

TOWN OF BLACK CREEK
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
TOWN BOARD MEETING ROOM

Date: October 10, 2006

Place: Black Creek Town Hall

Present: Mayor Howard Moore, Commissioners Seltzer, Franks, Lucas, Smith

Absent: Commissioner Godwin

Minutes Taped Yes

Quorum Present: **Yes**

Mayor Moore: I declare the October 10, 2006 regular board meeting open. Motion and consideration to pay October bills. Motion made by Commissioner Lucas, second by Commissioner Smith, all in favor say I, all opposed, motion carried unanimously. Do I hear a motion to adopt our September minutes? Motion made by Commissioner Seltzer, second by Commissioner Franks, all in favor say I, all opposed, Motion carried unanimously. The first item on the agenda was Lynn Medeiros, but I see she's not here, so we'll move on to the next item on the agenda is Mr. Crayton Overton. This is concerning our bids for Frank Price Church Rd project.

Crayton Overton: I don't know if any of you know how we came out on the original bids for the Frank Price Church Road Project. The bids came out about like I expected; I'll give you just a summery of the bid tally sheet. Our low bidder was PLT Utilities, at \$530,068.85. They were only about \$3800.00 below TL Lovett. Third bidder was Empire Construction out of the Winterville area and then Herring Rivenbark out of the Kinston area. They presented a bid, they didn't show up, but it was way out of line. We're out of what we've got as far as available project funds, in the neighborhood of about \$80,000.00. I can't say it surprises me that much. The amount surprised me. I think the amount has more to do with the fact that most of these people have got enough work right now that they are bidding it higher than I expected. We talked with rural development people. Mike Harris/USDA, who is in charge of this project. He stated the prices were much higher than he anticipated based on what he had been seeing in the area in the last 30 to 60 days. So we've got a couple of options. The town will find some money and go with it as it is, we're looking at about \$80,000.00 if the town decides to do this. I went back to the low bidder PLT, and I said this system is designed primarily as an 8 inch pipe line system. That would be the ideal way to go. I went back to them and said, if we change this to a 6 inch system we're connecting to an 8 inch on HWY 117, we're connecting to two 6 inch lines at community grocery. So we've got good feed there. Somewhere along the line you're going to loose some pressure, and some volume if you go to a 6 inch instead of an 8 inch. It's still a good functional system for that area, it's much better than what they've had all these years up to this point. So I asked PLT to look at it and give me what they would deduct. How much would they drop their price.

If we switched everything to a 6 inch system, with one exception we've go back to the railroad and that will take months. We've got that in hand, and I do not want to go back through the railroad again to change any plans I want to leave that part of it as is. We'll work around it whatever we do. But if they switch it out to a 6 inch system, they gave us a deduction of \$35,020.00. That's still a lot from the 80 thousand dollars that we are roughly short. I've talked with some other contractors and I've got at least one other contractor that said they will bid next time if we rebid the project Their prices will be better than what we saw this time. That's the third alternative, to re-bid it. The first is to leave it as is and find the funds, the second is to award it to PLT at a reduction of \$35,000.00. If we rebid it, what I propose to do is rebid it as a six inch system. Then as an alternate system and let them provide us prices if we did go back to an eight inch line. That way we would get a chance to see how much either way it was bid. I have no idea whether all of these people will rebid or not. As it stands right now we cannot award the contract until we make a decision one way or the other.

Commissioner Smith: If we rebid, how long is that process?

Crayton Overton: I think we'll have bids back here in two weeks. The railroad encroachment is complete. The installation is not, but the encroachment agreement itself is in hand. It has no time period, we've got plenty of time, and there is not a problem with that. It gives us the right to go through there and put a 20 inch casing under the railroad. That's the size that's required for an eight inch pipe. It's a little bit larger requirement than what the dot has under their crossings. But it's a heavier pipe too. I don't think the railroad will have a problem if we switch to a six inch, or put in the eight inch line. If we rebid we can make that call after we see where the prices stand. There is no guarantee if we rebid it that we're going to make up that eighty thousand dollars. I don't know if we've got a whole lot of alternatives short of that. There are other contractors that did not bid this time, and we may get bids out of the other contractors.

Mayor Moore: We need to make a decision out of the three options he gave us. Motion made to rebid it by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner Seltzer, all in favor say I, all opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

Crayton Overton: We will proceed on with rebidding. That's the logical approach for us to take. We may find a bidder that will bid the six inch price close to where we need to be. I mean; he'll bid the eight inch price close to what we need to be to award the project. Based on some of the historical data that we saw from other areas recently it should have been close, but for some reason it wasn't.

