

TOWN OF GRIFTON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORKSHOP
October 6, 2009

Present: Mayor Billy Ray Jackson; Commissioners Ardathy Spikes, Richard Hill, Al Clements
Buddy Albritton, Johnny Craft; 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:

Durwood Hudson of 1095 Hwy 118 Grifton came before the Board to inform them that Andy Taylor retired last Tuesday as Fire Chief. Mr. Hudson is now taking over the Chief's position until the new Chief is elected. He informed the Board that he would be available if anyone had any questions or needed his services. He also mentioned that Firemen's Day would be on Saturday, October 10th and he hoped to see everyone at this event.

Commissioner Hill wanted to know how long Mr. Hudson had been a fireman.

Mr. Hudson commented that he had been a fireman for 11 years.

Commissioner Clements informed the Board that no one could be an officer unless they have at least 2 years experience.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

First Item of discussion: Sewer Rehab Project

Manager Albright started the discussion on the Sewer Rehab Project by stating that our sewer system was evaluated by the Wooten Company in 2005 and the study revealed line deterioration resulting in significant inflow and infiltration, also know as I & I. It was determined that approximately 4300 linear feet of gravity sewer line needs to be replaced at an estimated cost of 1.5 million dollars.

Mr. Albright informed the Board that grant funds were sought through N.C. Rural Center as well as N.C. Clean Water Management Trust Fund. The N.C. Rural Grant was successful in the amount of \$500,000 but the N.C. Clean Water Management Trust Fund was unsuccessful. He stated that even with the \$500,000 the Town could not afford to fund this project. However, we were invited to speak with USDA Rural Development about the combination of grant & loan funds. We were also invited to file an application with them.

Manager Albright introduced Gary Hartong, of the Wooten Company, to explain in more detail.

Mr. Hartong explained to the board that the amount of I & I that we are sending to CMSD would be reduced by approximately 30% and could save the Town money on wastewater treatment.

Mr. Hartong also expressed that the time frame for this 45% grant is limited and that funding will be available through the end of the year.

Manager Albright requested that this item be a consent agenda item at the next regular Board meeting if the Board agrees.

Second Item of discussion: Fire Department Consolidation Contract for Services.

Manager Albright said that he did not have as much knowledge on this subject because it was in the works prior to his employment but that he will try to answer any questions.

Manager Albright stated that the contract included in the agenda packet calls for the Town Department to be absorbed or merged with the Rural Department and then the Town contract with the Rural Department for Fire Services.

Manager Albright said that since this contract was drafted the Fire Department has decided that the Town should merge with the Rural Fire Department then the Town would provide service in Rural areas under contract with them. This is also what Manager Albright would recommend.

Commissioner Clements agreed that the Rural should merge with the Town.

Mayor Jackson would like to see a 7 person Board with 1 rotating member. The rotating member would have no voting rights and the rest of the Board would not be members of the Fire Department.

Commissioner Craft stated that no officer of the Department should serve on the Board.

Manager Albright requested the authorization to draft a contract and bring it back to the Board then the Board can craft it as they see fit.

Third Item of discussion: True Deliverance Conditional Use Permit

Manager Albright requested permission to set the date of a public hearing for this item to be scheduled at the November regular Board meeting.

Fourth Item of discussion: Police Chief Search

Commissioner Craft requested that he be excused from this discussion.

Commissioner Clements made a motion to excuse Commissioner Craft from the discussion of Police Chief. Seconded by Commissioner Spikes. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hill recommended Manager Albright screen the Police Chief applications and bring back two or three applications to the Board.

Commissioner Hill commented that overtime is accumulating at the Police Department because of the lack of officers.

Manager Albright requested permission to fill the vacant entry level police officer positions, not the Chief's position, only the officer positions.

Commissioner Spikes made a motion to give unlimited authority to Manager Albright to fill the vacant entry level positions as police officers at the earliest convenience. Seconded by Commissioner Albritton. Motion carried unanimously.

Fifth item of discussion: Manager Search

Manager Albright recommended to go ahead and appoint a citizen committee to review the

approximately 30 to 40 applications that have been submitted.

Commissioner Hill made a motion to appoint 6 committee members and to have the committee pick their own chairman. Seconded by Commissioner Clements. Motion carried unanimously.

Sixth item for discussion: Appointments

Manager Albright requested that his appointment to various Boards be put on the consent agenda for the regular Board meeting.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Spikes expressed her pleasure with the job that was done cleaning out the ditch by Grifton Manor.

Commissioner Hill requested that a 4 way stop sign be put at Patrick & McCrae streets and a 20mph sign also be erected at this location.

Manager Albright recommended getting documents of support for these requests and this item be put on the consent agenda for the next regular Board meeting.

Mayor Jackson stated that the limbs and grass on Patrick and Dawson St. needs to be addressed.

Mayor Jackson requested that Manager Albright check on the status of the speed increase from 45mph to 55mph on Highland Blvd.

Commissioner Craft thanked Manager Albright for the work he has done.

Commissioner Clements also thanked Manager Albright.

Commissioner Albritton asked who we could talk to about getting Hwy 118 designated all the way to Hwy 58.

Commissioner Spikes made a motion to enter into closed session to discuss personnel issues. Seconded by Commissioner Albritton. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Spikes made a motion to exit the closed session. Seconded by Commissioner Craft. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Clements made a motion to give Manager Albright a \$1000.00 bonus to be paid in weekly installments of \$200.00. Seconded by Commissioner Albritton. Motion carried 4 to 1 with Commissioner Spikes opposed.

Joyce Jones came before the Board to request more street lighting be put on Martin Luther King Drive.

Commissioner Craft made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Clements. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted
Angel Hudson
Town Clerk