

TOWN OF COATS  
Board of Commissioners  
May 14, 2020  
**OFFICIAL MINUTES**

**I. ABSTRACT:**

A scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners held on May 14, 2020 in the Training Room at Coats Town Hall. The Board exercised social distancing, with six Board members, Town Manager Nick Holcomb, Town Clerk Karen Wooten and Town Attorney Alton Bain. Captain Storicks monitored public entrance.

**II. ROLL CALL:**

Mayor Chris Coats, Mayor Pro-Tem Jerry Beasley, Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert, Commissioner John Raynor, Commissioner Allen Mosby and Commissioner Marc Powell were present.

Attorney Alton Bain was present.

**III. CALL TO ORDER:**

A quorum being present, Mayor Coats called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Coats delivered the invocation and led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**RESOLVED**, to approve Agenda.

**MOTION BY: COMMISSIONER JOHN RAYNOR: SECOND BY: COMMISSIONER MARC POWELL  
APPROVED, AYES (5), MAYOR PRO-TEM JERRY BEASLEY, COMMISSIONERS POWELL, GILBERT, MOSBY AND  
RAYNOR  
NOES (0)**

**IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

**RESOLVED**, to approve Consent Agenda.

**MOTION BY: COMMISSIONER JOHN RAYNOR: SECOND BY: COMMISSIONER ALLEN MOSBY  
APPROVED, AYES (5), MAYOR PRO-TEM JERRY BEASLEY, COMMISSIONERS POWELL, GILBERT, MOSBY AND  
RAYNOR  
NOES (0)**

**V. OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. Contractor and budget for Abattoir Water Line  
Nick Holcomb Town Manager updated the Board with the proposed solution to fix the pressure issues along Abattoir. Mr. Holcomb stated that the study and plans presented by LKC Engineers have approvals by DEQ, DOT and Harnett Regional Water. Mr. Holcomb presented the recommendations of Award of four bids received. Columbus Utilities, Inc. was the low bid at Twenty Nine Thousand Four Hundred and Fifty

dollars (\$29,450) and recommended that the Town award the project to Columbus Utilities, Inc. (**Reference # 1**)

**RESOLVED**, to award Columbus Utilities, Inc. for Abattoir Road Water Improvements.

**MOTION BY: MAYOR PRO-TEM JERRY BEASLEY: SECOND BY: COMMISSIONER JOHN RAYNOR  
APPROVED, AYES (5), MAYOR PRO-TEM JERRY BEASLEY, COMMISSIONERS POWELL, GILBERT, MOSBY AND RAYNOR  
NOES (0)**

Nick Holcomb Town Manager asked for a Budget Amendment due to the added costs of the engineering services and the required check-valve. (**Reference #2**)

**RESOLVED**, to approve Water Fund Budget Amendment # 2 to appropriate funds for the Abattoir Road Water Improvements.

**MOTION BY: MAYOR PRO-TEM JERRY BEASLEY: SECOND BY: COMMISSIONER JOHN RAYNOR  
APPROVED, AYES (5), MAYOR PRO-TEM JERRY BEASLEY, COMMISSIONERS POWELL, GILBERT, MOSBY AND RAYNOR  
NOES (0)**

#### **VI. NEW BUSINESS:**

A. **Define Essential Personnel**

Nick Holcomb Town Manager requested the Board to define which employees are essential workers due to the eligibility for Covid-19 benefits. Mr. Holcomb clarified that essential personnel have to report to their workplace and non-essential workers would be able to claim Emergency Family Medical Leave time due to the need of childcare based on a public health emergency. Mr. Holcomb added that essential employees are not able to take advantage of this provision. Mr. Holcomb recommended that all 15 full-time employees deemed essential.

**RESOLVED**, to approve all full time staff as essential personnel.

**MOTION BY: MAYOR PRO-TEM JERRY BEASLEY: SECOND BY: COMMISSIONER MARC POWELL  
APPROVED, AYES (5), MAYOR PRO-TEM JERRY BEASLEY, COMMISSIONERS POWELL, GILBERT, MOSBY AND RAYNOR  
NOES (0)**

B. **Utility Repayment Agreement**

Nick Holcomb Town Manager presented the Board of Commissioners with School of Government blog post and repayment agreement pertaining to the Executive Order 124 mandated by the Governor. Mr. Holcomb requested the Board to approve the re-payment terms for late customers. Mr. Holcomb stated customers were not disconnected in March even though the EO-124 was not in effect until April 1, 2020. Mr. Holcomb proposed to give these customers the same repayment opportunity as those that missed payments during the EO-124, which was March 31, 2020 through June 1, 2020. (**Reference #3**)

**RESOLVED**, to approve the proposed repayment plan as presented.

**MOTION BY: COMMISSIONER JOHN RAYNOR: SECOND BY: COMMISSIONER KELVIN GILBERT  
APPROVED, AYES (5), MAYOR PRO-TEM JERRY BEASLEY, COMMISSIONERS POWELL, GILBERT, MOSBY AND  
RAYNOR  
NOES (0)**

C. Approval of PW Mower

Nick Holcomb Town Manager requested approval for the purchasing of John Deer Mower Z920M ZTrak at Eight Thousand Sixteen dollars (\$8,016) for the Street Department.

