

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

January, 2013

Present: Mayor Billy Ray Jackson; Commissioners Buddy Albritton, Sammy Whitehurst, Mary Grace Bright, William Barnes, Jr. Richard Hill; Manager Joe Albright, Clerk Angel Hudson

Absent: None

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.

Commissioner Albritton made a motion to accept the December minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Whitehurst. The motion was carried unanimously.

Recognition of Persons to be Heard:

None

Discussion Items

1. *Residential Garbage and Recycling – Request for Proposals*

Manager Albright informed the Board that, if the Board so chooses, it is time to bid out contract for services for garbage and recycling collection. Manager Albright presented a letter from Waste Industries offering one year with no increase for a 3 year contract. He also stated the second year would reflect a cost of living adjustment. While Manager Albright said we are pleased with Waste Industries and their service there has been interest from other companies as well. Manager Albright stated that our rates are the cheapest among other Waste Industries served municipalities in Pitt County. Manager Albright would like for the Board to make the decision without his recommendation. He stated that he would like to remain neutral because of the relationships with the companies. However, he stated that the bidding process will need to begin immediately because the Board would need to make a decision by May in order for the process of transition, if another company is chosen, to go smoothly in July.

Commissioner Hill recommended keeping Waste Industries because of the good service that has been provided up to this point.

Commissioner Whitehurst stated that he is satisfied with Waste Industries but recommends the bidding process to begin.

Commissioner Whitehurst made a motion to begin the bidding process for Garbage and Recycling Collection services. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barnes. The motion was carried unanimously.

2. *Annual Retreat – Set Date*

Manager Albright stated that it is that time of year when we need to begin planning the Annual Board Retreat to discuss and plan for the upcoming 2013/2014 budgeting process and to discuss the past year. It is also an opportunity for the Board to discuss any new ideas, plans, and expectations for the upcoming year. Manager Albright suggested the dates of February 22nd or March 1st.

Mayor Jackson stated that he felt the Retreat should be held in the same month each year so his recommendation is February 22nd, 2013.

Commissioner Barnes agreed with the Mayor's statement.

Commissioner Bright stated that she would like to see some type of method of evaluating the Town Manager.

Commissioner Bright made a motion to schedule the Annual Board Retreat for February 22, 2013 at 8:30am. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Albritton. The motion was carried unanimously.

Manager Albright stated that he has included an agenda from last year's retreat and asked the Board to take a look at it and let him know if anything needs to be added.

3. *Streets Improvement Project Special Meeting – Set Date*

Manager Albright stated that the financing options for this project have not been completed enough to present to the Board at this time. He requested this information to be presented at the Board Retreat. At that time a decision would need to be made whether or not to put this on the ballot for the November election.

Mayor Jackson asked about the time frame for the Board of Elections to be notified.

Manager Albright stated the Board of Elections would need to be notified by the month of July.

Manager Albright also stated that he would need to have a conversation with the Local Government Commission in May or June.

Commissioner Whitehurst asked Manager Albright to inform D.O.T. of Grifton's plans for paving.

Commissioner Bright asked Manager Albright to please call D.O.T. again about the cave in that is in front of the Group Home.

After further discussion, it was confirmed that the Board Retreat would be an acceptable time to discuss the financing options for street paving.

4. *Budget Amendments – January 2013*

Manager Albright explained the attached Budget Amendments.

Commissioner Whitehurst made a motion to accept the January Budget Amendments. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hill. The motion was carried unanimously.

Manager Albright updated the Board on the condemnation list. He informed the Board that the list was sent to Pitt County Building Inspections and James Rhodes with Pitt County called him today to acknowledge receipt of the list. Mr. Rhodes explained that they are short staffed and asked if Manager Albright would prioritize the buildings on the list with the worst being first. Mr. Rhodes informed Manager Albright they had just hired someone part time and could hopefully begin to work on the list.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Albritton thanked Manager Albright for contacting D.O.T. concerning the pot holes on Wall Street.

Commissioner Barnes stated that he has been approached about pot holes on Fairway and Country Club Drive.

Commissioner Barnes also asked how the collection company is doing with our collections.

Manager Albright responded by saying that we have only had one collection and he would make contact with the company to find out where we are at with the delinquent accounts.

Commissioner Whitehurst stated that he read in Chief Cauley's report that help was needed from the Town to get residents to display the correct house numbers on their property. Commissioner

Whitehurst also stated that there was a drill involving Rescue, Fire, and Police held and there was a time delay because of the numbering on the building.

Manager Albright informed the Board that he thought we have an property addressing ordinance. After further discussion, the Board asked Manager Albright to put information concerning addressing in the newsletter.

Commissioner Bright requested we ask a group such as a church to help the elderly and disabled to put the correct numbers on their residence.

The question was asked about how the numbering is assigned.

Manager Albright informed the Board and Chief Cauley that it is done by footage.

Commissioner Whitehurst asked if we are prepared if something happened in Grifton that happened in Connecticut School Shootings.

Chief Cauley responded by stating that the School system and the Resource Officers had a drill about a month ago in which the Police Department and Pitt County Sheriff's Department provided assistance. Chief Cauley stated that we have two officers that are trained in rapid deployment and his goal is to have all the police officers trained.

Commissioner Hill stated that the Christmas Light on S. Highland Blvd only worked part of the time.

Commissioner Hill stated that he had two complaints and Manager Albright made sure they were taken care of and he thanked him.

Commissioner Bright stated that baseball season is upon us and asked about the Advisory Board.

Chief Cauley stated that GBIA was meeting on Sunday and he would bring to their attention that if there are any needs it needs to go ahead and be brought to the Board's attention by the Advisory Board.

Commissioner Bright stated that the fence is damaged at the Cemetery and there are trees lying on the fence. She also stated that there is a grave with a blue tarp on it and feels these issues should be addressed.

Mayor Jackson stated that he has tried to contact someone about the blue tarp to no avail.

Manager Albright stated that what has taken so long on the fence is ownership. However, he seemed to recall that he and the former owner had a conversation about the fence. Manager Albright told him if he would put the fence up we would take it.

Mayor Jackson stated that he felt the Commissioners have made some good comments and asked good questions tonight.

Commissioner Whitehurst made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Albritton. The motion was carried unanimously.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Angel Hudson

Town of Grifton