

**TOWN OF TRYON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AUGUST 17, 2021
TRYON TOWN HALL – MCCOWN MEETING ROOM
7:00 P.M.**

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
 Police Chief Jeff Arrowood Planning Director Tim Daniels
 Fire Chief Josh Walton Public Works Director Jody Morse
 Town Attorney William Morgan TDDA Ex. Director Paige Henderson
 Harmon Field Supervisor Travis Aldred

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Peoples called the meeting to order and asked for a moment of silence. Mayor Pro Tem Booker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ADOPTION

Mayor Peoples asked if there were additions, deletions or corrections. Town Manager Ollis had the addition of the AIA grant. Mayor Peoples will add that as 6b. Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to add the two resolutions for the AIA grant. Commissioner Armbrust so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Peoples asked if there were any additions, deletions or corrections. Being none, he entertained a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda, which includes the Board's minutes, tax releases for Johnnie Mae Booker (\$251.19, \$251.19 & \$287.96), the Tax Settlement and the Financial Report. Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Armbrust so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

BRAEWICK ROAD UPDATE

Town Manager Ollis updated the Board. We are going to receive two million dollars, part of it loan and part of it grant. The estimated cost will be \$2.2 million and estimated funding will be \$2.1 million. The proposed project will make the following improvements in the Town's Braewick Road sewer basin. CCTV of approximately 8,200 linear feet of 8-inch and 10-inch gravity sewer; find and fix rehabilitation/replacement of 7,700 linear feet of 8-inch and 5-linear feet of 10-inch gravity sewer pipe. There will be the rehabilitation of 30 manholes and the replacement of around 80 service laterals.

The milestones we have to reach: we have to have bid package of design by November 1, 2021. Around 30 to 45 days before that we have to have approval from LGC and before that we have to have letter to the LGC asking a bunch of different stuff. We are still ahead of schedule. We are behind because the

office of Historical Preservation asked us to, basically survey the property looking for arrowheads and historical stuff. That was required of us.

Basically, right now the conversation with Withers is that they will be utilizing the manhole at Laurel and Melrose. They will be filling trucks and doing CCTV. They will gather information and will put together some design, once they have a better aspect of what they are going to be doing. Then we will work to rebuild the Braewick line from the plant down. The line will go down to about Woodland Park. Commissioner Ingham asked if this line would go behind Spanish Courts. Ollis stated yes, it will be close to Spanish Courts and near the tennis courts. This project is because of the overflows. It's not going to replace the line. They will go through and fix what needs to be repaired. The engineers think we can make some repairs near Forest Lane, the area that feed into this. There are a lot of easements that we have to go through.

Mayor Peoples asked when they would put the first shovel in the ground. Ollis explained we have to have the bids submitted and approved by March. We have to be ready to execute a construction contract by August 2022. We are ahead of where we need to be. Mayor Peoples reminded everyone the last fast track took us four years with our project.

RESOLUTIONS FOR AIA GRANT

Ollis explained there is two resolutions that need passing, the Session Law 2020-79 and the Federal Clean Water Act. Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to adopt the Session Law 2020-79. Commissioner Ingham so moved. The motion carried unanimously. Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to adopt the Federal Clean Water Act. Commissioner Armbrust so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

LAKE LANIER DISCUSSION

Town Manager Ollis updated the Board on Lake Lanier. Basically, included in the packet is conversations and inspections. The dam is listed as high hazard class. We have to submit a plan on or by November 1, 2021 for the following: stabilizing the slides and sloughs located on the left and right downstream abutments, cutting and removing the brush and vegetation adjacent to the outlet of the interceptor drain in the right downstream area and monitoring activities. They included some recommendations such as making a plan to lower the water level in an emergency event and updating the EAP Emergency Action Plan. The hazard class should stay the same.

He spoke with Chuck Owens of DHEC. They are going to help us figure some federal funds out to do some bigger projects that we would like to do at the dam. For its age, it is doing very well. He included the bridge inspection form. Anyone that is concerned about this can look from home on-line and in the minutes.

Basically, the inspection came back. They were looking for deficiencies such as, the concrete piers with caps, concrete horizontal cracks and other various deficiencies, etc. DOT shut the bridge down after receiving the inspection report. They have reopened it with different load bearings. This report is public record. The dam is in as good of shape as could be considering its age.

