

**Harmon Field Board of Supervisors
Minutes
February 10, 2026**

Chairman Watson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm at Tryon Town Hall with 5 members present

Members Present Warren Watson- Chairman; Jessica Glasscock; Rick Covil – Secretary/Treasurer; Steve Sloan; Steve Nelon

Members Absent: None

Staff Present Brad Gordon-Park Superintendent; Mcg Rogers-Town Secretary/Cashier; Dulcie Juenger - Town Secretary/Cashier

Approve Minutes from January 6, 2026

Nelon made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Sloan seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a vote 5 to 0

Approve the Financial Report for December 2025

The TTDA Fund FY2025-2026 financial report for December 2025

As of December 31, 2025 Total Revenue was \$288,354.35 (84.73% of Budgeted Amount), Total Operating Expenditures were \$149,134.55 (44.53% of Budgeted Amount), Total Capital Expenditures were \$5,176.28 (95.86% of Budgeted Amount), Total Expenditures were \$154,310.83 (45.34% of Budgeted Amount), Ending (pre-audit) Fund Balance was \$205,892.48

Review of the December 2025 Financial Report will be reviewed at the March 2026 Meeting

Motion for Addition to Agenda

Chairman Watson made a motion to add 1A-Special Recognition, 1B-Parties banned from Harmon Field- (Helene Related) to the agenda, Glasscock seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a vote 5 to 0

Agenda Addition 1A- Special Recognition

Recognition from the board was given to Meg Rogers in appreciation of her hard work, dedication and service to the board over the years. Ms. Rogers was presented with a crystal plaque commemorating her retirement.

Swim Safe

Gordon Reporting: Gordon met with Erika Shanks from Mountain True to determine what it would take for designating Harmon Field as a “Swim Safe” Site. Mountain True would test the Pacolet River weekly from Memorial Day to Labor Day to educate the public if it is safe to swim. Information is viewed via a website: theswimguide.org or via an app. System is a pass/fail system offered to educate the public on spots safe for water recreation in the US.

The cost associated with becoming a “Swim Safe” Site is \$500. per site and covers water sample collection and testing weekly. Gordon will confirm with Ms. Shanks on the total cost. Nelon made a motion to join the “Swim Safe” program with costs not to exceed \$1,000. Glasscock seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a vote 5 to 0

Park Rules

Adoption of the new Harmon Field Rules that are inclusive of the entire park.

Chairman Watson raised the question about patio heaters and their usage. Gordon: if the structure is partially enclosed for an event an occupancy permit would be needed from the fire marshal.

Chairman Watson would like some clarification on E-Bikes and whether or not they are included in prohibited use in Playground and Athletic Areas? Board needs to clarify on where they are allowed in the park as some members of the public ride their E-Bikes to the park as transportation, E-Bike issue will be revisited.

There will be a designated “Community Bulletin Board” located at the concession stand area. Covil made a motion to approve and adopt the new park rules. Nelon seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a vote 5 to 0

Riparian Buffer

Gordon Reporting: Gordon met with Erika Shanks from Mountain True to designate the stretch of Pacolet River from the Barns to the Church as an educational and interactive Riparian Buffer Zone for the public to learn the critical role these zones along riverbanks provide i.e. flora & fauna, filter pollutants from runoff, stabilize banks to prevent erosion, provide wildlife habitat. This zone would be bordered by a split-rail fence providing limited access to protected areas with access points remaining for public access to the river in designated areas. This project would be funded thru grants facilitated by Kelly Gaye with Polk County Soil and Water Conservation Board.

Gordon would also like some tree identification markers highlighting the American Chestnut Trees located near the maintenance shop and is reaching out to the American Chestnut Tree Society regarding potential funding.

Chairman Watson has some concept concerns and would like to see a layout and fence design.

Covil wants to see signage examples

Glasscock has questions on long term maintenance and who maintains.

Board would like to see a proposal, Gordon will gather this for the board

Open Air Gym Gutters

Gordon Reporting: He has reached out to 3-4 companies, one never called back. Received a quote from J. Blair Gutters in the amount of \$7,556.

Breakdown: Boom Truck-\$400; 88’ of Gutters and (4) 6” Downspouts-\$1900. 295’ of underground drainage (needs retrenching) \$5200.

Chairman Watson has requested additional estimates, item tabled for now.

Harmon Field Baseball Updates:

Gordon Reporting:

Gordon has been invited to a Polk County Youth Baseball board meeting by Miles Bell to discuss Harmon Field usage and requirements needed by the organization. Gordon has invited Town

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Manager Jim Fatland to attend. A primary need by the organization is a concession stand. Gordon discussed with Chairman Watson and they toured the facility and it has been determined that the site needs a thorough clean, minor sheetrock repairs, electrical clean-up, replacement of counters and service windows. Gordon also added the exterior should be painted to match the existing small maintenance shop.

Nelson made a motion to move forward with clean-up and minor repairs not to exceed \$500.

Sloan seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a vote 5 to 0

Gordon is working with Town Manager Fatland to obtain quotes for Baseball Field A- to include the following: Scoreboard remote, Fence safety topper, Shade sails for dugouts.

