

**TOWN OF TRYON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DECEMBER 15, 2020 6:00 P.M.
WORK SESSION
TRYON TOWN HALL – MCCOWN ROOM**

Present: Mayor J. Alan Peoples Mayor Pro Tem Chrelle Booker

Commissioners: Crys Armbrust, Bill Crowell, Bill Ingham

Staff Present: Town Manager Zach Ollis Town Clerk Susan Bell

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Peoples called the work session to order.

Mayor Pro Tem Booker asked about the letter that the Town received from the state concerning our audit. Ollis stated that he had asked Susan and the Mayor and both thought we had done an amendment to help close out the budget. We may have miscalculated but he's not sure what was wrong. We have money and are probably in the best shape we have ever been in. The auditors would not give us our audit on time and it is hard to see what shape we are in if we don't have it. Mayor stated that we hire an auditor that is certified by the state and then they have large clients and they sign up a few smaller clients and we are the ones they fall behind on. It isn't just the current auditor's, it was the ones before them also.

Ollis has to respond to them in 45 days. We have gone from \$200,000 to \$1.5 million in fund balance. If there are small mistakes, we are doing on our end we will correct them. Mayor believes this is the strongest we have been.

Ingham doesn't have anything.

Crowell wants to ask the water department and Jody to come to us and tell us what it would take to get the mountain water back on line. We need a backup water system. The town lake supplied us with all the water that we needed. Ingham explained the standards are a lot more now than they were then. We need to go up and take a look at the town lake. Ollis will take everyone up there look at the lake.

Mayor Peoples asked why we started drawing water from Lake Lanier. Crowell explained the Town received a federal grant. We were given the lake so the Mill could be sold and then the jobs went to China a few years later. Mayor Peoples thought we started using lake water before 1998. Ingham said Betty Jones would have the answers. Ollis will give her a call. Crowell would like to know what it will take to get it ready to pull water. Ingham would like to ride up there before discussing this. Crowell is really curious about our fund balance come February after we start paying for Lake Lanier. Ollis put back about \$95,000 to cover the bridge and several other projects. Some money was put back for Lake Lanier.

Mayor Peoples asked about IGA pipe. Ollis explained that we didn't plan for this. He applied for state emergency funds. The Town is getting reimbursed \$145,000. As far as Carolina Drive the cost was \$200,000 out of nowhere for this project. We lost about \$60,000 on this, but we gained a lot more. We

are in better shape than we have been. We have to be responsible with our spending, but we do have the money. CARES Act money and the state reimbursement is helping.

Mayor explained we have more people in town than ever before.

Armbrust explained that it concerns him that some of our projects have fallen through the cracks. He feels we need to keep a running list of our projects to see where we are. The maintenance shed move is one of those projects. Crowell thought we were waiting on selling the property first. Ingham explained we could get the new location ready and put in the contract to allow us up to 90 days to move.

Armbrust asked for an update on the tires. Ollis explained that we have been removing tires for weeks. Our crews along with Jr. Newman have removed thousands of tires. We have taken a break and the county has told us to at least make an effort. From what he has been told that if you try to unearth those tires you will have 60-100 years of tires. Goes around entire field, basically a valley of tires ten feet deep ten feet wide. Back in the day Tryon trash would pick up tires and drop them off at the sewer plant. Tires go around the field from the far right end all the way around tires are built into the bank. Back then it was not illegal. It is now. He is looking into grants to help with the removal of the tires. He has talked to Jody, Gary who have talked to Clarence Henson and the tires have been there for years. This has been going on since the 20's and 30's. It's not just pulling out an empty tire, you are pulling out 50-60 years of dirt and water. The situation has been addressed. It was only one tire that washed up on someone's property. It may not have been one of our tires. Pulled tires for ten to fifteen days, thousands of tires there. Ziglar Field used to be a landfill for the town. We will have to address one day. There are also washers and dryers under the dirt.

Armbrust asked about the relationship with the state. Ollis explained that the deadline has been pushed back this year. Following the preaudit, he knows we are following. It is annoying and reflects badly on us. We have been unfairly put on the radar. He knows of a town that hasn't turned in an audit for three years and it is just now being caught up with. Bell explained we will probably get another letter for FY19-20, because she personally didn't do all the things that she needed to do, but FY20-21 we will see a difference. We have new auditors and a new accountant. It will just be better.

Armbrust asked where the discussion was on Ziglar Field. Booker explained Mr. Wingo is moving forward. He is getting ready to go. Just waiting on the ballfield. Duke Energy has put up four towers down there. They have built a road up the hillside. Ollis explained Duke Energy has upgraded the lines on the Eastside to help with the power.

Ollis has reached out for quotes on restrooms at Ziglar Field. Green Flush Technologies has pre-built solar powered restrooms. The water comes from the rain. We could fill it up with the fire truck at first. As far as the ballfields he needs to speak with Mr. Wingo about getting the fields ready. Tremayne Sutton had requested to play there a couple of years ago. Travis had gotten the field ready with new bases. Booker explained there are no bases there now.

Crowell explained that Pearson Falls had done something like this. It doesn't flush. Ollis explained there are two tanks underneath. The gray water is what is used for flushing. He will get back to them.

Ollis explained that he had met with the Nature Conservancy and the Town can lease the property for hunting. The reason for recommending this, is that you have people out there keeping an eye on the

property. Mayor Peoples asked about camping, walking trails, etc. Ollis explained the Board has rights to lease the property. The climbing wall is above the conservancy property. He knows people are interested in a lease. Mayor Peoples thanked Zach and the board for their work on this property. Ollis explained Gary Walker who worked for the town thirty years is interested in a lease. The Board agreed to lease the property to Gary. Ollis will finish researching a lease and bring it back to you. You can only use the property for parks and recreation.

Ollis wants to add to the agenda, Kim Nelson got a ticket for running a stop sign. James Payne a little before his passing had asked that the stop sign be removed and a yield sign be put there. Randall Hodge has contacted the railroad about this. Norfolk Southern allows for a yield sign to be placed there, but it will need Board approval. The board would have to pass a resolution changing the stop sign to a yield sign.

Ollis explained Marty is here to ask to close Trade Street for the film company to film a fake horse parade. Marty explained the film company wanted to run through it twice. It would start at 3:15. Ingham asked how the detour would go. Police Chief Arrowood explained how traffic would detour. Marty explained that it shouldn't take long.

Arrowood explained the earliest they can start is 3:15 because of the school traffic. The parked cars have to be removed. Marty has talked with most of the shop owners. She will talk to the others tomorrow. Arrowood will barricade the road and spaces this Friday. Shouldn't take forty-five minutes. Marty explained if people want their face in the movie, then you will have to remove your masks. The film is going to be called Tryon and shown next fall.

Armbrust asked about the names of the people looking at the Grover building. Ollis explained the names were Cotto and another man. The Chamber would like to market the Grover building as a brewery. The sewer project cost for the Lynn area is about \$1.2 million. The Town couldn't pursue this on the possibility, a business is moving in. USDA will not approve a loan unless you have the numbers of connections to help pay for the loan.

Ollis explained NCDOT wanted us to move the water lines about three or four years ago for them to work on the bridge on Capps Road. He explained to them they would have to pay to move the water lines for a project they were working on. He received a call this week from DOT. They are ready to start. He reminded them they would have to pay for the water lines to be moved.

ADJOURN

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Armbrust so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

J. Alan Peoples, Mayor

Attest:

Susan B. Bell, Town Clerk