



**TOWN OF GRIFTON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

Tuesday, February 9, 2010
7:00 PM

AGENDA

- A. Meeting Called to Order
- B. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America
- C. Approval of Minutes (January Workshop, Regular and Special meeting) *Page 4*
- D. Recognition of Persons to Be Heard (**NOTE: Comments are limited to 5 minutes per person. Everyone addressing the Board shall first state their name and their residential physical address**).
- E. Consent Agenda
 - 1. Grifton Fire Department – Slate of Officers *Page 11*
 - 2. CMSD Board Member Appointment
- F. Discussion/Action Items – Old Business
 - 1. Shad Festival *Page 12*
- J. Commissioner’s Comments
- K. Adjourn.



February 9, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Commissioners

FROM: Joe Albright, Town Manager

SUBJECT: Manager's Comments for the February Regular Meeting

Below I have attempted to summarize and provide explanation for each agenda item.

Item E-1: Grifton Fire Department – Slate of Officers

This matter was tabled in December. It was further tabled in January to allow me the opportunity to investigate the potential liability for the Town of approving a slate of officers that was elected by the Fire Department not in accordance with the Department's By Laws. I have investigated, by speaking with officials from the State Department of Emergency Management and the County Director of Emergency Management. Based on those conversations I do not believe there is eminent liability for the Town. **Therefore, I recommend approval.**

Item E-2: CMSD Board Member Appointment

As you are aware, the CMSD Board is made up of two members from each town, with an at-large appointment that rotates every three years between the towns. So, currently, Grifton is represented on that Board by Mayor Jackson, former Commissioner Craft, and me. Grifton has

had that third seat for the last three years and it is now going to rotate to the Town of Ayden. That seat has been held by me. Former Commissioner Craft's term has also expired. The Board of Commissioners needs to make an appointment to that seat. There are three options. One, the Board can reappoint Mr. Craft to that seat. Two, the Board can appoint me to serve in that seat. Three, the Board can appoint another individual to fill that seat.

Because of my position with the Town and my many years experience in dealing with and overseeing wastewater treatment operations, **I recommend that the Board appoint me to that seat on the CMSD Board.**

Item F-1: Shad Festival

As you are aware, the Shad Festival has been taking place annually for nearly forty years. The Festival is operated independently as a non-profit organization governed by a committee of local volunteers. It typically requires more than \$20,000 of up front expense by the Festival to carry out the event. To recoup these funds, the Festival charges vendors for spaces and the opportunity to sell their wares. Also, they split profits with some of the vendors, such as the Lions Club and the carnival/rides operators. However, one of the constant problems and issues encountered by the Festival is the "non-licensed" or unaffiliated vendors, non-profits, etc. that insist on trying to profit from the Festival without complying with the rules that are in place by the Committee. In other words, people and/or organizations inevitably attempt to peddle their wares, food, or service without either paying an "entry fee" to the festival or sharing profits with the Festival. This is a problem because the majority of the vendors and participants are "playing by the rules" and do understand that the Festival makes great monetary commitments every year in order to provide this opportunity. And, when the Festival volunteers discover the unlicensed activities occurring during the festival, there is no authority to stop it or intervene.

This problem is not unique to Grifton. Many towns have festivals and events that are put on by a local group or non-profit. In order to combat this problem, many towns enact ordinances that give proper authority and control to the festival organizers. I have provided a copy of the ordinance from the Town of Ayden, which governs the Collard Festival. *I apologize for bringing this to your attention at a regular meeting instead of a workshop. However, with all of the excitement surrounding the swearing in of Chief Cauley, I simply forgot to bring it up.* I look forward to discussing this matter with the Board.

I have attached the monthly reports from Police, Code Enforcement, and Library. Also included are the December financials and the 2009 Audit.