

TOWN OF WEBSTER
February 5, 2020 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; Commissioners Allen Davis, Kelly Donaldson, Allan Grant, and Danell Moses; Town Attorney William Morgan; and Town Clerk Debbie Coffey

GENERAL MEETING

Call to Order: 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 January 8, 2020, Meeting and Closed Session were emailed prior to the meeting for review.

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to approve the January Minutes amended to correct the Elite Plus Money account balance. Commissioner Moses seconded. Motion carried.

Informal Comments by Public: None.

CONSENT AGENDA

Financial Report:

December Financial statements have been provided prior to the meeting. January transactions currently include income of \$12,773.27 and expenses of \$1,801.75 Current Account Balances as of today are:

\$ 65,643.16 - Checking
\$ 45,545.74 - Elite Plus Money Market
\$ 38,595.53 - 48 Month CD

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

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mayor's Report:

- Justin Woodard, the town landscaper, will continue to provide the same service as Elite Landscaping's sole owner. He has expressed a desire to have a year-round



contract and will provide a proposed contract for prior to the February 28th planning session.

- Mayor Rodes asked board members to discuss internet service with town residents to see if there is sufficient interest to encourage SkyFi to provide service to the area. Commissioner Moses stated that she attended a meeting at BalsamWest today and was told that home internet service with fiber optic cable may be available in the future but could cost \$5,000 per household to connect. Mayor Rodes noted that as a Tier 2 county, many grant options were not available that are open to more distressed counties. Frontier is reportedly filing for bankruptcy protection, but has released statements saying their current services should not be interrupted during their restructuring.
- SWC RPO TAC Update: NCDOT Division 14 is hosting an open house for public comment for the 2023-2029 State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) Prioritization 6 (P6) on February 4-6 at Division headquarters office at 253 Webster Road. The public comment period runs from Jan. 27- Feb. 28. More information can be found by contacting Steve Williams at sjwilliams@ncdot.gov or (828) 586-2141. Mayor Rodes has also posted this information on the Town's Facebook page.
- Justin Query from the NC Forest Service gave a "Firewise" presentation at the Southwestern Commission meeting and literature from his presentation was shared with board members.
- The TWSA board hopes to have an executive director in place within the next few weeks.
- The Center for Domestic Peace will hold an informational meeting on February 14 at the Farmhouse Mercantile and Coffee Bar from 1:30 until 3:30 pm.
- A Green Growth Toolbox workshop will be provided by the NC Wildlife Commission and hosted by the Jackson County Planning Department on March 26th at SCC in the Burrell Building. There is no charge, but advanced registration is required.
- Nick Breedlove will attend the February 20th Planning Board meeting. Any board members with questions related to tourism and its impact to Webster should send them to Commissioner Young to have them addressed at that time.

Council Members' Reports: Commissioner Moses expressed concerns about gun fire originating from the BullFrog Cove area. The Sheriff's Office was made known about the incident.

Clerk's Report: Jon Welch of Workplace Solutions has signed a nondisclosure contract for the town in order to proceed with digitizing records.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Budget Amendment: Mayor Rodes outlined the budget amendment, noting that elections expenses may be approximately \$700 less than the estimated \$2,076.

MOTION: Commissioner Moses moved to approve Budget Amendment #2. Commissioner Young seconded. Motion carried.



2. **Appointment to Planning Board:** Shawn Paulus resigned from the Planning Board. Jenny Reisinger has agreed to serve if appointed.

MOTION: Commissioner Moses moved to appoint Jenny Reisinger to the Planning Board to fulfill the seat vacated by Shawn Paulus. Commissioner Donaldson seconded. Motion carried.

3. **Pocket Park Plan:** Sara Stahlman, Co-creator of the Play Sanctuary and member of the Webster Planning Board, has designed a small park plan for the Webster ballfield area. "Webster Wildwalk and Accessible Naturescape: A Unique Play Area for Jackson County " is a very cost-effective plan creating a nature-scape for active outdoor play. The goal is to create an outdoor learning environment that incorporates natural elements in a setting that is accessible for children of all ages and abilities. The plan emphasizes connecting children to nature and would be a valuable asset for residents of both the town and county. It was the consensus of the board to share this plan with the Jackson County Parks and Recreation Department.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Webster Road Litter:** Mayor Rodes would like to contract with Elite Landscaping to do a litter sweep along Webster Road. Many areas are not safe for volunteer workers due to narrow shoulders and hazardous conditions caused by recent heavy rains. Justin Woodard has provided an estimate of between \$150 and \$200 to complete the litter sweep. It was the consensus of the board to fund the litter sweep.
2. **County Grant Update:** Mayor Rodes has not had contact with John Agoos to get additional estimates for trenching wiring at the Veteran's Monument. All grant projects must be completed and receipts submitted for reimbursement by the end of the fiscal year.
3. **Short Term Rental (STR):** Commissioner Moses listed thirty N.C. towns with populations closest to that of Webster. Each commissioner was assigned five towns to research any recently adopted ordinances regarding STRs in their municipalities.

CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Commissioner Moses moved to enter closed session under NC GS 143-318.11(a)(5) for discussion of possible property acquisition. Commissioner Young seconded. Motion carried.

The Board entered closed session at 6:16 p.m.

No action was taken during the Closed Session. Closed Session adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

MOTION: Commissioner Moses moved to reenter Open Session. Commissioner Donaldson seconded. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Commissioner Grant moved to adjourn. Commissioner Davis seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.



Next Meeting:

Annual Planning Worksession: Friday February 28, 2020 at 12:15 pm

Regular Board Meeting - Wednesday March 4, 2020 at 5:15 p.m.

Tracy Rodes, Mayor

Debbie Coffey, Town Clerk