

**Town of Boonville**  
**January 3, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Harvey E. Smith Municipal Building**

The following were in attendance at the 1/3/23 regular meeting: Mayor Vaughn Benton; Mayor-Pro Tem Tim Driver; Commissioners David Cox, Monica Craver, Dwaine Dobbins and Greg Wagoner. Also in attendance were Finance Officer/Town Clerk Kim Wells, Administrative Assistant/Zoning Officer Steve Hutchens, and Public Works Director Tim Collins. Attorney James Freeman was present through Zoom. Police Officer David Craver attended in the absence of Police Chief Jeff Hobson.

- I. Call to Order and Welcome:** Mayor Benton called the 1/3/23 meeting to order at 6:59 p.m.
- II. Conflict of Interest Issues and Approval of Agenda:** Commissioner Craver asked that the following items be added to the agenda. Under New Town Business: B. Intersection Sign, C. Boonville Improvement Group. Commissioner Wagoner motioned to accept the agenda as amended. Commissioner Cox seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
- III. Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer:** Mayor Benton led the Pledge of Allegiance and the prayer.
- IV. Adoption of minutes:** Commissioner Craver motioned to accept the 12/6/22 regular session and 12/6/22 closed session minutes as written. Commissioner Dobbins seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
- V. Public Comments:** None were voiced.
- VI. Old Town Business:**
  - A. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund Projects:** Commissioner Craver updated the Board on a Kubota Excavator that the town had the option to buy for Public Works. Discussion followed and that the fund would come from ARPA funds. She stated she had called around and got a consensus to purchase the item but now needed to motion to approve the consensus. Commissioner Cox motioned to ratify the consensus to purchase the Kubota Excavator for \$64,900 + tax. Mayor Pro-tem Driver seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. It was the consensus of the Board that the new equipment has a Strick maintenance plan and it be followed.
  - B. Ratify Consensus of 2023 Calendar for Public Works:** Public Works Director Collins asked the Board to wait on ratifying the consensus of the 2023 Calendar. He discussed amounts that he and Finance Officer/Town Clerk Wells had been looking at. Discussion followed on cost of monthly bulk pickup vs. the town going back to Weekly bulk pickups, twice a year like they did in years past. Finance Officer/Town Clerk Wells informed the board that the reasoning for the original change was to save the department time and in return seemed to have made more work of the department. Discussion followed. Consensus of the Board was to table the topic. Because of the timing, they wanted a cost analysis to be done for a consensus that will be ratified at the February meeting.
  - C. Call-Back Pay for Public Works:** Discussion followed on other town's policies. Topic was dropped.
  - D. YVEDDI Usage:** Public Works Director Collins updated the Board on the status of the meter/readings from Public Works and stated he is waiting on a representative from Master Meter to come out to help find the problem.

**VII. New Town Business:**

- A. Accept Eric Ball and Wes Fletcher Resignation of Employment:** Commissioner Cox motioned to accept. Commissioner Craver seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. It was stated the only reason these part time Police Officers were being terminated was because they had failed to do the mandatory annual training for their certifications.
- B. Intersection Sign:** Commissioner Craver reviewed a preliminary offer made by N.C.D.O.T. and what the actual cost would be to replace it. The Board asked for some negotiations to be done.
- C. Boonville Improvement Group:** Commissioner Craver reviewed an idea of a committee that had been given to her that worked well in other local towns. The concept of the committee would be that it would be run through the town Board, and made up of residents and business owners that wanted to help support the town and local businesses. The funding would be made up of donations. She lists ideas that the committee could do to bring individuals to Boonville and stated the committee could come up with lots more ideas that had not already been thought about. She stated there was already a long list of individuals wanting to participate. Discussion followed. Commissioner Cox motioned to establish exploratory for B.I.G. (Boonville Improvement Group)



and start working on a list of possible events to bring back to the Board. Commissioner Wagoner seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

### **VIII. Reports and Announcements:**

- A. Mayor's Report:** Mayor Benton thanked everyone for their hard work.
- B. Finance Officer's Report:** Finance Officer/Town Clerk Wells reported that utility billing was going well other than a problem with the town printer. She stated that other arrangements were made in case the service technician did not show up the next morning. Mrs. Wells stated the insurance claim for the totaled Public Works truck had arrived and was in the amount of \$19,708. She stated the last 2022-2023 appropriation for Powell Funds had arrived giving the town an unspent amount of \$71,171. She then reviewed an analysis she had done of the town's current loan amounts.
- C. Zoning Officer's Report:** Administrative Assistant/Zoning Officer Hutchens reported on the Vape Store and how the sign now meets the town's requirements. He asked the Board for guidance on a question about Multi Family Yard sale to raise money for a recreation club (that was not a non-profit organization). Discussion followed.
- D. Public Works Director's Report:** Public Works Director Tim Collins reported that they had fixed the backhoe, painted the inside of the shop, fixed issues with the sewer plant sampler and been working on a leak at HWY 67 and Cardinal.
- E. Police Chief's Report:** Police Chief Hobson was absent, but Police Officer Craver updated the Board on the status of the department.
- F. Fire Department Report:** There was no report from the Fire Department, but Steve Hutchens did mention to the Board that the Fire Department was in the process of getting a new truck to help with wrecks and rescues.

#### **G. Departmental Commissioner's Reports:**

Commissioner Craver reported on Christmas happenings and the flooding of the Businesses and Library. She informed the Board of the neglect found at the library and how that had led to the water damage to the building. She stated cardboard boxes had been thrown in the attic, hitting the insulation which allowed cold air to come into the attic and freeze the water line. She stated the boxes were also a major fire hazard as they were thrown against the heating system. She then updated the Board on what the County Representative had told her when she called about Power outages. She stated there was no plan for emergency and that the town would be responsible for the first 72 hours. Commissioner Craver stated there would be a plan for the next time and that if needed, the Boonville Fire Department would be set up for individuals to go and that local businesses were more than happy to help with drinks and snacks.

Mayor Pro-tem Driver stated that he appreciated everything everyone had done.


Commissioner Cox thanked Public Works and everyone that helped during Christmas. He stated he was going to be getting in touch with 2 churches to see if there was an option of installing a plug for a generator. Then he would find a generator that could operate it for emergencies like we just had.

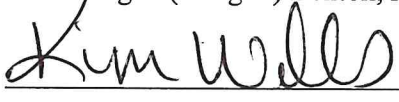
Commissioner Dobbins had no items to report.

Commissioner Wagoner thanked Public Works for all the work at Christmas and informed everyone that he had done a Facebook post and that most of the comments were positive. He stated he had a couple of meetings set with contractors that was going to be looking at the town's sidewalks.

#### **H. Committee Reports as Needed:** There were no additional reports.

- X. Adjourn:** Commissioner Dobbins motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Wagoner seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 8:14 p.m.

  
R. Devaughn (Vaughn) Benton, Mayor

  
Kim Wells, Finance Officer/Town Clerk