**RESOLVED**, to approve the purchase of Lawn Mower.

**MOTION BY: MAYOR PRO-TEM JERRY BEASLEY: SECOND BY: COMMISSIONER JOHN RAYNOR  
APPROVED, AYES (5), MAYOR PRO-TEM JERRY BEASLEY, COMMISSIONERS POWELL, GILBERT, MOSBY AND  
RAYNOR  
NOES (0)**

D. Presentation of Proposed 20-21 Budget

Nick Holcomb Town Manager presented the proposed 20-21 Budget with his Budget message. Mr. Holcomb stated that the budget does reflect a few of the Board's top priorities and maintaining what the departments need to operate. Mr. Holcomb highly recommended that the Board review revenues once more data is available in December 2020 due to the unpredictable economy during the Covid-19. Mr. Holcomb stated that priorities not addressed such as raises for the staff could be review in December.  
**(Reference #4)**

Mayor Pro-Tem Jerry Beasley stated that Proposed Budget looked good and that he realized that the difficulty in the projection for the revenues were considered and stated that in December that the Board should review raises for the staff.

Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert questioned how often the Town increase water rates.

*Nick Holcomb and the Board commented that increases only proposed as needed to cover rate increases from the County and the consideration for future expenses to the water lines. Mayor Pro-Tem Jerry Beasley commented that the Board might want to look into the possibility of selling to the County.*

Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert asked for update on the Police vehicle status and expressed concerns with the police vehicles.

*Nick Holcomb Town Manager stated that no purchase of vehicles this budget and one vehicle is included for the proposed budget.*

Commissioner Marc Powell questioned if the Police vehicles are allowed to drive home.

Commissioner John Raynor stated that the majority of our fleet should be Dodge Chargers.

*Nick Holcomb Town Manager stated that our vehicle policy allows police vehicles to be driven home within a 15-mile distance.*

Commissioner Allen Mosby stated that the rotation of vehicles save the Town from repair problems.

**VII. MANGER'S UPDATE:**

A. Reschedule Appeal Hearings – 252 N. & 458 S. Railroad

Nick Holcomb Town Manager requested to reschedule the Appeal Hearing for Harold Dixon on properties located at 252 N. & 458 S. Railroad Street.

Commissioner Allen Mosby stated to set date soon.

Reschedule Appeal Hearing with Harold Dixon for May 28, 2020 at 5 p.m.

B. Reopening Plans

Nick Holcomb Town Manager updated the Board concerning reopening the office following the Phrase II order from the Governor. Plans to install Plexiglass along the counter at the front lobby. Hours of regular operation will be Tuesday after Memorial Day, May 26, 2020. Libraries in the County are planning to return with restrictions for special programs. Parks and Recreation are delayed. Mr. Holcomb stated that at this time no refunds given to participants that have signed up for summer ball programs. Mr. Holcomb informed that disinfectant will be used for the Library and areas where the public access.

All Department Managers reports are in your Agenda Packages. Mike Collins Recreation Director has been very active at the Park and suggested that the Board visit to see changes that have been done.

Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert asked to visit and view the building and each departments.

**VIII. PUBLIC FORUM:**

Mayor Coats opened Public Forum with no written nor public comments, Public Forum closed.

**IX. CLOSED SESSION:**

A. 143-318.11 (a)(6) –Personnel Qualifications

Board of Commissioners moved into Closed Session at 8:15 p.m.

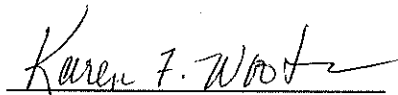
Board of Commissioners moved back into Open Session at 8:52 p.m.


**X. ADJOURN:**

**RESOLVED**, to adjourn meeting.

**MOTION BY: COMMISSIONER JOHN RAYNOR: SECOND BY: COMMISSIONER MAC POWELL  
APPROVED, AYES (5), MAYOR PRO-TEM JERRY BEASLEY, COMMISSIONERS POWELL, GILBERT, MOSBY AND  
RAYNOR  
NOES (0)**

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

  
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Karen F. Wooten, Town Clerk

  
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Chris Coats, Mayor