Commissioner Seltzer: I hate to see it go down to a six inch line, because you said you felt like it needed eight inch out there?

Crayton Overton: I felt from the beginning idealistically we need an eight inch line out there. But it's like we've got so much money available. And if we can't get the eight inch line, a six inch line will suffice out there for many years. It's so much better than

what is out there now. And it will provide fire protection. You don't have fire protection for any of the area from the water supply.

Commissioner Smith: For the record, the reason we have not awarded a bid is because the bids are over the money we've got available from our loan with the USDA.

Crayton Overton: That's a consideration, and you probably need to act on what direction we need to take.

Mayor Moore: We need a motion to reject the bids. Motion made to reject bids because the bids cost more than the money we've got available from the town's loan. A motion made by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner Seltzer, all in favor say I, all opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lucas: You've been through this before, with rebidding. How does that usually come out?

Crayton Overton: I would be amazed if we don't come out lower. The prices were too high. I asked Herring Rivenbark about it afterwards and they had just gotten two multimillion dollar jobs. We gave you a price, but if we had got it we would have been smiling all the way to the bank. If there are any other questions I'll be glad to answer them.

Mayor Moore: Thank you. Our next item, we have 2 bids for the bathroom for the park. Pearson Home Improvement, and Donnie Aycock, but Donnie removed his bid. The Pearson bid came in at \$27,200.00. Motion not to accept the bathroom bid made by Commissioner Lucas, second by Commissioner Franks, all in favor say I, all opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

Barbara Aycock: I need some names of people to place bids. You cannot lightly just find people to bid on these things. We have till March to complete the projects. I need some help from the board on names of some contractors who will be available and want to bid on this job.

Mayor Moore: Robert said he knew somebody, and Greg said he knew somebody.

Commissioner Smith: So we've got money set aside to build it in a grant. Ms. Aycock responds, yes, it's \$7000.00 over what it was, and that's due to concrete prices and material increases. Commissioner Smith: Yes, but that's a 300 square ft building at \$90.00 a square ft, that's outrageous. So we're seven thousand dollars over budget.

Commissioner Seltzer: Have you gone down the contractor page of the phone book, and called some of them

Barbara Aycock: Yes, but they don't want these small jobs. Most contractors are building houses and they don't want these small jobs. It's just like the sewer project,

most contractors want large jobs. They don't want to do these small projects when there is larger jobs for them to do. It takes forever to get anything to come in and bid. I had one contractor come in and was bidding on the project, needing work for his employees, then he gets a large job the next day and calls me back and states he does not want to bid on the project.

Mayor Moore: We've got a deadline here. This money from the grant gives a certain time to have these improvements in the park completed. Next item is to apply for the park grant in 2007 for a gazebo, and water fountain, and different things. We can also include the community building in this also. Motion to apply for the park grant for 2007 made by Commissioner Lucas, second by Commissioner Seltzer, all in favor say I all opposed. Motion carried unanimously. I guess we go to the commissioner business now. Commissioner Seltzer do you have anything?

Commissioner Seltzer: First thing! Now that we've put in the handicap ramp in front of town hall; I'd like to revisit the one down by the bank, and the historical square. We can use Powell Bill funds for that. I'd like to see one go in down there. I know it was a matter of cost before. I think we've found somebody that can put it in at a reasonable cost. So I'd like to have Greg contact some people, and revisit putting that ramp in down there. That's a motion.

Mayor Moore: Motion to get bids on putting a handicap ramp to include the bank and historical square made by Commissioner Seltzer, second by Commissioner Lucas, all in favor say I, all opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Seltzer: We have a maintenance agreement, and rules for garbage truck. I make a motion that both towns be together to do the pre trip inspection, and will agree on whether the truck is ready at the time. So that both towns are in agreement upon pick up and release, so that there's no arguments about it.

Mayor Moore: Motion made to accept these terms on the truck by Commissioner Seltzer, second by Commissioner Smith, all in favor say I, all opposed. Motion carried. Commissioner Smith do you have anything? Commissioner Franks, do you have anything? Commissioner Franks asks Superintendent Gates if they had a safety meeting this month. Mr. Gates responds that they did.

Commissioner Lucas: I've got a couple of things. We need to replace the park light that we used here in front of the town hall. I make a motion that we replace the light for the park.