Commissioner Ingham asked about the letter that was received from the Lake Lanier Civic Association (LLCA). It looks like to him that they are willing to help. Ollis explained that we have DHEC to file for grants. They could contact the state representatives. He will respond however you would like.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REQUEST

Town Manager Ollis explained our Fire Chief is out on a call right now. Fire Chief Walton just walked in the door and explained that he has a request. He introduced our newest hire, Kemper Henderson. He comes to us from the City of Hendersonville Public Works, but he has been in the fire service for years, his dad is a retired fireman. He's moved to Landrum. He also introduced Wesley Garrett who comes from Henderson County. You all know Josh Connell. We also have Jackson Tipton, who just put in a lot of hours. He sent him home to get some rest. This is our full-time staff now. The Board thanked them and welcomed them aboard.

Walton explained the needs that they have identified. NFPA recommends they have two sets of turnout gear. He is asking for five sets for the full-time staff. He has gear for the volunteers. The cost is \$17,000, that includes the boots and helmets. Their washer and dryer for uniforms is a 2006. They have a washer donated from Dana Fire Department. Both are on their last leg. Cost is \$1,800 for both. The county is utilizing VIPER radios now. The cost is \$11,380. The other departments, along Tryon went to the county and asked if they could piggyback on their purchase, so this amount will decrease some. They are also in the need of some pagers that will be included in this. He's proud of our paid staff, the volunteers are slowly fading away. The Scotties, the Garys, the Bobs our volunteers have done this for years and now are needing a rest. He would like to make them a small day room, just a place they can get away from everything. They all stayed late last night and Jackson hung around for the weather event. He is asking for recliners and a TV for them, a place they can relax after they have worked. He doesn't encourage laziness by no means, but these guys have long shifts and kids. Cost is about \$4,000. These guys are always on top of things. One more item is-Josh Connell was working one night and his vehicle mirror was hit by another driver as he was going to a second call. The excuse was he didn't have blinking lights. He and Connell are supporting the paid staff at night. They are looking at \$33,000 for a new vehicle with all the accessories. He allows Connell to be able to use the Tahoe and asked for a \$500 a month stipend for Walton's vehicle. He already has lights and sirens on his vehicle.

Town Manager Ollis stated we have the money. Right before Tank passed, they had purchased the Tahoe. We are losing volunteers. The amount of hours required by volunteers is a tremendous amount. Connell and Walton are sharing the duties at night. He has had damage to his car. These things do happen. As far as the equipment they would like to make a room for the firemen on duty.

Mayor Peoples asked about financing or pay for this. Walton explained they would pay cash. Take it out of fund balance. Mayor Peoples asked if Ollis was okay with this. Ollis stated yes, because of Tennant, they have the money. The stipend is something that they have asked for, for years. It is better in the long room. They need the furniture for the firemen. Mayor Peoples asked for a total number. Walton explained \$33-\$35,000 with taking the vehicle out.

Commissioner Ingham made a motion to allow them to spend the \$36,000. The motion carried unanimously.

Fire Chief Walton asked if they were still okay to sell of a couple of the vehicles. They had talked about buying a pumper. Eventually they will sell the brush truck too. Columbus has a truck they are looking at.

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to approve. Commissioner Ingham stated this has already been discussed previously, he so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 1

Town Manager Ollis explained this is our first budget amendment. Included is the transfer to the Sanitation Fund for its shortfall for FY 20 per the auditors. This should have been included with the last one in FY21, but was not. The only thing different will be the appropriation of the \$36,000 fire department expenditures. Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to adopt Budget Amendment No. 1. Commissioner Armbrust so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

MINIMUM HOUSING

Planning Director Daniels gave an update to the board. He held a hearing on August 7, for 45 Canady Lane. It's clearly uninhabitable. There is the minimum of 45 days, before the town can do anything. He spoke with 143 Broadway owner and he said the property will be sold on September 1st. The new owner claims that it will be repaired promptly.

KUDZU AGREEMENT

Planning Director Daniels spoke on the kudzu agreement. The Town will do the spraying. We might have to contract it out if the time can't be found to do this. He is in talks with Greg Miner about this. He will keep an eye on the cost. Town Manager Ollis explained the idea is for you to start thinking about this so when we are ready to start, if you see anything or have suggestions, just let us know.