Additionally Gordon is working on obtaining quotes for upgrades to Baseball field B to include: Shade sails, Foul post, Scoreboard remote or new scoreboard, Fence safety topper. The fence topper on Baseball field B is needed immediately to ensure player safety as there is no topper currently installed. Installation would be on one side of the field and the dugout area (approx. 238'), with an estimated cost of \$800. Chairman Watson would like to know the anticipated revenue for baseball this year and if it would cover the cost. Gordon was unsure of revenue totals and would have to look back on prior years, Gordon said Harmon Field may not recoup the cost this year but it is a viable and needed investment. The topper would need to be in place by April for the spring season, Board feels it will have a better picture of the financials in March, decision to spend \$800. is tabled until March.

Harmon Field Half Marathon & Fun Run

71 sign-ups so far, sponsorships have reached \$10,150. And sponsorship drive is currently closed, donations received-\$605.

Race time limit has been extended by 1 hour to accommodate a walking group.

DOT road closure agreement is in place.

Park Superintendent Report & Recovery Updates

*Park was closed January 24-February 5 due to ice/snow storms

*Staff completed installation of equestrian riding ring fencing in coordination with Pace Land Management and Fencing

*Work has commenced on removing barn doors in barns 3 and 4

*All work at Baseball field A is complete and staff will be mulching trees in that area

*Staff is currently cleaning mowers and equipment in preparation for spring

*Gordon, Town Manager Fatland and Chairman Watson are scheduled to meet with Will Rice on February 10 to discuss matters related to the Community Center-

Chairman Watson reviewed a mockup of the contractual agreement from Architecture Unlimited and feels parts are vague, he gave a list of things to the firm that he wants to see included:

includes everything from design to build, plans should include 2 variations that the board would have input in creating, ensuring board/community involvement throughout the process

Upcoming Events:

March 1-Pack Test for Wildland Firefighters

March 28-One-Day Horse Show (first since Helene)

April 4- Tryon Fire Department Easter Egg Hunt

April 25-Harmon Field Half Marathon & Fun Run

May 9-Harmon Field Flea Market Fundraiser

July 18-Harmon Field "Christmas in July" Kids Market Fundraiser

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Gordon is working on plans for adult kickball fundraiser tournament slated for this summer-tournament will be held over the course of a weekend, each team will have a different color shirt w/ Harmon Field Kickball logo, winning team will receive medals displaying the same logo. Gordon coordinating with HF Marathon committee to seek sponsorships to offset any costs

Helene Recovery Updates

The 428 Project remains in progress through the FEMA review process

The following items remain pending: Walking path repaving, Contents, The 428 Project

Other

Dead Elm Tree near horse barn #4 which is a liability and needs to be removed. Gordon has received 1 quote for \$4,700. Gordon has asked the Board to set a limit so he can gather more quotes and will know the budget for removal of dead tree adhering to the Towns procurement policy. Chairman Watson stated they need set a “fall zone” blocked off to park visitors for everyone’s safety. Chairman Watson also stated to be sure the hired tree company has liability/workman’s comp insurance. Nelson made a motion to set the limit at \$5,000. Glasscock seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a vote 5 to 0

Dog Park: Chad Lawson-Tryon resident, is a frequent user of the dog park and asks if hooks and a shelf can be added back to the large dog park area for owners to place leashes and belongings while using the facility. Chairman Watson recommends Mr. Lawson coordinate with Gordon to get these requests in place. Another Tryon resident expressed concern that dog bowls/buckets keep disappearing-Gordon reiterated that food/water vessels are not allowed in the dog parks due to the spread of disease and Park Staff is directed to remove. Gordon recommends that dog park users bring their own portable drinking vessel and take it with them when they leave. The same resident expressed concern about the holes, created by dogs and needing to be filled. He is willing to volunteer to fill holes if there is a place close by where he can fill a bucket with dirt and fill. Gordon stated he will add a pile of dirt for this purpose, in a convenient location

Agenda Addition 1B- Parties banned from Harmon Field- (Helene Related)

Parties banned from Harmon Field- (Helene Related) Chairman Watson reporting: He personally knows this couple, post Helene they entered through the main entrance and continued through an area where the orange netting had come down, they claim there were no visible no trespassing signs so they proceeded to walk along the path adjacent to the river where they were approached by a Town of Tryon Police Officer who told them they were trespassing, would need to write them a citation and told them were banned from Harmon Field for life. The officer did not issue a citation but was firm in implementing the ban. Chairman Watson understands that quite a few people were trespassing at Harmon Field in the aftermath and that it was safety risk and liability but wishes the officer had used more discretion in this case. Chairman Watson would like to put forth a resolution to pardon the Hurricane Helene period trespassers who were not charged with any criminal or civil offenses. Covil replied to Chairman Watson to refer to the HF By-Laws, he states that according to the By-Laws the only people that can ban individuals from HF is the Board. Covil states that the Police can not ban anyone from Harmon Field and the only people that can forgive a ban is the Board, according to the By-Laws. Gordon responded that he is going to review the By-Laws with the Police Chief and discuss the trespass laws, according to trespass

law, since the Police are the ones that passed the trespass, they are the ones that would have to rescind the trespass. The Board can make a recommendation to the police to remove the trespass. Gordon will relay the wishes of the board to remove the trespass to the Police Chief and Town Manager Fatland. Chairman Watson resolves to make a motion to pardon any Helene trespassers who were not criminally charged. The Board was all in favor 5-0

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 by Chairman Watson

Submitted By:



Rick Covil

Secretary/Treasurer

Approved By:



Warren Watson

Chairman