

**Town of Stantonsburg**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**July 10, 2023**

Mayor Coley Rhodes called the monthly board meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The following council members were present: Donnie Bass, Walt Bynum, Ben Harper and Steve Mooring. Also present was Town Manager Brian Hawley, Finance Officer Victoria Lucas, Town attorney Slade Rand, and a member of the public. Councilman Ken Horne arrived at 7:20 PM

Town Clerk, Alexis Whitley was absent.

**Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer:** Mayor Rhodes led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with prayer.

**Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made by Councilman Bynum to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of the Minutes:** *June 12, 2023, regular session minutes were approved.*

**Public Comment:** Eartha Butler, Librarian, states water won't suds. Water has changed over the past year.

Councilman Bynum states it is required to maintain the PH of the water and you can't just change what you want to.

Town Manager Hawley will meet with Roger, and they may do a water sample for Ms. Butler.

**Approval of the minutes:** *June 19, 2023, Budget Legislative Public Hearing minutes were approved with correction pending for who made motion to enter a contract. June 29, 2023, Budget Amendment minutes were approved.*

Councilman Mooring questions who motioned to enter a contract of Danna Layne on June 29<sup>th</sup> minutes. He wants to clarify who made the motion.

**Financial Report:** *June:* Monthly Receipts: \$337,509.73 Disbursements: \$437,048.38 Difference: \$99,538.65. Report referred to our auditors.

**Invoices for Payment:** Councilman Mooring questioned the 2 checks for Drake Rowbar. Services have ended per Town Manager Hawley.

Motion made by Councilman Harper to approve invoices. Passed unanimously.

**Old Business:** Speed limit signs for Wainsfield will be ordered tomorrow. These will be 20 mph signs. Stop signs will also be ordered for Yelverton. Town Manager Hawley is working with DOT to do some street signs and looking at some areas to do some more speed limit signs for in Town.

Distressed unit list - still waiting on response from the State for approval.

Regarding the signage in the Town, Councilman Harper is concerned about the Crepe Myrtles blocking the view of drivers when they are at the stop sign checking both ways. Town Manager Hawley is aware of this. Councilman Mooring is concerned about another area where a sign is blocking traffic on Moyton. Town Manager Hawley will keep an eye out on these places to get them corrected.

Councilman Harper questions the railroad equipment that has been left and why they haven't removed it. Attorney Slade Rand spoke on this matter.

Councilman Bynum questions Wainsfield speed limit signs and whether the signs will do any good. Town Manager Hawley states it does now give the police authority to pull these individuals who are speeding within the subdivision.

Councilman Mooring asked concerning Danna Layne, asset tags, and follow up on inspection report for substation. Town Manager Hawley states that asset tagging is underway and that he and Greg Gates will be meeting regarding the inspection report and outage in Black Creek. Looking into Tri-City.

**New Business:** A recommendation was submitted for the update to the insurance policy for Town Employees. Asking the council for approval of the ACA Plan on the far right. Approval for Delta Dental, 3<sup>rd</sup> column. Town Manager Hawley reviewed this plan with the council and asked them to consider.

Councilman Bynum made motion to go with Triangle Risk Insurance with recommended Blue Cross Blue Shield and Delta. Motion passed unanimously.

Electric Building updates – sealed cracks within the exterior and painted. There is concern with the inside trusts. Durand helped with getting some material at a cheaper cost. The Town will be moving forward with replacing those. Cost estimated \$1,200.

Stantonsburg Elementary has requested to use the park for an event to introduce their new principal to the students. Asking for the board approval to waive the fees for the school. Town Manager Hawley asked the council to consider waiving those fees.

Councilman Bynum made motion to waive the park fees for the school event coming up. Passed unanimously.

Update on the Seal Building Revitalization Grant – We have come in under budget for the grant money thus far for the demolition. The seal building funds we do have are still available for the rest of the grant for planning, we had East Carolina University Planning Department reach out today with a revitalization plan.

Councilman Harper asked what the next steps are for the Seal Building. He is concerned regarding barricading the building off as far as safety (construction fencing/tape). Town Manager Hawley states the plan for the front area is part of what ECU will do. There is a plan that was presented to have bench seating up front. He is also concerned because of the amount of money that was spent to stabilize the wall but now we have opened the front a little more which allows for more water/moisture to get in.

Town Manager Hawley agrees the area needs to be barricaded and taped around. This will be taken care of tomorrow, July 11<sup>th</sup>.

The park light covers that need to be replaced are aged and so we are unable to find the same covers. Town Manager Hawley has other possible options which he plans to bring to the council to review.

Possible workshop later in the month to review other park light options. Councilman Bass has a contact from City of Wilson who may be able to help with the lights.

Town Manager Hawley does not plan to replace all the lights at this moment, only the damaged ones.

Sand Pit Powell Bill discussion – Town Manager Hawley had a conversation with DOT regarding taking over this area. He recommends not taking over this area from DOT. It is a heavily trafficked area, and we won't be able to maintain this.

### **Department Reports:**

Water/Sewer just submitted the Annual Sewer Performance reports. The Ert's that were ordered last year have arrived – 72 approximately, 40 already used around Sand Pit area. