

**TOWN OF GRIFTON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORKSHOP MEETING
JANUARY 4, 2011**

Present: Mayor Billy Ray Jackson; Commissioners Ardathy Spikes, Buddy Albritton, Richard Hill, Sammy Whitehurst, Alton Clements; Manager Joe Albright

Absent: None

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

Special Presentation: NC Highway 11 Corridor Report

Mr. Alex Rikard with the Eastern Carolina Council of Governments came before the Board to present the NC Highway 11 Corridor Report. He stated that East Carolina Council and Mid East Commission have worked very hard on the study being presented. Mr. Rickard touched on several areas of the plan for road construction, which is a 20+ year plan. He informed the Board that they are the first Governing Body to see the maps provided. Mr. Rickard stated that at some point they would like to have some sort of resolution or endorsement for support to request D.O.T. to do the feasibility study.

Mayor Jackson thanked Mr. Rikard for his presentation.

Discussion Items:

First Item of Discussion: State Recognized Shad Festival Designation- Resolution No. 2011-01

Manager Albright stated that based on the request from Commissioner Whitehurst and the consensus of the remaining Board members, he has drafted a resolution to be forwarded to our State Legislative Delegation requesting that the Grifton Shad Festival be designated as the official Shad Festival of North Carolina. He asked the Board for this item to be put on the consent agenda at the next regular Board meeting. The Board agreed.

Second Item of Discussion: Town Commons Shelter Construction-Bid Award

Manager Albright stated that the S.T.E.P committee would like to construct a 22'X56' wooden shelter, which will replace the 2 current existing aluminum carport type structures, on the Town lot. Because of the short time the committee has to obligate the money, Manager Albright has already obtained 3 bids for the structure. The lowest bidder was T.A. Bright Construction Company. The Committee, with member Tim Bright being excused from discussion and voting on the matter, unanimously recommends award of construction to the lowest bidder. Manager Albright asked the Board for this item to be placed on the consent agenda for the next regular Board meeting.

Mayor Jackson stated that he is uncomfortable with the bidder because the last 2 bids were given to the bidder and he was not satisfied with the work. He feels we should do more advertising for bidders.

Manager Albright stated that there was no time to advertise so he solicited bids from various construction companies and T.A. Bright, Inc. came in with the lowest bid.

After further discussion, the Board agreed to place this item on the consent agenda as requested by Manager Albright.

Third Item of Discussion: Harvey Building Use Request

Manager Albright stated that, per the Board request, he and Commissioner Whitehurst met with Mr. Linwood Thorbs and the owners of VanGuard Ourtreach Services. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the program and the space needs required for the 21st Century Tutorial Program. Manager Albright stated that he requested the parties involved put the request for this service in writing, which he presented to the Board. Manager Albright stated that he would not advise to approve this issue until further things are worked out between the parties involved. He feels we should also have recommendation letters from Grifton School and various others before any decisions are made. After further discussion, the Board agreed that this issue not be put on the consent agenda.

Fourth Item of Discusson: Police Department Overtime Pay Request

Manager Albright stated that, because of staffing shortages, there are two police officers that have accumulated an excess amount of overtime, therefore, Chief Cauley has requested these officers be paid for these comp time hours. Manager Albright informed the Board that there is excess money in the salary line item of the police budget due to fewer number of officers on the payroll during the summer months. Manager Albright asked that this item be put on the consent agenda at the next regular Board meeting. The Board agreed.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Spikes stated that she felt like it had been a pretty good year and thanked Manager Albright for all his hard work. She also stated that Grifton Barber Shop looks really nice and John Cox needs to do something about the building across the street.

Commissioner Hill stated that nothing has been done about the hole in his yard.

Commissioner Whitehurst stated that progress on the Longhouse has been slow due to the weather and the holidays.

Commissioner Albritton stated that Albritton Construction would like to be put on the bidders list.

Commissioner Clements stated that he had missed the last couple of meetings but he is doing better and is hopefully on the up and up.

Commissioner Spikes made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Hill. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted
Angel Hudson
Town Clerk