

**MINUTES OF THE HARMON FIELD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**  
**Tuesday, June 6, 2023**

Chairman Nelon called the Harmon Field Board of Supervisors meeting to order at 5:30 PM at the Tryon Town Hall, McCown Room.

**Board Members Present:** Chairman Stephen Nelon; Secretary-Treasurer Miguel Santibanez; Rick Covil; and Jamie Dunn

**Board Members Absent:** Warren Watson, Vice Chairman

**Staff Present:** Jim Fatland, Tryon Town Manager; Travis Aldred, Harmon Field Superintendent; and Meg Rogers, Town Secretary/Cashier

**Approve Minutes from May 2, 2023 meeting**

The Minutes from the Harmon Field Board's May 2, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Covil made a motion to approve the May 2, 2023 regular meeting minutes as presented. Dunn seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.

**Approve Financial Report for May 2023**

The May 2023 Harmon Field financial report was presented by Tryon Town manager Fatland. According to the report, Harmon Field had received \$292,403.52 (75.43%) of its annual budgeted revenues as amended for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 and had spent \$309,402.25 (79.81%) of annual budgeted expenditures as amended for FY 2022-2023 leaving a fund balance of \$139,770.70 as of May 31, 2023. Remaining invoices to be paid for restoration of the Harmon Field maintenance building were discussed briefly and it was estimated that approximately \$51,500 of the insurance settlement funds would be left after the work was completed.

Town Manager Fatland told the Board members that the State of North Carolina did not allow municipalities to budget a contribution to fund balance in fiscal budgets. As the total Harmon Field budgeted amount would not change, no budget amendment would be needed to bring the Harmon Field Budget into compliance, but a budget adjustment was recommended to move the \$1,695 currently showing in the Contribution to Fund Balance expense line item to the Repairs & Maintenance line item. Dunn made a motion to approve the budget adjustment recommended by Fatland. Covil seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.

Dunn made a motion to approve the financial report for May 2023 as adjusted. Santibanez seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.

**FY 2023-2024 Harmon Field Budget-Update from County & Town**

Fatland reported that the Polk County Board of Commissioners would be holding a public hearing on the FY 2023-2024 County Budget on June 5 and would be voting to approve the budget at its meeting on June 19, 2023. The Town of Tryon would be holding a FY 2023-2024 Budget public hearing on June 20, 2023 and was expected to vote on approving the budget at the meeting immediately after the public hearing.

### **Open Air Gym Grant Application**

Fatland reviewed the plans for partition of the gym ground floor storage space. Fatland had spoken to Sara Bell, Executive Director of the Polk County Community Foundation regarding the potential for grant funding for remodeling the partitioned space and adding the covered porch structure. Fatland had met with a contractor to review the gym room structure and proposed modifications and the contractor found that the west outside wall of the room had rotted wood and replacement of the entire wall was recommended. The deadline for a grant application to the Polk County Community Foundation Unrestricted Fund was June 27, 2023. Fatland asked for permission from the Harmon Field Board of Supervisors to prepare a grant application for the project. Fatland hoped to have a draft of the grant application to submit to the Tryon Board of Commissioners at its meeting on June 20, 2023 for the Town's approval to submit the grant application. Fatland had reached out to local organizations that used the Harmon Field open-air gym, such as Tryon Arts & Crafts School, Polk County Recreation/YMCA and a youth basketball program director to help tell the story and show how they would benefit from the proposed project and they had agreed to provide letters of support to accompany the grant application. Covil made a motion to approve allowing Fatland to prepare a grant application for the open-air gym ground floor room remodeling, partition and porch addition project. Santibanez seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.

Tryon Arts & Crafts School Executive Director Will Briarclift reported that they were finishing up replacement of the ceiling tiles and cleaning out cobwebs from the ceiling area. Briarclift estimated that their section of the partitioned room would be ready for their photography classes as soon as the lights and ceiling tile replacement was done. Fatland suggested sharing a common HVAC unit for both parts of the partitioned space to reduce costs.