Mayor Moore: Motion to replace that light made by Commissioner Lucas, second by Commissioner Seltzer, all in favor say I all opposed. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Franks: Do we know where we're going to place that light? I was just wondering, because another good place would be in front of the community bldg. It is dark around the front of the community building. When people use the building at night I

have noticed how dark it is in the front. If we're going to buy one, shouldn't we go ahead and get one for the front of the community bldg. We can put a light on the park grant if the board does not approve to put one up now.

Commissioner Lucas: We've got to set hours for the park. I think we discussed in the workshop 6 a.m. to 10.30 p.m. I make a motion for that time for year around.

Mayor Moore: Motion made to set park hours as stated by Commissioner Lucas, second by Commissioner Franks, all in favor say I, all opposed. Motion carried unanimously. We'll have to have some type of sign posting the hours, we can bring a sign suggestion to the next board meeting.

Commissioner Lucas: The only other thing I've got is the monument that was checked on, and we approved.. We need to get that in the works as soon as they get that light down. We need to check with Commissioner Godwin and see if they can get the light now. The way he talked at the last meeting they were ready for it, and it's been months. We've got 6 to 8 weeks to work with on getting the big light down in the park.

Greg Gates: The no parking signs in front of the bank. There's been some talk that some people are not going to like the No Parking sign. I guess I need to know what ya'll want to do because they haven't been put up yet. It's already been voted on so we'll get them up. We put some money in the budget for a flow meter. I've got 3 prices on a six inch one, it's called a magnaflow meter. One price is \$3954.00. I've got another price for a Toshiba it's \$3885.00. I've got another price here for \$3670.00 there's no moving parts in these meters. The problem I'm having right now is we've got a turbine meter in our water lines and the well houses that we build, there's not enough straight line pipe. Every time we change the guts in one of these meters you are looking at \$1300.00. This one has no moving parts, it's electronic. It would read for well #3, well #5 in either direction. Whether you are backwashing, or pumping water. So as far as our unaccounted water, when we backwash, that would give us an accurate reading. The state law requires that you have a meter at every well. And the state is getting big on unaccounted water. We don't meter any of the backwash water when we clean those water filters. Just a rough estimate of doing some math on well 3. When we backwash those filters, you're looking at 50 to 60 thousand gallons of water. But that's just a rough estimate. This meter here would tell you exactly. Right now we're not tracking our backwash water. If you account for all your water, basically at the end of the month, you'll know whether you have a water leak or not. The Siemens is the best. I've got 5 references that are using them every day. It's also the cheapest one. The biggest thing this will do is monitor our unaccounted water. The sooner we can start the better. We just replaced the one in well 3 and it's giving us problems right now. It's only been two years.

Commissioner Smith: I make a motion that we purchase the Siemens meter for \$3400.00

Mayor Moore: Motion made by Commissioner Smith, second by Commissioner Lucas, all in favor say I all opposed. Motion carried unanimously. Ms. Aycock, do you have anything? No, Mayor Moore. Does anybody in the audience have anything for the board?

Ellen Dawson: I want to give you an update on Heritage Day. To let you know what's going on and to ask for your help. Right now we've got 16 vendors. And we've got 10 that are outstanding. We've got \$1464.00 in sponsorship money so far. The Wilson Daily Times has given us \$250.00 towards an add next week. Our expenses with just the entertainment, and children's activities come to \$2900.00. We're getting a lot of donations as far as the pig, we got it from Parker's for the barbecue sandwiches. And hopefully we're getting the rolls out of Rocky Mount. We're asking if each commissioner will donate a box of wieners. If you don't want to go purchase them you can give the money and we will get them. They run between \$17-\$20.00 a case. And it's for 110 wieners per box. The reason we're going to ask you for it is because we have to go and get soft drinks from other people. The committee spends a lot of time working on this thing. It's not something that you can throw together in a couple of months. We get advertising as far as printing free. I go after everything that is free. We've had a better turn out with vendors in November verses October. When you send out the applications, the vendors call and want to know why it's not in November, because they have to schedule from year to year. The most we've probably ever had is about 54. By having it in October we are not making the money we would if we had it in November. There's so much going on in October. The committee deserves a box of wieners from you guys.

Mayor Moore: We will do the wieners for you. You have a tough job and we appreciate what you do. Thank you Ellen, if nobody else has anything do I hear a motion we adjourn? Motion made by Commissioner Franks, second by Commissioner Seltzer. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.

Mayor Howard Moore

Barbara Aycock, Secretary to Board¹

¹ October Regular Board Meeting