



MINUTES OF FRANKLINVILLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

August 9, 2021

ATTENDEES: Mayor Perry L. Conner, Mayor Pro-Tem Priscilla Dunn, Commissioner Richard Goodwin, Commissioner A.C. Hurley, Commissioner Brandon Hurley, Commissioner Mac Whatley

Finance Officer/Town Clerk-Beverly O'Brien

Utility Clerk-Christie Gunter

Public Works Director-Arnold Allred

Assistant Public Works Director- Joe Walsh

GUESTS: Laurie Cone, Billy Farias, Harvey Harman, Lee Hockmuth

22-10 7:30 pm: MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Silence/Prayer

22-11 CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Conner opened the consent agenda. Motion by Commissioner Dunn to accept the consent agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Goodwin. Motion adopted, unanimously.

22-12 ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Finance Officer O'Brien introduced the needed budget amendments to close out the Fiscal Year of 2020-2021. Amendments included with these minutes. **Motion by Commissioner Whatley to approve the necessary budget amendments. Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Dunn. Motion adopted, unanimously.**

Finance Officer O'Brien discussed the necessary decision for additional funding for the Franklinville Fire Dept. While the new contract is being negotiated, she needed to know at what percentage the Board wanted to fund the Fire Department. The County had agreed to a 2cent tax increase, but the Town had already finalized their budget at the time of the request. Finance Officer O'Brien calculated that an increase in the line item appropriation would not be needed until approximately December or January at the earliest, depending on the tax revenue collections.

Commissioner Whatley, motion to adopt the resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Goodwin. Motion adopted, unanimously. Resolution accepted.

22-04 PLANNING and DEVELOPMENT

Commissioner Whatley discussed the library project and the up-coming USDA application process. The Town hopes to attract multiple partners, including Randolph County. The Highway 64 Preliminary Engineering Report is in process. The costs of part of the project are \$2.7 million and includes two bores under the river. The Town has decided to pursue a water only project as the costs of sewer extension is cost prohibitive. The final submission should be for \$4 million or less for both pieces of the project, including an extension to Cedar Falls.

22-04 PUBLIC SAFETY

Commissioner A.C. Hurley discussed the Fire Department's prior request to the County for a 2-cent increase in the Fire Tax. **Motion by Commissioner A.C. Hurley to give the Fire Department the 2-cent tax increase they asked for.** Point of Personal Privilege: Commissioner Whatley, Attorney Bob Wilhoit will be happy to draft a new contract with the Fire Departments Attorney, Mr. Rossabi, and get it done quickly. General Discussion from the Board reference the proper action to take to ensure both a valid contract and the increased funding for the Fire Department. **Motion by Commissioner Whatley to hire Attorney Bob Wilhoit to represent the Town in contract negotiations with the Fire Department on the Fire Coverage Contract. Seconded by Commissioner Goodwin.** Point of Personal Privilege: Mayor Pro Tem Dunn discussed her disappointment in the behaviors of the Fire Department Board and some Commissioners for encouraging rumors and intimidation. She requested clarification about the expected time involved, and whether the hiring of Attorney Wilhoit was for a specific time as well. General discussions about waiting until the contract was agreed upon or using an appropriation to cover the additional cost to the Town. **Motion adopted, three for, Commissioner A.C. Hurley opposed to motion to hire Attorney Wilhoit.** General discussion reference Code enforcement and the part time position included in the 2021-2022 budget for the Town. Resident Billy Farias is interested in the position. General discussion reference untagged vehicles, the Town /County leash law, and violations.

22-05 PUBLIC SERVICES

Commissioner Whatley discussion of the new grant received for the Library for a Story Walk. The grant is for \$10,000.00. Mayor Conner read a letter from Parents as Teacher's Program Director, Amanda Ratliff, in which she thanked the Town for the replacement steps to her office and discussed the growth and successes of the program.