### **Pickleball Courts Update**

Debra Torrence told the Board that she was preparing a grant application for funds to pay professional grant writer costs to prepare applications for funding for the proposed Harmon Field pickleball courts facilities. A draft drawing of the project area was distributed to Board members. Fatland stated that staff would work on an updated master plan for Harmon Field that would include current facilities and the proposed pickleball courts for approval at the next meeting.

### **Equestrian Facility Update**

Dunn reported that \$3,920 was needed to purchase more horse show jumps for Harmon Field. Approximately \$2,000 was left from the donations for the Harmon Field Equestrian Facility Preservation Project. Dunn asked that the remainder of the donations and approximately \$1,920 from the Harmon Field equestrian facility horse show revenues be allocated to pay for the jumps. Dunn recommended that some of the net revenues from the horse shows be used to fix the sprinkler system. Aldred stated that some horse show expenses had not yet been posted in the accounting system and

approximately \$2,300 for manure cleanup would have to be paid out of the show revenues. Aldred agreed that there should be more than \$1,920 in net revenues available. Aldred stated that under the new agreement, Harmon Field was receiving much more revenue from horse shows than in prior years. Aldred stated that the drag donated for maintenance of the horse show rings needed new bearings. Dunn stated she would get estimates for the cost to replace the bearings. Aldred stated he had another drag that might work if new teeth were purchased and installed which would cost less than the repair cost for the donated drag. Harmon Field's drag with new teeth would do the job better than the donated pulverizing drag. Aldred stated that repairing both drags would be recommended so that Harmon Field would have a backup if either drag failed. Dunn asked Aldred to help to get quotes for replacement of the teeth on Harmon Field's drag.

Dunn made a motion for the Harmon Field Board of Supervisors to approve allocating the requested funds to purchase the jumps and allocate funds to fix the drags. Covil seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.

#### **Rental Updates**

Superintendent Aldred reported the concession stand tenant had paid for May 2023, but had not yet paid rent for June 2023. Horse show rentals were paid up.

#### **Park Superintendent's Report**

Park Superintendent Aldred presented his report.

- Water Fountains repairs were top priority because, of the five locations, four of them were not working and the remaining one working was not working well. Repairs had been delayed because of inability to get repair parts. Aldred had quotes for new fountains. Fatland recommended having Aldred get firm quotes for replacements and bring that quote to the July 2023 Harmon Field Board meeting for funding approval to replace the fountains..
- Three new metal grills were needed to replace rusted out metal grills at Harmon Field. Aldred had a quote of \$1,000 per grill to replace. Fatland offered to move two similar metal grills currently at Bryan Park to Harmon Field since they needed to be removed from Bryan Park at the request of the East Side Citizens Advisory Committee. Aldred stated he would still like to replace three grills now and he would like to have one or two grills in storage to replace broken grills as needed in the future.

#### **Approve FY 2023-2024 Meeting Dates Schedule**

The proposed FY 2023-2024 Meeting Schedule for the Harmon Field Board of Supervisors was reviewed. According to the proposed schedule, the next meeting would be scheduled on July 11, due to July 4, 2023 holiday falling on the first Tuesday. Aldred would not be able to attend, but Fatland would be available and the drag repair and fountain replacement quotes could be reviewed and approved in July to expedite those projects. Covil made a motion to approve the proposed FY 2023-2024 Harmon

Field Board of Supervisors Meeting Dates Schedule. Dunn seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.

**Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, July 11, 2023, 5:30 pm at Tryon Town Hall, McCown Council Meeting Room.

**Adjourn**

Chairman Nelon adjourned the meeting at 5:54 pm.

**Submitted By:**

**Approved:**

  
**Miguel Santibanez**  
**Secretary-Treasurer**

  
**Stephen Nelon**  
**Chairman**