

## **REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING**

April 7, 2009

Present: Mayor Pro Tem George Holleman, Comm. Jack Lerner, Comm. Ronnie Robinette, &  
Comm. Kenny Poole  
Mayor Guy Barriger - Absent

The regular meeting was opened for business by Mayor Pro Tem Holleman at 5:30 p.m.

The invocation was given by Mayor Pro Tem Holleman. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

A motion was made by Comm. Robinette and seconded by Comm. Poole to approve the agenda with following additions. Add item 11a Resolution to refinance police vehicles and street sweeper with First Community Bank. Add 12a Budget amendment to receipt in loan funding from First Community Bank. Passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Comm. Poole and seconded by Comm. Robinette to approve the March 17, 2009 regular meeting minutes. Passed unanimously.

Open Forum:

Mayor Pro Tem Holleman stated that May 6 would be Town Hall Day in Raleigh. Representative Warren and Senator Goss would be addressing the public at the cafeteria of Alexander Central High School on Thursday April 9 at 6pm. On Sunday April 5, 2009 the Alexander County Rescue Squad celebrated 50 years of service to Alexander County.

With no more comments the open forum was closed.

Mayor Pro Tem Holleman presented Kathleen Gwaltney with a plaque in honor of her years of service on the Taylorsville Planning Board. Ms. Gwaltney stated that it was an honor being able to service her community and work with so many great people.

Mayor Pro Tem Holleman opened the public hearing regarding the relocation of the historic Black Oak School to Matheson Park.

Katherine McCurdy addressed the board asking them if this building was going to be considered a historic site. Mayor Pro Tem Holleman told her that it was a historic building, but the state wouldn't recognize it as a historic site because they were going to be forced to move the building off of its original foundation. Ms. McCurdy also stated her concern about the building being vandalized at the park. There are so many unsupervised children at the park everyday that vandalize property and skateboard on the tables under the shelters. She feels that they would be skateboarding on the porch of the building and breaking into the building tearing things up. Comm. Lerner stated that there is the possibility for vandalism everywhere, and that our police department would take care of any situation that may arise. He also said they could put a fence up around the building.

Berky Jennings stated that he was on the historical commission that was overseeing this project. They would love to get the state involved and have this school designated as a historical site, but unfortunately the property owner wants the building removed. If the building is removed it can no longer be designated as a historical site. The building is going to have to be taken apart to relocate it because the land owner will not allow any timber to be cut in order to move the building. When the building is put back together, the plans are to restore the building into the conditions it was in when it was in use. The historical commission is also going to work toward collecting artifacts from the school when the school was open. Under no circumstances will public funds be used for this project. All money will be raised by fundraisers, donations, or applied for through grants.

Mayor Pro Tem Holleman stated that if the building was placed in Matheson Park and covered under the town's insurance, the policy would cost about \$600 per year. The town would be reimbursed for the premium by the "Friends of Black Oak School" fund.

Nancy Kerley stated her concern for how the upkeep will be paid. Berky Jennings told her that the "Friends of Black Oak School" would raise and collect money to pay for ALL upkeep. Nancy Kerley also felt like the building should not be put in Matheson Park because it would be more likely to be vandalized. It could not be protected as well at the park.

Lana Davidson stated that her family went to school at the Black Oak school when it was used as a school. She really would like to see it moved to a safe location and restored to good condition. She also would like to see mannequins put in school desk; in the school after it is moved and dress them in clothes of that era. She felt like the school should be put in a wooded area because that is what the surroundings were like when it was in use.

Don Benfield wanted to know if the historic commission was for the town or county. Mayor Pro Tem Holleman told him that it was a service for the town and county. Don Benfield said he had information for the commission that he would give them at a later date.

With no other comments the Mayor Pro Tem Holleman closed the public hearing.

Comm. Robinette made a motion to table any action in regards to moving the Black Oak School. Comm. Lerner asked what would happen next with the school if the board decided to table any action until more information was given. Berky Jennings stated that it would put a halt on the project because they couldn't apply for any grants until a location was selected. Comm. Poole stated that he wouldn't mind taking action with the clause that the town could back out of being the host site for the school if a concrete plan was not brought to the board, showing that all funding for upkeep of the school wasn't going to include public funds from the town or county. Comm. Robinette agreed and withdrew his motion to table any action. A motion was made by Comm. Poole, seconded by Comm. Lerner to approve Matheson Park as the host site for the Black Oak School pending the presentation of a financial plan by the "Friends of Black Oak School". Passed unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Holleman opened a public hearing regarding submission of application to request

and apply for installment financing of \$650,000 to the NC Local Government Commission. See attachment A, which is hereby incorporated and made a part of these minutes.

Manager Odom said that the money being borrowed would go toward the town's matching portion of two rural center grants as well as the funding for the smart meter project. The town could pay off the debt in five years, but the state suggested that it be paid over ten years to reduce the stress of the debt payment in each fiscal year.

No town citizens requested to speak regarding the financing application.

With no other comments, Mayor Pro Tem Holleman closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Comm. Poole, seconded by Comm. Robinette to submit the application to the NC Local Government Commission for the financing of \$650,000. Pass unanimously.

Manager Odom updated the board on the capital improvement projects. The contractors have nearly completed the rehabilitation of 40 manholes. They still have to come back and put epoxy on a few manholes due to the rainy weather we have had the last couple days. They will be coming back next week to complete that. The contractors have also completed the paving project. The only task left to do is stripe the streets.

A motion was made by Comm. Lerner, seconded by Comm. Robinette to approve a budget amendment receipting in funding from a loan from First Community Bank to pay for 3 new patrol vehicles. Passed unanimously. See Attachment A.

A motion was made by Comm. Lerner, seconded by Comm. Lerner to set a public hearing for May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. regarding the rezoning of property on Old Wilkesboro Road for residential development. Passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Comm. Poole, seconded by Comm. Robinette to set a work session for the discussion of the 2009-2010 Fiscal Year Budget on Saturday, April 28, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. Passed unanimously.

Lieutenant, Douglas Bowman presented the standard written police report.

Public Works Director, David Robinette had no report to make this month.

Manager, David Odom said he would discuss his information at the budget work session on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

By unanimous consent the next meeting was set for May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 5:30 pm. Passed unanimously

With no more business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m

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Mayor

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Commissioner

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Commissioner

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Commissioner

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Commissioner

Attest:

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Yolanda Prince, Town Clerk