

**TOWN OF TRYON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 18, 2019 6:00 P.M.
TRYON TOWN HALL – MCCOWN ROOM
WORK SESSION**

Present: Mayor J. Alan Peoples Mayor Pro Tem Bill Ingham
Commissioners: Crys Armbrust, Bill Crowell, Chrelle Booker
Staff Present: Town Manager Zach Ollis Town Clerk Susan Bell
 Police Chief Jeff Arrowood Fire Chief Geoff Tennant
 Planning Director Tim Daniels Town Attorney William Morgan

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Peoples called the work session to order.

Town Manager Ollis stated he would like to add to the agenda tonight Fire Code Enforcement. Tank is here tonight to give an update on the inspection at Pine Crest. You as a board will need to vote to give him the authority to do fire inspections in Tryon. We also have a budget amendment.

Commissioner Armbrust asked if there is a line item included in the budget for the boardwalk. Ollis stated no. Armbrust stated we have discussed this for years. Commissioner Crowell stated we have said until the merchants clean up the back of their buildings we are not going to spend any money on the boardwalk.

Commissioner Armbrust asked to talk about the Police Department salaries in comparison to Columbus and Saluda. Chief Arrowood stated Columbus Police starting salary is \$32,500 and Saluda's is \$30,600. Tryon is \$28,500. Commissioner Booker asked when officers are hired to please bring them before the board so that they can meet them. Armbrust doesn't understand why we are the lowest paid in the County.

Chief Arrowood explained he has been talking about investing the eighth officer salary into the current officers. Once our rookie officers get some experience behind them, they move on. Ollis explained what is happening is Columbus is paying rookies more and giving them a take home car. He would like to invest in a paygrade study. Armbrust asked what the salary would be for you to divide the eighth position between the officers. Chief Arrowood explained it's not just the baseline for rookies it is for everyone. That could get us to \$35,000 for a starting salary.

Chief Arrowood stated officers have to be certified before we can hire them. Armbrust asked what the timeline is for you to work this out. Chief Arrowood stated July or August. Ollis stated if you approve, then there will be no change in the budget. Armbrust stated seems a no brainer to him.

Mayor Peoples added to the agenda item 7a. Budget Amendment No. 3, 7b. Fire Code Enforcement Officer and 7c. Approval of FY 19/20 Budget.

Fire Chief Waters gave an update on the Pine Crest Inn inspection. He was assisted by the Fire Marshall's office at the time of inspection. Commissioner Booker asked if they showed up unexpected.

Waters did not show up unexpected. Once everyone is back on a schedule, he will show up without calling first.

Commissioner Armbrust stated we have a confidence man in Tryon. Chief Arrowood stated he has let the business owners know to contact them as soon as possible if they have a problem.

Melrose Update-Daniels presented the estimates and explained the timeframe. There has been a development. Someone is interested in buying the property. Armbrust stated we don't need to be floundering with the decision to move forward and wait on the sale of the property.

Crowell asked if there was any more cost and will we be first in line to get our money back. Mayor Peoples asked if we could set a timeline for cleanup. Daniels stated yes. Attorney Morgan stated the ordinance has been filed at the courthouse. If the property is sold he will still have to clean it up. The process will continue. Armbrust wants to move forward. Crowell wants to give them another thirty days. It started at \$90,000 three months ago and now it is up to \$150,000.

Daniels feels the person is on the up and up. Armbrust asked who the realtor of record is. Daniels stated Cindy Viehman.

Crowell feels we should wait and see what they do. Ingham suggested waiting and give him time to see what he is going to do. Armbrust feels the board should give him a deadline. Ingham asked if he is aware of the problem. Daniels stated yes.

Crowell doesn't want to spend the money and never get it back. Should force the property owner to clean up. Attorney Morgan stated they may not be able to afford it, so they can't do it.

Ingham asked if they could tell them they have to start within thirty days of closing. Morgan stated that is something the Town could do. The ordinance has been recorded. Ingham wants to make sure they have everything in order. Morgan stated you may not get your money back. Ingham doesn't want the seller to get the money until we get ours. Crowell was willing to risk it at \$90,000, but not at \$150,000.

Attorney Morgan suggests no action be taken at this time on a contractor. Daniels asked Cindy to let him know as soon as something happens. Ollis asked if the sale falls through tomorrow, can we start. Attorney Morgan stated yes. You could call for a special meeting to approve the contractor.

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to adjourn the work session. Commissioner Crowell so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

J. Alan Peoples, Mayor

Attest:

Susan B. Bell, Town Clerk