

TOWN OF WEBSTER



September 4, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes

The Board of Commissioners for the Town of Webster met for a regularly scheduled board meeting at Town Hall, 1411 Webster Road at 5:15 p.m.

Members/Staff Present: Mayor Tracy Rodes; Vice-Mayor Leigh Anne Young (arriving after roll call); Commissioners Billie Bryson, Kelly Donaldson, Allan Grant, and Danell Moses; Town Attorney William Morgan; Town Clerk Debbie Coffey

Members Absent: None

Guest Speaker: Doyle M. Ward, NCDOT Division 14 Assistant Traffic Engineer

Others Present: Brad Reisinger, Webster Resident

GENERAL MEETING

Call to Order/Ethics Statement: Mayor Tracy Rodes called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. and read the Ethics Statement. No board member expressed any conflict of interest.

Approval of Agenda:

MOTION: Commissioner Grant moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Moses seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the August 7, 2019 meeting were emailed prior to the meeting for review. Minutes from the Joint Governmental Entities Meeting on July 23, 2019, as provided by the County Clerk, were provided prior to the meeting for review.

MOTION: Commissioner Grant moved to approve the August 7 Minutes and accept the Jackson County Minutes as provided by the County Clerk. Commissioner Donaldson seconded. Motion carried.

Informal Comments by Public:

Brad Reisinger addressed the board about speeding and reckless driving on Buchanan Loop and Grove Road. Mr. Reisinger is a resident of Grove Road and noted that the problem began approximately one to one-and-one-half years ago. He has noticed the problem involves a specific vehicle that is speeding and driving in a reckless manner. Mr. Reisinger stated that the area has always been quiet and a place where children are able to play, but due to this and other suspicious activity, it is creating a feeling of fear among the residents. Mayor Rodes thanked Mr. Reisinger for bringing this to the board's attention and will address this concern with law enforcement officials.

CONSENT AGENDA

Financial Report:

July Financial statements have been provided prior to the meeting. August transactions currently include income of \$3,281.82 and expenses of \$7,563.74. July deposits and expenses will be provided by email following the meeting.

Current Account Balances as of today are:

\$ 49,074.08 - Checking

\$ 45,163.03 - Elite Plus Money Market



\$ 38,409.93 - 48 Month CD

Motion: Commissioner Moses moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Grant seconded. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mayor's Report:

- DOT Update - The R-5600 Hwy 107 Project, along with over 900 others, has been temporarily suspended due to budget issues. Mudslides in the Nantahala Gorge last week had closed the road and river, both have now been cleared and are open.
- TWSA Update - Dan Harbaugh has resigned and will be leaving as Executive Director on September 27. The Board of Directors hope to have an Interim in place by September 24. As Chair of TWSA, Mayor Rodes will have additional responsibilities during the transition process.
- The Planning Board did not have a quorum at last night's meeting. Should the Planning Board make a recommendation to adopt the county subdivision ordinances, a special meeting may be needed to set the date for the required Public Hearing prior to the board adopting the ordinance.
- Leigh Anne Young transplanted the overgrown plants that were in front of the monument and Elite Landscaping finished weeding and cleanup of the area.

Council Members' Reports:

No reports were given at this time.

Clerk's Report

- Bronwyn Burleson and her audit team will be on site for a field work day tomorrow.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Budget Amendment for Traffic Patrols:** Mayor Rodes noted that during the work session in April, the budget for Law Enforcement Patrol was reduced to \$6,000 for FY 19/20. This is equivalent to 20 hours of patrol per month. Due to concerns about speeding and safety on North and South River Roads, Mayor Rodes suggested amending Line Item # 10-4340-4440 (RES SVC- Law Enforcement) by \$2,000 to \$8,000 for the fiscal year, which is equivalent to 24 patrol hours per month. Line Item # 10-4120-2900 (GOV-Miscellaneous Expense) will be decreased by \$2,000.

Motion: Commissioner Moses moved to amend the budget as presented. Commissioner Young seconded. Motion carried.

2. **Planning Board Recommendations on Jackson County Unified Development**

(Subdivision) Ordinance: The Planning Board did not have a quorum last night, but may meet on September 10. The Planning Board Chair will let the clerk know as soon as possible to post the notice of the special meeting. If a special meeting is held, the Planning Board has been tasked with making a recommendation on the adoption of the county's subdivision ordinances.



OLD BUSINESS

1. **Review of the Interlocal Agreement:** Mayor Rodes would like the Planning Board to review this document. She would like a clause to increase communication between the County Planning Department and the town so the town is informed of all permits issued by the county on behalf of Webster. Another suggestion was for a commissioner to volunteer to check the county's website which lists building permits issued on a monthly basis. Mayor Rodes is also concerned that throughout the body of the draft document, the Town Board of Council is specified as sitting as the Board of Adjustment. The Town of Webster has a separate, appointed Board of Adjustment (BOA). The language may need to be changed to reflect that the Board of Adjustment will be responsible for these quasi-judicial decisions. If the Town Council will act as the BOA, then changes to Webster's charter will need to be made which will require the Planning Board's input, and if recommended, notice of a public hearing before adopting.

2. **Review of the Speed Seed Study Results:** Doyle Ward, Assistant Division Traffic Engineer for NCDOT Division 14, shared the Nu-Metrics Traffic Analyzer Study Computer Generated Summary Report conducted on North and South River Roads. The study was conducted on July 17, 2019, beginning at 10 am and lasted for 24 hours. The report results confirmed that posted speeds are in line with the 85th percentile level and that signage is adequate based on current standards. He explained that over-saturation of signs and artificially low speed limits leads to motorists becoming "sign blind" and lead to them not obeyed or regularly enforced. The annual average daily traffic (AADT) counts are considered low volume, as they are under 4,000 cars in a 24-hour period. Mr. Ward's opinion, based on the study results, is that increased law enforcement is needed. He did say the town could request some improvements such as shoulder repairs or guardrail installations. These would be based on funding availability and crash data. When asked about jake-brakes, Mr. Ward noted that such ordinances are almost impossible to enforce and these braking mechanisms are needed for safety in our geography. Mayor Rodes noted her concerns about increased traffic on North and South River Roads when the Hwy. 107 project construction begins. She stated that a significant increase in the daily traffic counts is likely, which will again lead to increased safety concerns. When the possibility of the Town adding digital speed limit signs was discussed, Mr. Ward stated that they are not currently allowable.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Commissioner Grant moved to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Regular Board Meeting- October 2, 2019 at 5:15 p.m.

Tracy Rodes, Mayor

Debbie Coffey, Town Clerk