



# TOWN OF PRINCEVILLE

## Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Agenda

June 17, 2019 6:00PM

3003 North Main Street, Tarboro, NC 27886

**Board Members Present:** Mayor Bobbie Jones, Commissioner Linda Joyner, Commissioner Milton Bullock, Commissioner JoeRoam Myrick, Commissioner Kenneth Sanders.

**Board Members Absent:** N/A

**Staff Present:** Town Manager Glenda Knight and Attorney Dana Jones

**I. Call to Order and Roll Call**

**II. Innovation:** Commissioner JoeRoam Myrick

**III. Public Hearing G.S. 159-12 (b)**

a. Anyone who wishes to be heard on the budget will be given an opportunity to speak.

- **Mr. Calvin Atkins** stated that he did not have time to look at the current budget, but he did look at the old one and one of his concerns is that under contract service you have that at 92,000 and that is a difference of 4,000. The numbers don't jive because you not making enough money for the line item and it supposed to take care itself. I am not saying that the 92,000 isn't correct but what I would recommend to the board is increasing the garbage disposal fee so that this expense can take care of itself. He stated that he would probably be the only one against law enforcement, now saying that the Town doesn't need it especially with what just happen on Sunday with the shoot out in Princeville. That was bad, so we most need law enforcement. But, in my opinion, I believe that the money should be placed somewhere else. Put the money in a coffer so that in five years or so, the Town will be able to afford a police department. Even if the Town had that one police officer that day, it would have still happened. He went on to talk about the coverage area for the Sheriff Office and the response time for the Board consideration oppose to using the funds for the off-duty

deputy. Last thing, please make sure Mr. Porter gets a raise because he deserves a raise. He is underpaid, he is a director and if he is doing his job, he needs a raise. If the Town don't treat employees the way they should with pay then they will lose and the Town will not get another one, at least not as good as him.

- **Commissioner Milton Bullock:** We must remember who we are. He confirmed he heard the previous comment and responded, "I hear you; we could have had three police officers and the tragic would have still happened. If the Town was a normal community, we could operate differently but traditionally we are a unique culture and it is going to happen. That \$25.00 ain't my \$25.00 dollars, it's the citizen and we need to take extra precaution to protect the citizens. It could have been school time and the kids could have been out with them shooting out of the cars at each other and bullets don't have a name on it. Sheriff Atkinson was just here talking about that and here we are, get an incident on Sunday. We need to look at the whole scope when the employee's and if there deserve increases, let's make sure that they do what they are supposed to do. Princeville is known to be a money changer. People sit on the fence waiting for the money. Yes, it is appreciated what you said about the man being a hard worker, he is and there are more hard workers around here, that we need to talk about. **Calvin Atkins** ask if he could respond, look at the killings all over America and they have tons and tons of police officers right there but couldn't save lives. Look at Rocky Mount, they have loads and loads of police officers and look at what's happening there. So, its not just Princeville and the culture. It's the sign of the time. What I am saying is that the Edgecombe County Sheriff Department responds well if you would look at the response time.
- **Commissioner Kenneth Sanders** interjected stating, I thought I made myself clear at the last meeting, I screamed loud enough about that because the money that we are appropriating is already given. I said that and I will say it again. The vote I made was under duress. It makes no sense to give Sheriff money at the front door and turn right back around and give it to him at the back door. It doesn't make any sense to me. I still feel that way, the money as small as it is, it could be appropriated for better use. Hell, we don't even have a town hall yet. So, I don't feel that it's necessary because it's their job to do it anyway.
- **Mayor Bobbie Jones:** It is understood that it's their job but if we are talking about coverage, I go back to Whitakers, if they are there, it may take 20 minutes. But, if they are already in Princeville, that will give us the coverage we need for the citizens and reduce the response time. If they are in Whitakers, they can't respond in 2 or 3 minutes. And when you are talking about a shooting like yesterday, you can't wait 15 minutes. Remember, we are talking about the difference between life and death. If you have a police officer right in the community and responding within 2 minutes, it could save someone's life. Remember

approve the first phase to include the welcoming and wait on the slogan to be added in the second phase, Commissioner Myrick seconded the motion, (Questions: Commissioner Myrick inquired about the time frame. Town Manager responded that that is unknown at this time.) motion carried, 4-0. Also, another update: on May 29<sup>th</sup>, the Town Manager and Mr. Earl Ijames had the pleasure of seeing the NC State students' presentations and they were outstanding. After a post review with the professors, the consensus for the title of the museum is Freedom River. The mobile museum will be a one man show and easy to manage without a lot of staff. The students did an excellent job with the four presentation. Once the project is complete, the museum belongs to the Town of Princeville. Commissioner Linda Joyner: did you all discuss what would go into the Museum. Answer: Yes, the board should have an opportunity to decide upon the inserts. Board approved the processed and professor's decision, Commissioner Joyner motioned, Commissioner Bullock second, motion carried 4-0.

- b) **Dr. Grace McCaskey** introduced herself and provided the Board with highlights of her project that would involve students collecting oral history from residents. She stated that the Town Manager has agreed to work with the project, but she would be doing the oversight. She stated that she has been in communication with NC State and has attended the Task Force to assess how collaboration can look because she did not want to overlap what other partners were doing or had done. Mayor Bobbie Jones inquired about the acronyms of IRB on page 3. Answer: Institutional Review Board for when researchers conduct research and are using humans, they must propose to a board for approval. Next inquiry, students were mentioned, is there any possibility for high schoolers. Answer: undergraduates but absolutely if there are individuals who are interested. Mr. Ed Bridgers ask if ECU already had information on the Town in the library. Answer: yes, but the more the merrier. Also noted by the Town Manager, the project lead is currently reviewing the partnership agreement that the hope is that it will be signed and ready for the Board to approve moving forth. Commissioner Bullock motioned

to approve the partnership contingent upon receipt of the agreement and Commissioner Myrick second, motion carried 4-0

c) **Grace Emery:** I am a former student of UNC-CH. I am working independently to collect the oral data from the residents of Princeville relating to resilience. Commissioner Bullock inquired if there could be a partnership with Dr. McCaskey and Fox? Answer: yes, absolutely.

d) **Charles Whitaker and Barry Hines the Honeybee men:** The goal is to educate citizens on how to start their own community gardens especially with the properties that the Town has inherited from the storms. The group will be applying for various grants and would like the Town support. The grants are for three years. Most of the work is being done with North Carolina A & T with the Cooperative Extension. Question: What will be done after the three years (Commissioner Joyner). Answer: continue to search for more funds and teach the community how to sustain care of the gardens. The project will include interns and hopefully a lot of younger people. But we need to educate the community on lost African American land. Question: Are you asking the Town to use the land or donate the land (Commissioner Sanders). Answer: no, use the land. **Dr. Lisa Nelson** conveyed her excitement about the project and would like to partner with the project. She mentioned Black Farmers nationwide. She mentioned Kendrick in trying to get farmers together and Julius Tillery. Board approved to provide a letter of support to the group to apply for grants (Commissioner Joyner, Commissioner Bullock, motion carried 4-0).

**VI. Consent Agenda** (Moted by Commissioner Joyner, seconded by Commissioner Myrick, motioned carried 4-0). No questions were asked. Commissioner Joyner praised the Public Work for the work that she is seeing is done in the Community.

- a) Minutes – May 20, 2019 Regular Town Meeting
- b) Princeville Senior Center
- c) Princeville Planning/Zoning/Rec/Parks
- d) Edgecombe County Sheriff Department Report



- e) Princeville Volunteer Fire Department
- f) Public Works Department

#### **VIII. Town Manager Reports**

- a) Town Hall selection recommendation for design-built rehabilitation

Town Manager reminded the Board that the recommendation literature on the company for the Town hall was in the packets and they were ready to start the work. Commissioner Myrick shared that he would like to see the time frame be a lot quicker as he knew that the construction could be done in three months. The Board was reminded that the rehab was a process. A process that had to meet the FEMA standards for reimbursement. The Board approved Rescue Construction Solution (Motion by Commissioner Bullock and seconded by Commissioner Sanders, motioned carried 4-0). Commissioner Sanders noted that he thought the information was very informative. The Mayor shared that he remembers the work that was conducted by the Architect to the Museum after 1999, Mr. Gravely and the work was good. The Board was reminded that funds would need to be readily available upfront and therefore research has lean to applying for a zero-interest loan that is up to 2 million dollars what would prove beneficial with these projects considering that these projects are reimbursable by FEMA.

