

**TOWN OF GRIFTON  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
WORKSHOP MEETING**

April 2, 2013

**Present:** Mayor B.R. Jackson; Commissioners Mary Grace Bright, E.F. Albritton, Will Barnes;  
Manager Joe Albright

**Absent:** Commissioners Sammy Whitehurst, Richard Hill

Mayor Jackson called the meeting to order.

Mayor Jackson led the Board of Commissioners in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**Recognition of Persons to be Heard:**

None

**Discussion Items**

1. *Recreation Master Plan Presentation – Alicia Arnold*

Alicia Arnold gave an overview of the Recreation Master Plan. She stated that the purpose of the plan was to examine the current programs, future programs and find a bridge of how to get from the current to the future. She informed the Board that currently Grifton has 11 recreational facilities and the Town owns 9 of those facilities. The other 2 are the boat access ramp and the ball field at the school. The Town manages none of the programs but does provide the maintenance and facilities. She stated that what the Town needs is to upkeep the current facilities, programs and more volunteers. Ms. Arnold stated that the areas that need work are the Depot, Mini Park, St. David Street park building, Hodges field, civic center and the RV Park.

Commissioner Barnes asked what needed to be done at the RV Park. Ms. Arnold stated the sites are fine but the playground equipment needs to be upgraded along with the benches and picnic tables.

Manager Albright informed the Board that the Ayden Grifton Kiwanis Club is doing a work project to repaint the restroom facility at the RV Park and they are also going to treat and seal the deck along with building some petitions around the outside showers for more privacy.

Ms. Arnold's recommendations to upkeep the facilities is to establish a maintenance schedule, prioritize projects, budget for upkeep and expand the facility checklist for each facility.

Commissioner Bright asked if anyone has sat down with Wells West and showed the plan to them to see if there are grants they can help up with.

Manager Albright responded that nobody has done that at this point.

Commissioner Barnes stated there is a need for a recreation committee.

The Board, as a whole, feels the condition of the St. David Street Park building needs to be upgraded.

Manager Albright reminded the Board that a copy of the Recreation Master Plan was given to them at the Board Retreat in case they wanted to go back and take a look.

Commissioner Bright stated that recreation does not just include young people.

Recreation also includes adults and seniors.

Mayor Jackson asked if the self sustaining areas such as the Depot and RV Park are rehabbed and brought up to par then could the money collected from there on out for these rentals be used on other facilities.

Manager Albright answered yes and that one of the ideas is trying to consolidate a construction contract. This would include all areas together.

The Board thanked Ms. Arnold for her presentation.

Manager Albright recommended this item be put on the consent agenda at the next regular meeting for adoption. The Board agreed.

The Board thanked Ms. Arnold for her presentation.

2. *Buckleberry Canal Update*

Manager Albright informed the Board that the bill we received from the drainage district was a little less than what was committed. He stated that his next request is permission to pursue cleaning the ditch from Lewis Drive back up behind properties on St. Joseph Street. The estimated total cost would be around \$5000.

Mayor Jackson feels this would be money well spent.

Commissioner Bright stated she would like to have a schedule before letting things get out of hand. Manager Albright stated that will be the process once all the ditches are functioning correctly.

The Board agreed to allow Manager Albright to follow through with this project.

3. *Residential Solid Waste/Recycling-Bid Results*

Manager Albright stated that on March 13<sup>th</sup> a mandatory pre-bid meeting for the Residential Solid Waste/Recycling Request for Proposals was held. During this meeting there were 3 companies represented. Only two of the companies submitted bids.

Manager Albright recommends that we keep our contract with Waste Industries because, although there is only a few cents difference, Waste Industries is currently providing outstanding service to our citizens. Manager Albright would like for this item to be put on the consent agenda at the next regular meeting. The Board agreed to keep service with Waste Industries and to put this item on the consent agenda.

4. *Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance – Resolution no. 2013-02*

Manager Albright explained that Pitt County administers the Town's Flood Plain regulations and periodically the ordinance needs to be updated. He stated that when this happens it is necessary for the Town to reconfirm our agreement with the County via resolution. Manager Albright recommended this item be put on the consent agenda at the next regular meeting. The Board agreed to put Resolution No. 2013-02 on the consent agenda.

5. *Fiscal Year 12/13 Audit Contract*

Manager Albright explained that each year we have to enter into an annual auditing contract with Pittard Perry & Crone to perform our yearly audit. Manager Albright informed Commissioner Bright he remembered her requesting that we bid out auditing services this year. However, this one has fallen through the cracks and he would make it a priority next year.

Commissioner Bright stated that she felt a fresh pair of eyes was needed.

Manager Albright stated that based on preliminary bids received from random companies for services Pittard Perry & Crone are in line with pricing.

Manager Albright recommended this item be put on the consent agenda at the next regular meeting. The Board agreed.

6. *Streets Improvement Project Bond Referendum*

Manager Albright stated that he needs direction on whether or not to proceed with the bond referendum and if so there are things he has to do in May, 2013. He stated that he would have to have a conversation with the Local Government Commission about various issues in order to proceed. He also stated that he is still pursuing information on Stormwater Utility Funds to present to the Board at a later date.

Commissioner Bright stated that she feels comfortable putting the Bond Referendum on the ballot and letting the citizens make the decision.

The Board agreed to have Manager Albright move forward with the process.

7. *Schedule Budget Workshop*

Manager Albright recommended having the next Budget Workshop on May 7<sup>th</sup> at 5p.m. at Town Hall. Manager Albright ask that is item be put on the consent agenda at the next regular meeting. The Board agreed.

8. *Legislative Update*

Manager Albright stated that he is giving the Board this information because in his twenty years of being a Manager he has never seen such an anti-local government sentiment. Manger Albright ask that the Board to express their views and opinions to our State Representatives. He also stated that all citizens and business owners should also do the same. Manager Albright reiterated that Towns will not fair well with these changes.

Manger Albright informed the Board that bids have been received on removal of the trees in the cemetery and this process should begin soon.

### **Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Albritton stated that a lot of information had been given at this meeting.

Commissioner Albritton made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Barnes. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Angel Hudson

Town of Grifton