

Town of Boonville
May 14, 2021, Recessed Minutes
Harvey E. Smith Municipal Building

The following were in attendance at the 5/14/21, recessed meeting: Mayor Vaughn Benton, Commissioners David Cox, Monica Craver, and Dwaine Dobbins. Also in attendance were Finance Officer/Town Clerk Kim Wells, Public Works Director Jeff Jones, and Police Chief Jeff Hobson. Mayor Pro-tem Justin Phillips and Commissioner Tim Driver were absent.

Mayor Benton called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Commissioner Cox motioned to go into closed session per NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6) for personnel. Commissioner Dobbins seconded, and the motioned passed unanimously at 9:05 a.m.

Commissioner Craver motioned to go into open session. Commissioner Cox seconded, and the motioned passed unanimously at 9:53 a.m.

Commissioner Craver motioned to hire Jason Hall as a Public Works Technician at a rate of \$14.00 hour and Crystal Hutchens as a Public Works Technician with additional administrative duties at a rate of \$14.00 hour. Commissioner Cox seconded, and the motioned passed unanimously. Mr. Hall could begin work as early as May 17, 2021, and Mrs. Hutchens begin work as late as June 7, 2021.

Public Works Director Jones and Finance Officer/Town Clerk Wells reviewed the Enterprise Revenue and Expense accounts. The Board members discussed the proposed Capital Improvement Plan for the Enterprise fund. It was stated there would be a follow up on the Town's lab services since the current company was bought by another firm.

The Board members acknowledged a member of the Boonville Fire Department who asked the Board members to consider purchasing a new radio for the Fire Department to help limit the sharing of their radios while on duty. Discussion followed. Commissioner Craver motioned that approve \$2,628.50 out of CARES Act funds for the Fire Department's radio. Commissioner Cox seconded, and the motioned passed unanimously.

Public Works Director Jones reviewed the NC Rural Water Association's rate study for the Town with the proposed rates for the upcoming year(s). Because the study suggested raising water rates significantly over the next several years, the Board members requested that Mr. Jones obtain a second opinion on the study. The Board members also suggested that a letter be drafted regarding debt service forgiveness and that surrounding municipalities be contacted for ideas.

Public Works Director Jones reviewed a proposed wording change to the Schedule of Fees.

Next year employee salaries were discussed. It was the consensus of the Board members not to increase employee salaries in the upcoming fiscal year.

Public Works Director Jones reviewed the current Water Leak Policy. He referenced the history of the policy and asked that the Board members consider changing the policy to account for all water that runs through the Town's meters. He explained that there is "unaccountable" water reporting he has to do for the State. However, water being adjusted off is still water the Town had to treat. He stated that the water not going back into the system was at no cost to the Town and recommended only writing that amount of usage off.

Commissioner Craver motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Cox seconded, and the motion passed unanimously at 12:07 p.m.

R. Devaughn (Vaughn) Benton

R. Devaughn (Vaughn) Benton, Mayor

Kim Wells

Kim Wells, Finance Officer/Town Clerk