

Town of Boonville
August 6, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes
Harvey E. Smith Municipal Building

The following were in attendance at the 8/6 regular meeting: Mayor Rusty Hunter, Commissioners Bill Florence, Janet Matthews, William Paul Baity, and Gerald Brown. Also in attendance were Police Chief Greg Gibson, Finance Officer/Town Clerk Kim Wells, Public Works Director Jeff Jones and Zoning Officer Tony Roberts.

- I. Call to order and welcome:** Mayor Hunter called the 8/6 meeting to order.
- II. Conflict of interest issues and approval of agenda:** Commissioner Baity motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Matthews seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
- III. Adoption of 7/2 regular minutes:** Commissioner Matthews motioned to adopt the 7/2 regular meeting minutes as written. Commissioner Baity seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
- IV. Public comments:** Craig and Jessica Cox, 108 Wren Ave, addressed the Board members regarding the Animal Ordinance as it pertains to owning chickens within the town limits. Before obtaining their chickens, they had attempted on several occasions to obtain a copy of the town's ordinance. They detailed the issues they have with the current Animal Ordinance, and requested that the Board members reconsider the number of chickens per lot. Mrs. Cox stated how many were in her family and how that number related to the number of chickens they currently have. She also stated that the chicken coop was not within 100' of any home. Mayor Hunter detailed the steps that would need to be taken to revise the ordinance. He stated the Board members would review the information provided by Mrs. Cox. Commissioner Florence asked if there were any issues with their neighbors. Mrs. Cox indicated the chickens are not bothersome. Ms. Mariena Shore notified the Board members that September is designated as Ovarian Cancer Awareness month. She asked the Board members to consider participating in Ovarian Cancer Awareness month by allowing volunteers to place teal-colored ribbons on poles and by putting yard signs up. The cost to participate is \$100, which she would fund. Mayor Hunter agreed to allow the Town of Boonville to participate in the program and signed a letter of support. Ms. Shore announced that a fundraiser would be held on September 8, 2013, at Sanders Ridge Winery for the Meme Brown "Fight Like a Girl" Scholarship Fund. No other public comments were made.
- V. Business:**
 - A. Board approval of easement between Boonville Baptist Church and Town of Boonville:** Commissioner Brown motioned to approve the easement. Commissioner Florence seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
 - B. Board approval of ordinance to authorize Boonville Police Department to seek background checks and suitability for ABC permits:** Mayor Hunter informed the Board that the Town needed to adopt an ordinance to allow the Police Department to perform background checks for ABC permits. He reviewed a sample ordinance and proposed that Boonville use the same language. Commissioner Florence motioned to pass the ordinance to authorize the Police Department to perform background checks. Commissioner Brown seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
 - C. Board approval to allow WorkForce to perform drug testing for town employees (number and how often – random testing):** Mayor Hunter informed the Board members that Finance Officer/Town Clerk Wells had suggested a company, which would perform pre-employment and random drug testing for the Town. He stated the cost would remain the same, but the company needs to know how often the town would like random tests conducted and how many to conduct. The consensus of the Board members was to allow WorkForce to perform semiannual testing. Mayor Hunter will let Ms. Wells know how many employees per random testing.
 - D. Update from Board members on codification of ordinances:** The Board members reviewed the codification draft. One of the items discussed was the lack of a second notice prior to water cutoff. The consensus of the Board members was to table the discussion until consultation with the Town's attorney.
 - E. Update on the Boonville Waterline Project:** Mayor Hunter explained the progress of the waterline project, stating that the goal was to find a clean and reliable water source for economic development and growth. He stated the project involved a \$3-\$3.5 million loan from USDA for the following projects: waterline connecting Boonville to Jonesville, infrastructure repair to loop all dead ends for eliminating

dirty water, 700 radio read meters, and 3,000' sewer outfall on Sunset Dr. Mayor Hunter informed the attendees that Boonville must upgrade the sewer plant before any growth could occur. He quoted estimated cost for each project, including \$1 million to build a new sewer plant. Mayor Hunter mentioned that there were options to upgrade the current sewer plant to enable it to operate at a higher capacity. He discussed issues with the interlocal agreement with Jonesville and NC's regulations that municipalities must have a 2-day emergency water reserve. Mayor Hunter reported on the Board members visit to view the Iredell Water Authority, which operates solely on wells. He stated the Iredell Water Authority sells water to large companies including a hospital, and that Boonville could handle any potential growth with its current wells. Mayor Hunter stated the cost of drilling a new well would be \$80,000-120,000, and that there are potential well sites in Boonville if needed. Mayor Hunter stated that the USDA loan application was still in its early stages and could be modified to meet the Town's projected needs. Mayor Hunter asked for input from the Board members and the public by the next meeting. Jessica Cox asked about the water issue from Sunset stating that when it rained, the water ran through her yard. Bonnie Lasky spoke about her concerns regarding STEP funds invested in the Jonesville to Boonville waterline project and that Boonville's relationship with Yadkin County officials could be damaged. Discussion followed on the cost to produce 1,000 gallons of water verses the cost of purchasing 1,000 gallons of surface water from Jonesville.