TDDA UPDATE

TDDA Director Henderson explained you will find in her report the MSD report that includes a basic overview of the General Statutes requirements, which are the boundaries and services in the district. In her report it shows what she has been working on as far economic vitality. She has been working on the MSD Report. TDDA recently brought on three new board members. They completed an orientation last Saturday. A lot of good things going on in our communities. They have a lot of things coming up, such as Beerfest, great vendors and great food trucks. They are playing it by ear now and will make any decisions later.

Mayor Peoples needs a motion to direct Paige to put out a petition and direct her where to start. Town Manager stated it sounded like earlier you wanted her to petition the Central Business District.

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

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT/TOWN PROJECT PRIORITIZATION, AND CITIZEN INPUT

Town Manager Ollis reported:

1. Orientation with DENR
2. Beerfest meetings

3. Branding meetings have started
4. Responded to LGC
5. Talks about Saluda Grade Rail Trails
6. New accountants are working on the books
7. New auditors will be here in September
8. The Dam on the Bridge was inspected
9. Tryon Gravel Ride will be held again this year, leaving from Harmon Field
10. Discussions with the film fest crew
11. Streets have been doing more patching and will continue next week
12. Discussing with County about the septic system on Jackson Street
13. Capps Road Bridge project was approved and will start construction in September
14. Submitted infrastructure needs with Jay Johnston
15. CC & BRAG are still working with Mountain Water Inc. regarding a parking lot at the rock climbing-they have put in a ton of effort up there-getting a lot of use-buses are bringing children
16. Cookout at Roseland-had a very nice time
17. ARP Funding Request was made by Mayor Peoples
18. Census numbers have come in
19. Public Works has been busy
20. Fire Department has been busy-last night with trees that have fallen
21. Police have had time to walk the streets
22. Fire Department has been putting in a lot of hours at night
23. Travis at Harmon Field is doing good-lost an employee-will be advertising for help
24. Crys had brought it to my attention about the stone for the man who passed away at HarmonField-Ollis will be working with Jody to pull the stone up on the walking trail

That's all he had.

COUNCIL/MAYOR REPORT

Commissioner Crowell thanked the staff, Paige and TDDA for moving forward. He also thanked the three people that were in attendance.

Commissioner Ingham thanked staff for doing a fine job.

Commissioner Armbrust recognized the police at Rock Hill and the Trevor Arrowood Event that raised almost \$10,000. Congratulations to All Good Things. Tiffany with the National Trust will release a report next week on the future uses of the Nina Simone Birthplace. At the next 4th Friday, August 27th the Brass Quintet of the Hendersonville Symphony Orchestra will be playing at the Nina Simone Plaza.

Mayor Pro Tem Booker thanked everybody for coming out and thanked staff for all their hard work.

Mayor Peoples asked if Mr. Lange had anything to say about the historical commission. Mr. Lange explained that it has been very busy the past few months. He has spoken to people in Raleigh and watched videos of how this has to be setup. He has Dean Trakas and Julia Calhoun to sit on the board for now. There are some requirements for the people on the board. Mayor Peoples asked do you need time to study this additional application. Mr. Lange stated yes.

Mayor Peoples stated we have lost five citizens of this town in two weeks. Carl Wharton, Don Viehman, Tom Foster, Roberta Ratterree and Jack. He knew them all personally. They will be missed.

CITIZEN COMMENTS & RESPONSES

Tim Daniels read an email that was received from Roger Davault. He asked for more information on the Braewick Sewer line improvements. Mayor Peoples explained the board has already been over this. He doesn't like it, because we have been fined over \$10,000 and we don't like it. We are working on it.

Mr. Nehdi appreciates your investment in downtown revitalization. On the decision to require the petition to be presented to downtown, is that for the property owners or the businesses? TDDA Dir. Henderson stated property owners within the Central Business District. Mr. Nehdi asked if it includes non-profits? Henderson stated from what we have gathered she doesn't believe it does, but she would double check on this. Mr. Nehdi asked about the advisory committee, had this been discussed with council? Mayor Peoples stated yes. Mr. Nehdi asked what the decision was. Commissioner Ingham explained it was just discussed and all were in favor of it.

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