

**TOWN OF TRYON  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MARCH 16, 2021 6:00 P.M.  
WORK SESSION  
TRYON TOWN HALL – MCCOWN ROOM**

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

Commissioners: Bill Crowell, Bill Ingham, Crys Armbrust arrived late

Staff Present: Town Manager Zach Ollis                      Town Clerk Susan Bell

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Peoples called the meeting to order.

Mayor Pro Tem Booker asked about the Distressed Water situation. Ollis explained the reason is because of population. The Town received three points.

And debt – the water line destruction and water plant repairs

As Susan pointed out today-it may be a good thing getting out of the debt for the water line

Our water system is not the healthiest, not because of neglect. Water rates haven't been raised in 10 years

Booker asked about the state assessment. Ollis responded that she expressed it is not a, come get Tryon thing. She claims they are trying to figure out how to make things easier. His responses today were: TR1 we do go over the estimates each year-he does print off the revenues and expenses and he will start keeping up with the paperwork, for every department.

TR2-debt service is currently listed in principal, not as principal and interest

TR3-nothing we could have done, we lost our new accountant, hiring a 3<sup>rd</sup> party hopefully

TR4-Bank Recs hopefully will be caught up this week

TR-employee turnover – purchase order process – when Jody started, he didn't realize he should have been doing this – he lowered the amount to \$250

TR6-giving you a report every month

TR7-late audit-good with new auditor's

TR8-assessment-unable to determine 1 out of 32 looking at doing the bank recs differently

TR9-new policy for electronic payments-the way they fixed it is you as a board have to adopt a resolution to make electronic payments–

He responded to all things and signed off on all things, we knew we would get dinged on some things, just because they are going to find problems.

Booker asked if we were keeping up with the broadband. Ollis stated no, he has not. Booker asked if we were keeping up with the American Rescue Plan. Ollis stated yes. Booker asked how much are we going to receive. Ollis explained \$470,000, allegedly, in two equal payments. You can't use this to replace a tax cut. You can use it on certain types of utility projects or personnel. The League of Municipalities are putting out information daily. Mayor Peoples asked if it could use it to offset Harmon Field Restroom cleaning. Ollis reported that you can use it to offset the different funds. We are probably going to have to justify it.

Ingham asked about Chestnut Street. Ollis has presented to you in the past. We are wanting to do the sewer underneath first. Cost is around \$50,000. Mayor asked how much is

Ingham asked about the time frame on the lights at the bridge. Ollis explained Duke Energy wants to do two on the Northbound lane. There would be no issue with that.

Crowell asked who tears the beaver dams down. Ollis reported we had torn in down at least one time after the beavers left. He calls wildlife normally to help with them.

Crowell proposed to do away with all zoning and regulations on Lake Lanier. There are no police on the water. We had three people in the hospital last year. We can't do anything. People are putting up big buoys so that people won't run over the swimmers. He wants the home owner's association to take over the lake. We will keep the dam. Ingham-liability where does it leave us. Crowell explained if the dam breaks, we have liability. Morgan cautioned the Board to talk about this in an open session, but it's your preference. Crowell explained people don't pull permits. Greenville County doesn't care.

Planning Director Daniels explained when he first got here, Greenville County didn't even know we had regulations. Morgan reported they know about them, because he has seen evidence in the minutes. A lot of the confusion comes from the Town owning the property and the Town Board adopts rules and regulations. As a Town you don't have jurisdiction, but as a private property owner you have jurisdiction. You are not doing it as a government entity, you are doing it as a private property owner-control is the interest for the citizens of the Town. You are not trying to annex it, but you have to have ways of enforcing our rules.

Crowell-dredging is not allowed year-round, but there is a man dredging year-round. Morgan has thoughts on regulating, but would like to discuss in closed session. Crowell-there is a man putting a 30-foot boat in the narrows. The lake should legally be no wake, by the distance between two docks. Ingham-we will hear from Morgan. He understands the frustrations.

Armbrust-late because he was with the film crew, (Christmas at Grey Horse Inn). He feels we are going to get a lot of national PR. Film in New York City with Angela Lansbury.

Duke Energy and Windstream asked if we could do some follow up with them, 13 poles have been cut off. Looks appalling. Crowell explained they have to move the power to the new poles. Ollis has been told by Duke who puts in a new pole, that they move their lines, but Windstream and Charter does not move their lines. Duke will remove the poles once Windstream and Charter move their lines. Armbrust will forward pictures to Ollis.

Armbrust asked about the Erskine Bridge lights. Ollis was told there would be an issue with lights on both sides of the road. They can do the lights on the Northbound side without any issues. Ingham would like to get them started as soon as possible. Ollis will contact them tomorrow.

Armbrust asked about new signage at the bridge. All of a sudden, a new sign appeared in the DOT right-of-way. Ollis was under the assumption we were to replace with a new Town of Tryon sign. Armbrust-that is the gateway to the town. Take a look at the current sign of CYP. Ollis will take a look. The sign is for the new property owners.

Armbrust informed the Board that All Things Bakery will open April 15<sup>th</sup>, but Jessica seems to think it will be in May. He has picked up the outdoor furniture from Leisure Craft today. He asked for an update on the Food Pantry on the Eastside for Thermal Belt Outreach. Ollis will speak with B.J.

Armbrust – Nina Simone has rescheduled 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for the statute until May 1, 1-4, line up for that concert Fire Cracker Jazz band, Daryl Rice and others will be performing. It will safe-distancing. When he redesigned McCown Street, he designed it for a concert venue. Playing 50's & 60's music-bring your own seating. He would like to request street closure from 12:30-4:30. Tryon Arts & Crafts is doing a fund raiser that day. Calling Will tomorrow. Crowell & Ingham suggested closing it longer, because of people parking there and having to move. Armbrust is very pleased to give you proof copies of the new Nina Simone rack card that gives you everything you need to know about the Nina Simone project. He wants to thank Barbara Bricker, a partner at New View Realtor, an excellent artist for printing the rack cards.

Armbrust would like to add to the agenda – the film production protocols. Ollis has protocols for film production and handouts. Robert is not coming tonight, but has a proposed board for you from the last meeting that he will send to you for distribution. Booker will still like to meet the film crew. Armbrust- you will have to come with me. Half are leaving at 6:45 a.m. to fly out to Atlanta in the morning.

Mayor has had a request for the maintenance shed. We need to do something. If we are going to do a boardwalk behind the buildings, we need to get rid of the smelly trucks.

#### **ADJOURN**

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

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J. Alan Peoples, Mayor

Attest:

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Susan B. Bell, Town Clerk