- F. Purchase of new water meters:** Mayor Hunter reviewed an issue the town faced regarding the purchase of new radio read water meters. Discussion followed on the amount of lead in the current radio read meters vs. the amount of lead in the updated meters. Discussion followed. Currently, Boonville possesses the funds to purchase new meters and therefore would not need to include that cost in the USDA loan application package. Scrapping of the old meters would help offset the cost of the new meters. Mayor Hunter explained that purchasing the new meters now could potentially save Boonville approximately \$45,000 plus the additional debt service for repayment of the USDA loan. He explained the need for new meters, which includes less staff time required for meter reading, accuracy of readings, and accuracy of actual water usage. Discussion followed. Commissioner Brown motioned to purchase the new meters. Commissioner Baity seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Mayor Hunter verified with Public Works Director Jones that the total amount for the meters would be approximately \$157,000.

VI. Reports and announcements:

- A. Mayor's report:** Mayor Hunter thanked the Public Works Department for installing new back steps at Town Hall.
- B. Finance Officer's report:** Finance Officer Wells reported that MuniPay was operational. She stated a link had been added to the Town's website for online payments. Ms. Wells reported that 2013 tax bills had been printed. There were a total of 740 bills totaling \$328,000 in revenue. Finance Officer Wells stated the current collection rate for 2012 taxes was 97.13%. Ms. Wells stated that she had been busy with year-end reports and preparing for the audit. She anticipated it would be mid-September before Charles Scott would be available to prepare the financial work papers. Ms. Wells informed the Board members that the July 2013 Budget vs. Actuals report was in everyone's box but reminded them that it included some 2012 revenues and expenses that Mr. Scott would put in the appropriate year.
- C. Public Works Director's report:** Public Works Director Jones informed the Board that the Public Works Department had discovered a lead water pipe on Corum Ave and had replaced it. He reported that they had been working on the sidewalks but had been delayed by the rain. He informed the Board members that Boonville would receive a Notice of Violation (NOV) on the sewer plant since it had 10 days in the prior month of over 200,000 gallons/day. He reported that the Lon Ave outfall line had a 9,000-gallon sewer spill. Mr. Jones reviewed the policy for water adjustments for leaks. The current adjustment erases water and sewer. Public Works Director Jones asked the Board members to consider changing the policy to only erase sewer since treatment of those gallons of water is still required. Mr. Jones informed the Board members one resident was debating his water usage and had asked for a new meter. Public Works Director Jones suggested that the Board members make it a policy that if a resident requests a new meter, the resident will cover cost of the new meter. Mr. Jones stated that he had met with Attorney Freeman, per the Board's request. He stated that Mr. Freeman was currently working on the Howard Street lift station project. Public Works Director Jones stated that he currently had Yadkin County landfill tickets totaling \$3,340 for the NOV dumping of the mulch. He stated they were still hauling the NOV mulch to the landfill. Discussion followed on allowing a landscaper to take the mulch. Commissioner Florence

stated that this was acceptable but the mulch must be 130 degrees for a certain amount of time before anyone can use the clippings as mulch.

- D. Police Chief's report:** Police Chief Gibson reported that the Police Department had increased the number of vacation house checks. He stated that schedules were being rearranged for officers on vacation. Police Chief Gibson introduced Weston Parks. He stated Mr. Parks had applied for one of the part-time officer positions. He asked the Board members to entertain hiring Mr. Parks as one of his part-time officers. Mayor Hunter gave a personal reference for Mr. Parks and informed the Board members that the Police Department was in desperate need of part-time help. Commissioner Baity motioned to hire Weston Parks as a part-time police officer at \$12.86 hour. Commissioner Florence seconded. Discussion followed on the effective date. Consensus was to make his employment effective on 8/7/13. The motion passed with all in favor.
- E. Zoning Officer's report:** Zoning Officer Roberts reported that a Mexican restaurant was open in Boonville. Mr. Roberts stated that construction of the Family Dollar store was currently being held up waiting on environmental testing. Zoning Officer Roberts reported that the Boonville Baptist Church was preparing for an expansion. He also stated he had recently completed zoning permits for 5 new homes in town. Mr. Roberts stated he would ask West Depot Creative to add the town's zoning map to the website.
- F. Departmental commissioner's reports:** There were no additional items reported.
- G. Committee reports as needed:** Tom Bastable, President of the BBDDA, invited the Board members to attend the next meeting on August 20 at 7pm. He stated the topic on the agenda would be planning the Christmas parade and event.

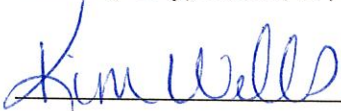
VII. Closed Session per NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6): Commissioner Mathews motioned to go into closed session per NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6). Commissioner Brown seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Florence motioned to give Jeff Jones a raise of \$2 hour and Kim Wells a raise of \$1 hour, effective immediately. Commissioner Brown seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Public Works Director Jones asked about the effective date for the R&A Labs notice. The consensus was to make the notice effective September 1st.

VIII. Adjourn: Commissioner Florence motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Baity seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.



Russell (Rusty) Hunter, IV, Mayor



Kim Wells, Finance Officer/Town Clerk