

The Board also wanted to thank certain businesses who went above and beyond during the storm and they were:

Prince Gas Company, Tryon Daily Bulletin, Tryon IGA (Mr. Teaster), The Fitzgerald (Beau and Ashley Menetre and Alan Casavant) and Huckleberry's

VI. CONSENT AGENDA ADOPTION

Commissioner Lambakis made a motion to adopt the consent agenda minus the Board minutes that were moved to 11a.

VII. HELENE DAMAGES AND RESTORATION UPDATE

Manager Fatland wanted to extend a special thank you to Brad Gordon for all of his work with the consultant firm. He stated everything for the 428 Project had been submitted. The money from that Project will go to the Harmon Field Board for approval of the new community center. Fatland stated interviews are underway for consultants for the community center and he hopes to share that news at next months meeting. He would like to see the Park rededicated in the spring and hopes Harmon Field will come back better than ever.

VIII. RESOLUTION REQUESTION FEDERAL FUNDING FOR SALUDA GRADE TRAIL

Manager Fatland stated he and Mayor Pro Tem Crowe have been working with the Saluda Grade Trail committee. He stated that South Carolina has funding and he would like to see the Town piggy back on to them and get the Trail going. Fatland presented a resolution to the Board that was drafted with the help of Conversing Carolina to take to Congress in hope of getting funding similar to that of South Carolina. Mayor Pro Tem Crowe made a motion to adopt the resolution and the motion carried unanimously.

Manager Fatland also provided a short update on grant applications. The Town is applying for a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for emergency generators at the Public Works garage and pumps on Hogback Mtn and Warrior Mtn. The Town should find out about the grants in late January.

IX. FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Town Clerk Dale provided an update on the annual audit. The audit team is currently working with the CPA firm on annual statements. The Town was required to do a single audit this year with a deadline in February. Dale stated the audit is still on track to be completed prior to the deadline.

Town Clerk Dale presented accounting software proposals to the Board. Dale had acquired three proposals. The Town's current software lacks comprehensive financial components, work order efficiency and deficient in utility billing. Dale stated the North Carolina League of Municipalities had a software program that the Town qualifies. This program provided the Town with new software, Black Mountain Software, and an accounting specialist. The League will cover all of the conversion fees and annual fees for the first three years. The cost of this would be \$129,458 that the Town would not have to pay. The Town would be responsible for annual fees in year four estimated to be \$17,625. Dale's recommendation was for the Board to enter into an agreement with the League and Black Mountain Software. The Board had a few clarifying questions regarding the conversion process as well as

confirming the League would be covering the cost. Commissioner Morris made a motion to enter into the agreement with the League and Black Mountain Software. Motion carried unanimously.

X. DOWNTOWN UPDATE

TDDA Executive Director Lourdes Gutierrez provided an update. She highlighted the Christmas parade. This was the first parade under the direction of Fire Chief Connell. The parade had 37 entries with an additional 10 joining in the day of the parade. This year also saw the inaugural Golf Cart Brigade. Gutierrez and Connell wanted to thank all the participants and sponsors who made the parade possible. After the parade the Santa Bash took place at the fire department with food, games and Mr. and Mrs. Claus. Over 100 gift bags were handed out to kids. There was input regarding the safety of the children and citizens who were parked on the road near Rogers Park. Connell noticed this as well and will address for next year. The Town wanted to thank the Streets department for their work getting the Christmas décor up. Gutierrez also highlighted the upcoming Tryon Midnight celebration as well as the new businesses at 157 N Trade St. Beer Fest also had a net profit of \$15,000.

XI. TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Prior to Manager Fatland giving his report Item 11a, Town Board minutes were discussed. There was much discussion between Commissioner Morris and Town Clerk Dale regarding the formatting and content of Town Board minutes from October and November. Dale stated that the minutes were inclusive of actions taken by the Board which is the requirement of North Carolina Public Meeting Law. Upon conclusion of the discussions Commissioner Lambakis made a motion to approve the Town Board minutes in their current state for both October and November. The motion passed with a 3-1 vote.

Manager Fatland then provided his manager report. Fatland thanked staff for all the work that went into the parade and Christmas season. He also stated the Police department is sponsoring a cadet for Basic Law Enforcement Training at AB Tech. Fatland thanked the water and sewer departments for their work, given that during the cold months the Town experiences a lot of water breaks.

XII. COUNCIL/MAYOR REPORTS

Commissioner Lambakis congratulated everyone who was recognized for Helene and thanked staff for their efforts during the cold weather.

Commissioner Morris congratulated those who were recognized. She thanked Lourdes and the Fire Department for the parade. She was also pleased to hear about the cadet sponsor with the Police department.

Commissioner Crowell expressed thanks for the parade. He also mentioned that 2026 would be the year of Morris. Morris is in need of repairs so there would be fundraising efforts such as time capsules.

Mayor Pro Tem Crowe stated he had heard a number of positive comments from out of town visitors and thanked staff.

Mayor Peoples spoke on a story regarding the Police department and thanked Chief Holt for the work that department does. Mayor Peoples wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

XIII. CITIZEN COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

Tara Chatchy read a statement addressing the proposed development in Columbus and urged the Board to be mindful in the future of the effects the developments can have. She urged the Board to protect the citizens and the community.

XIV. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Commissioner Morris made a motion to adjourn and motion carried unanimously.