22-06 PUBLIC UTILITIES

Public Works Director Arnold Allred discussed the flushing report, see attached, and the continuation of the mowing program for the Town. Mayor Pro Tem Dunn thanked the department for all their hard work around Town. Director Allred discussed the new mixer unit for the Ogles Creek Pump Station. The Town has not received the ARPA funds for the purchase of the unit yet and there are several more steps in the funding process. Director Allred discussed the completion of the TTHM water project in

conjunction with Ramseur. The Town is awaiting final approval for the project completion and the Town of Ramseur is working on getting the newly installed equipment approved for use. General discussion reference new hydrants. Director Allred has found 4 hydrants out of service and the initial budget request was for 2 hydrants to be replaced from the ARPA grant. General discussion reference the pricing of perhaps 10 hydrants. Assistant Director Joe Walsh discussed the new lighting program with Duke Energy. He discussed the up-dated lighting requests for the downtown area and Duke expects to start the up-dates next Wednesday. The price is expected to be \$450.00 or less. Director Allred pointed out the gravel installation and grading of the parking lot on the West end of the park. He also discussed the increased service from the local Wildlife Officer and his checks of the park patrons fishing license compliance.

Director Allred discussed the new ballfield and what needs to be completed. He discussed the costs to finish the current fields and bleachers at an estimated \$12,424.10. See attached. To build an additional Tee Ball field would bring the cost to \$17,538.78. General discussion reference finishing the second field versus also installing a Tee Ball field. **Commissioner Goodwin, motion to expend \$12,424.10 from the Recreation Capital Outlay line item.**

Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Dunn. Motion adopted, unanimously.

General Board discussion reference the placement of the radar sign. Assistant Director Walsh gave a report on the attributes of the sign and the AC power unit versus the Solar powered unit. The sign is 28X33" in dimension. Mayor Conner requested the sign to be placed on the West end of Town to slow traffic and Director Allred wants to place the sign near the park shelter and the digital information sign for the ease of installing AC power supply. Mayor Conner suggested for several Board members to meet with Mr. Allred and Joe Walsh about radar sign placement. Director Allred discussed the needed repairs of the boom truck. It is currently in Charlotte for inspection and repair.

22-07 NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Whatley discussed the need to replace Debra Barrett on the Planning Board. Mrs. Barret is moving from Franklinville and a position will be open. General discussion reference the addition of Living Well Community resident Laurie Cone. Ms. Cone has been an active volunteer for the Town and is willing to serve on the Planning Board. **Commissioner Whatley, motion to appoint Laurie Cone to the Franklinville Planning Board. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Dunn. Motion adopted, unanimously.**

Mayor Conner announced the resignation of Lydia Craven from the County Library Board. Ms. Craven was the liaison to the County Board representing the Franklinville Library. General discussion reference possible interested residents. Area resident Ellen Greer was recommended by Commissioner Whatley. **Motion by Commissioner Whatley to appoint Ellen Greer to the Library Board. Seconded by Commissioner Goodwin. Motion adopted, unanimously.**

22-08 VISITORS COMMENTS

Harvey Harman with the Living Well Community discussed the need for larger, more visible signage at the parking and trail head for the Greenway near Rising Sun Way. He said if cost was

an issue, he would be happy to help cover the costs. Mayor Conner directed Public Works Director Allred to get larger signage for the Greenway parking area. Lee Hockmuth with Seniors Helping Seniors asked for the use of the park for a fund raiser the second or third weekend in September. She has previously used the park, pre pandemic. **Mayor Pro Tem Dunn, motion to allow Ms. Hockmuth’s organization to use the park. Seconded by Commissioner Goodwin. Motion adopted, unanimously.**

22-9 MAYORS COMMENTS

Mayor Conner discussed some local code enforcement issues with the Board as well as the upcoming ARPA Fund monies from the Federal Government and the need to prioritize investments. He discussed the past Audit and the new applications for the funding for the proposed Library and Highway 64 projects.

**Commissioner A.C. Hurley, Motion to Adjourn.
Seconded by Commissioner Whatley. Motion adopted.
Adjourned 8:57pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Perry L. Conner, Mayor

(seal)

Attest: _____
Beverly O’Brien, Finance Officer/Town Clerk