

02/15/22

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Wade met in regular session February 8, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. at the Clayton (Sam) House Community Center due to COVID-19 and to allow for social distancing.

Board Present

Mayor Joseph Dixon
Commissioner Johnny Sawyer
Commissioner Johnny Lanthorn
Commissioner Kevin Herring
Commissioner George Strater
Commissioner Jennifer Weaver

Visitors

Mr. Mark Hedgepeth, Haigh, Byrd & Lambert
Mr. Mike Rutan, Mid-Carolina Council of Governments
Mr. Chris Connolly, NCDOT

Mayor Dixon called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

Agenda Adoption

Commissioner Sawyer made a motion seconded by Commissioner Lanthorn to adopt the Agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes

Commissioner Sawyer made a motion seconded by Commissioner Lanthorn to approve the Minutes of the January 11, 2022 regular session. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports

Commissioner Lanthorn made a motion seconded by Commissioner Strater to approve the Financial Reports as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Water Department

Board Members reviewed the report and Commissioner Lanthorn made a motion to approve the Report as presented. Commissioner Sawyer seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Business Items

Speakers from the Floor

Mayor Dixon informed the Board that no one had signed up to address the Board under the Speakers from the Floor agenda item.

Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Audit

Mayor Dixon turned the meeting over to Mr. Mark Hedgepeth of Haigh, Byrd & Lambert CPAs for the presentation of the 2020-2021 audit. Mr. Hedgepeth presented the Board graphs representing various aspects of the audit. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to discuss the Town's most recent audit and explained that the General Statutes of NC require municipalities to have annual audits. Mr. Hedgepeth explained the Independent Auditor's Report letter which presented the objective of the audit, the responsibility of the Board in regard to the audit, the responsibility of the auditor and the opinion of the auditor. He informed the Board that the Local Government Commission directed the elements that had to be included in the audit and the Town received a clean opinion regarding its finances. He also explained to the Board the different sections of the audit document including the Management's Discussion and Analysis, Basic Financial Statements and other Notes to the Statement. Mr. Hedgepeth explained that the Local Government Commission really focused on the overall fund balance for the Town which was \$335,859. He stated that the LGC used this amount and compared it to the expenditures of the Town to derive a percentage of 49% which would give the Town funds to cover 6 months of expenditures in case of an emergency. Mr. Hedgepeth stated that this percentage was low compared to other Town's of comparable size and that the LGC recommended it to be 71%. He stated that there was also a Unit Data Report that was prepared for the State to determine Performance Indicators of Concern and with this lower percentage the Town would have to provide a response within 60 days regarding a plan to increase the Fund Balance.

Mr. Hedgepeth proceeded to explain the graphs beginning with the overall \$533,465 cash balance for the Town which was an increase of \$57,000. Mr. Hedgepeth further explained in detail the following key figures of the audit: breakdown of revenues by source, breakdown of departmental expenditures including a 5-year comparative analysis, a 5-year analysis of Water Fund operating revenues and expenditures and finally the amount of debt owed by the Town.

Mr. Hedgepeth informed the Board that the percentage for revenue sources & departmental expenditures were almost exactly the same as the 2019-2020 percentages with the exception of transportation expenses. He informed the Board that the line graph depicting the revenues and expenses for the Water Fund showed the positive result of the changes that were made regarding rates with an increase in almost \$38,000 in revenues. Mr. Hedgepeth updated the Board regarding the Town's debt. He stated that the Town owed \$88,180 with \$43,600 belonging to the General Fund and \$44,500 belonging to the Water Fund. He stated that both debt amounts were set to pay-out in 2026.

Mr. Hedgepeth summarized the Audit by saying that the Town's financial position was very good, and the operating results outperformed what was budgeted for both revenues and expenses. He informed the Board the audit had been accepted by the Local Government Commission and did not require any changes. He encouraged the Board to read the Financial Statements more carefully and if there were any questions, he would be glad to answer them. Mr. Hedgepeth informed the Board that at the end of the year he would be retiring and Haigh, Byrd & Lambert had chosen to no longer perform

governmental auditing. Mr. Hedgepeth offered his assistance with the transition to a new auditing firm. There were no questions or comments by the Board. Commissioner Lanthorn made a motion seconded by Commissioner Sawyer to accept the 2020-2021 audit. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentation of Draft Cumberland County Comprehensive Transportation Plan & Recommendations

Mayor Dixon turned the meeting over to Mr. Mike Rutan of the Rural Planning Organization of the Mid-Carolina Council of Governments. Mr. Rutan also introduced Chris Connolly from the NCDOT. Mr. Rutan explained that the NCDOT Transportation Planning does a CTP for all of Cumberland County using lots of various data and projecting out transportation needs for 30 years. He stated that the plan is an attempt to get all future plans for the different means of transportation in one document. Mr. Rutan explained the benefits of having a CTP and how it affects the process of how a project goes from an idea to getting funded. He informed the Board that for a project to get funded it has to be a part of a CTP or local plan and so he would like for the Board to review the maps that were a part of the draft plan. He explained that the Board would have to approve the CTP for Wade and endorse the rest of the plan at a future meeting.

Mr. Chris Conolly informed the Board that due to COVID the public involvement portion of the CTP was moved online. Mr. Conolly reviewed the participant information and explained maps that were derived using this information. He also explained what other information and pre-existing plans were used to develop the draft CTP. Commissioner Weaver questioned the number of participants and also how the data was assimilated. Mr. Rutan explained that there was a sophisticated model that was run on the computer that had roads and information regarding the roads along with census data which projected out information to determine traffic counts for the future. Commissioner Weaver questioned if it was possible to determine how many of the participants were from Wade. Mr. Connolly stated that this information was not available; however, he could see how many markers for projects were placed in the Wade area. Mr. Rutan explained how projects were scored for funding. There was a general discussion of how projects such as the installation of sidewalks would be handled. Mayor Dixon questioned how expenses were handled. Mr. Rutan stated the sidewalk and bike & pedestrian projects would require a 20% match from the Town.

Mr. Rutan stated that he realized that at times the intersection of Wade-Stedman Rd. and Main St. had a problem due to the I-95 widening project; however, the CTP would not address this problem. There was a general discussion of this issue. It was suggested that a stoplight could be installed that would be tied into I-95 and would only function as a full stoplight when there was a problem on the interstate. Mr. Rutan stated that this issue was something that he could bring to the attention of local DOT officials to see what the options were to help with the problem. He informed the Board that this matter could be addressed at future meeting. Commissioner Sawyer expressed the importance of resolving this matter due to the new subdivision that was going to be built along Wade Stedman Rd. Mr. Rutan stated that once the widening project was complete the additional lanes that would be available during an accident would cut down on the amount of traffic that would have to be rerouted.

Mr. Rutan asked that Board Members review the maps and corresponding project list. He explained that the MetroQuest site was still open to aid in viewing the maps; however, it would not allow participation. He informed the Board that if there was a project or projects that they would like to have considered they should contact him in the next couple of months prior to the final draft being adopted so that the ideas could be incorporated. Commissioner Sawyer questioned when the issue of the stoplight could be addressed. Mr. Rutan explained that this was a totally separate issue and would have to be done in a separate meeting. He stated that maybe this meeting could happen prior to the approval of the CTP. He agreed to contact local DOT officials about scheduling this meeting.

Committee Assignments for the 2021-2023 Term of Office

Mayor Dixon stated because Commissioners Sawyer and Herring were not in attendance at the January meeting, he wanted to revisit this issue. He asked that Commissioner Sawyer work on the Street Committee with Commissioner Strater and that Commissioner Herring work on the Beautification Committee with Commissioner Weaver. He asked that Commissioners ride around Town to see what needed to be done or corrected.

Committee Reports

Beautification – No report was given.

Park – Mayor Dixon reported that with the improving weather the maintenance workers would begin work on cleaning up the limbs and leaves.

Streets – Mayor Dixon reported that even with the cold and bad weather the streets were in good shape.

Case DEV-0094-21: Review of Site Plan and Conditions to Establish a Billboard as a Principal Use on a Vacant 1.17 Acre Site in Wade Town Limits Located at I-95 Southbound, Wade, NC 28395. Submitted by Shiva's Real Estate, LLC

Town Clerk Cindy Burchett stated that once the variance was granted by the Board of Adjustment then a new site plan had to be submitted. Board Members reviewed the proposed site plan and conditions sheet. Commissioner Lanthorn made a motion to conditionally approve Case DEV-0094-21. Commissioner Herring seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Advertisement of Delinquent Taxes

Commissioner Sawyer made a motion seconded by Commissioner Lanthorn to accept the report of unpaid taxes for 2021 and to approve the advertisement of the tax liens by the Cumberland County Tax Collector. The motion passed unanimously.

Founder's Day

Mayor Dixon stated that plans were moving forward for the event. He informed the Board that he had been in contact with Mr. Bullard about working with the vendors. He asked that Commissioners contact businesses about different sponsorships for the event. He also stated that help would be needed from the Commissioners and possibly their spouses for the cake contest, tractor show and car show. Town Clerk Cindy Burchett will contact Parks & Recreation about the stage and chairs for that day. Commissioner

Weaver stressed the importance of getting an early start on lining up participants for the parade. Mayor Dixon stated that lining up people for the stage entertainment may be difficult and that perhaps the length of time for this part of the event may have to be cut short. Commissioner Strater stated that other options may have to be considered for the different aspects of the event. He stressed the importance of getting the word out about the event and that 3 months was needed for planning. Commissioner Weaver stated that it was important to let the craft vendors know about the event. Board Members held a general discussion regarding these different events.

Announcements

Mayor Dixon stated that he would like to do an outside National Day of Prayer event in the Park.

Commissioner Sawyer reported that there were still no activities going on with the Joint Appearance Committee. He also reported that he had been in contact with the State Highway Patrol about some assistance in Town with the speed limit enforcement.


Commissioner Herring apologized for missing the January meeting. He explained that his absence was due to illness.

Commissioner Lanthorn stated that he had a couple of names of individuals in mind to serve on the Citizens Advisory Committee that he proposed. He informed the Board that the Fire Department would have a dedication for the new fire truck in the spring.

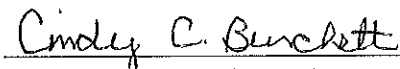
Adjournment

Commissioner Lanthorn made a motion seconded by Commissioner Weaver to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.



Joseph Dixon, Mayor



Cindy C. Burchett, Town Clerk