

TOWN OF GRIFTON  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
WORKSHOP  
January 5, 2010

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

Absent: None

Meeting called 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

First Item of discussion: Grifton Volunteer Fire Department

\*Slate of Officers -

Manager Albright invited Ed Meeks to discuss the slate of officers and the consolidation with the Board.

Manager Albright asked Mr. Meeks to give a refresher on the Fire Department By-laws and how the officers are elected.

Mr. Meeks explained that the current by-laws stated that the Chief officers are elected 2 years and the rest of the officers were elected every year.

Mr. Meeks feels that the by-laws should be amended to state that vacant offices shall be filled by election at the first regularly monthly meeting following their occurrence, and then only for the unexpired terms of office. The current by-laws did not specify this action.

Mr. Meeks informed the Board that he is in the process of updating the by-laws.

Commissioner Clements requested a copy be given to the Town to keep in the office.

Mr. Meeks stated that he did not have a problem with the previous slate of officers but feels that the department is going in the wrong direction.

Manager Albright stated that he didn't know if there was any risk or ramifications to approving the slate of officers presented and requested the opportunity to find out before it is approved.

Commissioner Whitehurst commented that the parties should work together in a relationship that is legal and harmonious.

Manager Albright asked the Board to allow him and Mr. Meeks to verify what needs to be verified on the slate of officers before approval.

**\*Consolidation**

Mr. Meeks explained that there were pros and cons to any decision. However, he felt that it would be more beneficial because of liability and cost issues for the Town to contract with the Rural. One of the reasons for his recommendation is that if the Rural contracts with the Town then the Town would have to pay workers compensation on all the firemen. Another factor is that the fund raisers for the Department would not be treated the same because it would have to be budgeted in the General Fund of the Town.

**Second Item of discussion: Manufactured Homes Age Restrictions**

Manager Albright informed the Board that he has had a couple of inquiries about waiving the 10 year age limit on mobile homes. He denied the request based on the language in the zoning ordinance, however, he was told that this may have been done at least once in the past. Manager Albright asked for direction from the Board.

The Board agreed that no exceptions should be made to the 10 year age limit restriction.

**Third Item of discussion: Chebistal Drive Resurfacing**

Manager Albright stated that he received a cost estimate from our Engineer to resurface the length of Chebistal Drive in the amount of \$91,600 which is less than we received in Powell Bill Funds. He also received an estimate to pave from Highland Blvd. to McCotter Drive in the amount of \$64,000. He is asked for direction from the Board but recommended that the project not start until the spring and this project be given serious scrutiny before proceeding.

Mayor Jackson stated that he felt that all of Chebistal Drive should be paved but agreed that it should not be started until the spring.

Manager Albright said there was a third option the Board could consider and that is to start the paving in June and let it continue through July and split the cost between the two budgets.

Manager Albright recommended waiting a few months before any decisions are made in case emergency money is needed elsewhere.

**MANAGER UPDATES**

The following updates were given by Manager Albright;

\*He is working with Habitat for Humanity to facilitate the use of the two vacant lots in on Birch Road.

\*An inventory has been done of all street signs that have been vandalized. The cost to replace these signs is \$297.72.

\*In November both Ford Crown Victorias were sold as surplus vehicles. The vehicles were sold on Govdeals.com bringing in \$1600 for the 1997 and \$2226 for the 2003.

\*The Town has purchased the former Group Home on Pitt Street and the utilities guys will begin to salvage any items in the building that will be usable elsewhere before demolition, however, an asbestos survey will have to be performed before the building is demolished.

\*Two estimates have been received to fix the heat in the back room. Manager Albright wishes to get one more before a decision is made. However, they all say that the unit needs to be replaced.

\*Bryan Cauley will be in Town on Wednesday, January 6, to meet with Manager Albright and to meet all the officers at the police department.

Mayor Jackson expressed his wishes that Mr. Cauley be told that if he wishes to begin work before February 1<sup>st</sup> it would be okay with the Board.

#### COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Albritton asked about the two houses for sale on Birch Road.

Manager Albright responded by stating that he has been working with the agency in Greenville to get the process in place and start the ball rolling on getting the houses sold. He also said both houses are in great shape. The problem with them is the buyers have to be low to moderate income and have good credit.

Mayor Jackson said, if he understood correctly, if the houses weren't sold the Town would have to pay back \$189,000 and Manager Albright confirmed this statement.

Commissioner Clements asked about the vandalized signs.

Manager Albright responded by stating that the signs have been ordered and we will get them up as soon as they come in.

Commissioner Whitehurst apologized for not being at the special meeting but was very satisfied with the decisions that were made.

Commissioner Spikes stated that she was glad to have both vacant positions filled.

Mayor Jackson stated that he did not want the salvaged items to remain in the new storage building longer than twelve months and he also stated that he was very pleased at what the Board has accomplished with the Town Manager and the new Police Chief.

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

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Angel Hudson

Town Clerk

