



**Minutes of The Board of Commissioners Meeting
January 9, 2023
Held at 163 West Main Street, Franklinville Town Hall**

Attending:

Mayor A.C. Hurley, Mayor Pro Tem Priscilla Dunn, Commissioner Richard Goodwin, Commissioner Brandon Hurley, Commissioner Mac Whatley
Town Clerk /Finance Officer Beverly O'Brien
Public Works Director-Arnold Allred
Utility Clerk – Christie Gunter
Guests: Eddie Carrick, CPA, Laurie Cone, Harvey Harman, Mary Joan Pugh, Richard Underwood

23-01 7:30 pm COMMISSIONER'S MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Pledge of Allegiance
Moment of Silence/ Prayer

23-02 CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Hurley discussed the consent agenda. **Motion by Commissioner Whatley to accept the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Dunn. Motion adopted, unanimously.**

23-03 OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Eddie Carrick presented the 2021-2022 Audit Report to the Board, see attached. Mr. Carrick's firm does 80% audit work for municipalities. 26 of them for small towns with 10,000 or less population. He discussed the methods he uses for the audit and gave the town a clean opinion without any negative findings. He told the Board they will have to send a letter of Response to the LGC within 60 days, because we are still on the LGC utility distressed list. There were two issues identified from the LGC; one was a .57% overage in the budgeted amount for ad valorem vehicle taxes and the other was the inclusion on the Distressed Utility listing. The audit was filed in a timely manner this year and the Board thanked the Auditor.

23-04 ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Finance Officer O'Brien asked for any questions on the financial report. Ms. O'Brien agreed to write the response letter and submit it to Mr. Carrick for review before submitting to the Board. With their approval, she will then submit it to the Local Government Commission.

Mary Joan Pugh discussed the Year of the Trail activities and the Heart of Carolina publication which will feature the Year of the Trail and include the Franklinville Trail and Faith Rock Trail. She gave an up-date on the progress of the two bridges along the trail and the engineering studies. The expectation is for the Sandy Creek Bridge to be completed by the end of 2023. The Bush Creek Bridge is the question mark with a cost estimate of \$325,000, and an engineering cost of \$125,000. This bridge would be 110 ft long with 2 spans. Bush Creek is on State Property and requires State engineering and construction approvals and standards. Commissioner Goodwin questioned when he would be able to walk to Cedar Falls and Ms. Pugh replied hoping for next year.

23-05 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

There was no Planning Board meeting needed in December, and Commissioner Whatley discussed the lack of any applications for January. Town Clerk O'Brien discussed the recent questions from realtors about property and suggested that they are waiting for better weather for development.

23-06 PUBLIC SAFETY

Commissioner Farias was not in attendance and there was no report.

23-07 PUBLIC SERVICES

Amanda Ratliff had included a report from the Parents as Partners Program with the initial Commissioners packet. See included. The Library Report from Charity Johnson was printed and presented. See attached.

23-08 PUBLIC UTILITIES

Public Works Director, Arnold Allred, gave the report. See attached. He discussed the progress on the Highway 64 project. General discussion reference the County and State involvement There will be a Water Authority meeting in Ramseur on the 10th of the month to discuss moving to a regional water solution for the Eastern Randolph County area. General discussion reference the past offer made to Ramseur for Franklinville and Ramseur to run a regional water plant for the area. This written offer was made by a prior Board consisting of Randy Pugh, Perry Conner, A.C. Hurley, Mac Whatley and included Arnold Allred. Director Allred discussed the installation of the old park playground equipment at the new ballfield complex at the Otus Thomas fields. He also discussed the installation of the bleachers and the progress with the project.

23-09 TRANSPORTATION

General discussion reference the possibility of widening or closing Buie Lane between Main Street and Andrew Hunter. The road has damage and is narrow and steep for truck or large vehicle traffic. Director Allred asked Commissioner Goodwin to look at the Rockie River Street . This area is in need of a patch as well.

23-10 NEW BUSINESS

Harvey Harman with the Living Well Community discussed the offerings of the Deep River Folk School and the possible promotion by the Town of the classes. He specifically asked if the Tourism Development Grant Funds could be used to promote and advertise the school and develop a marketing plan. He discussed the usage of the Greenway for Birding and said it is listed as a Bird Hotspot with 110 species spotted so far. He encouraged the Town and the Community to put assets together and thanked the Town Board for their involvement. Commissioner Whatley detailed that this TDA grant was specifically for the banners and signs for the Town but we can always try for another grant for promotion of local events.

Commissioner Whatley presented proofs of the banners and discussed placement. Commissioner Brandon Hurley suggested to buy really good, sturdy hardware that would not need quick replacement. General discussion reference costs of the banners and brackets. **Motion by Commissioner Brandon Hurley to spend up to \$4000.00 from the TDA grant for the banners and hardware. Seconded by Commissioner Whatley, Motion adopted, unanimously.**

**Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Whatley,
Seconded by Commissioner Goodwin.
Adjourned 9:12 pm**

Respectfully Submitted

A.C. Hurley, Mayor

Attest: _____

Beverly O'Brien, Finance Officer/Town Clerk