- b) Senior Center/Museum/Construction Manager RFQ: right now, the deadline is the 18<sup>th</sup>. The closing date may have to be extended.

- c) 53 Acres Environmental Assessment (S&ME): The work is coming along Great, evidence of wetland was discovered but to not surprised but the findings of the first phase lends the engineers an opportunity to skip phase II. There has been excellent communication with the firm, and they have been attending the Task Force meetings. Question: How would the wetland be use (Commissioner Joyner). The engineers will offer recommendations on land usage for the Board's consideration.

- d) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) per the County's report 19 appraisals completed of the 22 acquisitions; 18 consults, 7 accepted offers, 8 closings and 1 withdrawal. Question: Any update on elevation (Mayor Bobbie

Jones). Answer: Spoke with the Hazard mitigation lead who shared that she is in communication with FEMA and is waiting to hear back.

- e) Floodgate Repairs (County) will be done that has never been done before per report from the County which is a preventive means and the County being proactive. Floodgate locations: crossing the river between Tarboro and Princeville, 3 are on HWY 258 and one towards the railroad. Question: Has there been any more talk about repair to the dike (Commissioner Joyner). Answer: No more talk regarding the dike. The only talk is that if the 5 million dollars get approved from the Assembly then maybe that can be a good start. Comment: Conversation has transpired with Senator Richard Burr and being an independent, I feel that I can speak to him on that. Congress has allocated 19 billion dollars down this way. Mayor you noted that maybe 3 billion will come down this way (Commissioner Bullock). Resolution to the heavy flooding is that walls could be put along certain areas along the Tar River (Commissioner Bullock).

## **IX. Old Business**

- a) Heritage Park Repairs: Scope of work was generated by our PWS and our technical and adm assistant as well a reminder of the Risk Assessment Report conducted by the Local North Carolina Municipality.
- b) Audit Status: 2012 has been complete and we are ready for 2013. Please continue to ask former administrators and or elected officials who may can assist with plugging this gap of need. Mayor Bobbie Jones reached out to Commissioner Howell and she stated that they were packed up somewhere. Mayor stated that he would follow up with her.
- c) Proposed Budget Amendment: Under salaries, there are proposed raises for staff who have worked three to six months of employment and have proven themselves well with performance. Also included is the detail report. Board confirm date and time for the Budget Ordinance meeting will be 6/27/19 at 5:30pm.
- d) UNCG/HAL: Ms. LeeCee Jones and I have met, and she has brought me up to speed and I have been linked with the professor who is spearheading the

project. Highlighted the Portraits of Humanity and the goal to establish a traveling exhibition over the next several months. UNCG received a grant for one person to travel to capture the work of Portraits of Humanity and it would seem ideal for Ms. Jones to travel. The partnership has been sent and is currently under review by the University. Approved by the board to move forth with the partnership. Commissioner Joyner motioned, Commissioner Myrick seconded, motion carried 4-0.

#### **X. New Business**

- a) North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency (NCORR): Zero interest loan to assist with the upfront funds.

#### **XI: Announcements**

#### **XII: Executive Session: Commissioner Joyner motioned, Commissioner Myrick second, motion carried 4-0**

- N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1) To prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to the law of this State or of United States, or not considered a public record within the meaning of the Chapter 132 of the General Statutes.
- N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(4) To discuss relating to the location or expansion of industries agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body in negotiations or to discuss matters relating to military installation closure or realignment.

#### **XIII: Board Comments: N/A**

#### **XIV: Adjournment:** Commissioner Joyner motioned, Commissioner Bullock seconded, motioned carried 4-0



Two handwritten signatures are visible at the bottom of the page. The signature on the left is "Bullie D. Joyner" and the signature on the right is "Commissioner Bullock".

