Mayor Taylor congratulated Town Manager Josh Ward for one more week until completing the extensive training with the school of government and graduating on April 27th.

B. Commissioners and Committee Reports

There were no commissioner or committee reports.

C. Town Manager

Town Manager Josh Ward stated he had met with Chris Stahl, Macon County Solid Waste Director, regarding the recycling trailer. Ward stated that it should be available to set up in a couple of weeks.

Ward stated the Verizon Wireless plans had changed slightly and they will only be using one microwave shot and less equipment on the tower. The Contract was specific to the equipment, therefore, a contract amendment will be required. Ward said hopefully this would be ready by the May meeting. Commissioner Patterson asked if it would stay within the same space and Ward stated yes.

Ward stated the draft Contract for the Fiber Build was sent to Wide Open, so we are in a holding pattern at this point until we hear back from them.

Ward stated that Town Attorney Jay Coward had tried to meet with Attorney Fred Jones regarding the Arnold Road paving, but it didn't happen. The residents agree with the Town that there should be a new Agreement and definitely want to move forward with paving Arnold Road. Ward stated that the Arnold Road residents were going to begin paving the subdivision roads and will meet with Attorney Jay Coward to work out a new agreement to be presented to the Board.

6. Consent Agenda

Public Works Department
Police Department
Parks & Recreation Department
Planning & Development Department
Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Patterson made a motion to accept the consent agenda as presented, which was seconded by Commissioner Calloway and the vote was unanimous.

7. Mission Health Merger Presentation

Mayor Taylor introduced Cara Pruitt and Jackie Medland to speak about the Letter of Intent with HCA, a for profit organization.

Jackie Medland stated the letter of intent was sent out in March and gave an overview of the intent process for Mission Health Merger, which was a decision of Mission to look into selling while at the top financially. Medland stated the intent was to focus on keeping health centers open and less of a hospital scale. Medland stated the larger corporation could receive better pricing, proving it to be highly competitive and will be more efficient and effective. Medland stated Mission will serve as an anchor for HCA's business in North Carolina.

The Board expressed concern that the community had put in their own personal money and was concerned that the hospital could close if it didn't make the money HCA expected. Medland said there will be no changes for 5 years and they cannot close the facility, but it could be sold at that time. Medland confirmed that the Foundation is a standalone individual corporation maintained by the Foundation.

Medland stated that the earliest the merger would take place would be October 1st, but expected it to be more like January 2019. Medland announced two Community Forums, one on May 29th at 12:00pm on the first floor of the Jane Woodruff Building and one on May 30th at 5:00pm at the Cashiers Recreation Park.

8. Big Bear Pen Road Right-of-Way Discussion

Mr. Young presented a petition signed by adjoining property owners with exception to the Town of Highlands. Fred Motz stated the petition requests to abandon an unopen public right of way that landowners have never used and did not plan to use.

Town Manager Josh Ward stated that Planning & Development Director Andrew Bowen had the original petition and the Town would be the last to sign.

Commissioner Calloway asked if there were any advantages or disadvantages to closing the road and Public Works Director and Town Engineer Lamar Nix stated there was no disadvantage.

The Board directed Town Attorney Jay Coward to research the right of way.

9. Proposed Amendments: Unified Development Ordinance: Art. 4. Sec. 4.15 and Art. 12, Sec. 12.6 and Code of Ordinances: Art. II: Draining of Impoundment Regulations

Planning & Development Director Andrew Bowen stated the revisions for Draining of Impoundment Regulations would remain in the UDO with revisions to indicate that the Regulatory Agencies are in control of enforcing the regulations and inspections, and the town would have the final say. Bowen stated the reference in the Code of Ordinances would be removed completely.

Commissioner Patterson made a motion to set a public hearing for the approval of changes to the UDO and Code for the next regularly scheduled board meeting in May which was seconded by Commissioner Calloway and the vote was unanimous.

10. Proposed Amendments: Code of Ordinances: Art. II - Recreational Activities on Lake Sequoyah, Section 6.5-40 - Boat Docks and Boat Houses

Planning & Development Director Andrew Bowen stated he had met with the Planning Board to discuss responsible ways to allow other properties not currently grandfathered in to build a dock with natural material no longer than 20 feet and no bigger than 225 square feet.

Commissioner Patterson made a motion to set a public hearing for the approval of new Code regulating docks on Lake Sequoyah on the next regularly scheduled board meeting in May which was seconded by Commissioner Dotson and the vote was unanimous.

11. Planning Board Applications

Planning & Development Director Andrew Bowen stated he had one vacancy on the Planning Board and would have an opening soon on the Zoning Board. He presented two applications received, one from Marc Hehn which was retired from 45 years of Local Government work in South Carolina, and a different side of the coin was the other applicant Gregory Krause who just completed Planning in school and is going further for his Bachelor's degree in that field. Bowen did not have a recommendation but left it to the Board's discretion.

The Board agreed to send the applications to the Land Use Committee to review and make a recommendation.

12. Recognition of Grant Funds

Police Chief Bill Harrell asked the Board to recognize the \$17,965 Grant Funds and asked permission to acquire the new ATV.

FROM: General Fund



DEPARTMENT: Police Dept.
EXPLANATION: Recognize and allocate revenue from a Law Enforcement Education Foundation grant for a Defender ATV

Account	Description	Increase/Decrease	Debit	Credit
1. 10-3100-0727	Grant ~ Police Dept.	Increase		\$17,965.00
10-5100-7400	Capital Outlay/Equipment	Increase	\$17,965.00	
		Subtotals	\$17,965.00	\$17,965.00
		Totals	\$17,965.00	\$17,965.00

Approved by Town Manager

Action by Town Board

Approved and Entered on Minutes Dated

Finance Director

Commissioner Calloway made a motion to approve the Budget Amendment and purchase as presented, which was seconded by Commissioner Dotson and the vote was unanimous.

13. Surplus of Equipment

Police Chief Bill Harrell stated the department had acquired new radars to replace eight (8) Kustom Signals Pro-1000 DS dual antenna moving radar that were no longer approved to be used by the state and requests that the replaced radars be surplus equipment to be listed for sale on Govdeals.

Commissioner Patterson made a motion to approve the surplus equipment as presented, which was seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Pierson and the vote was unanimous.

14. Adjournment

As there were no further matters to come before the Board of Commissioners, Mayor Pro Tempore Pierson moved to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner Calloway and upon a unanimous vote, the Town Board adjourned at 8:35pm.

Patrick Taylor
Mayor

Gilberta B. Shaheen
Town Clerk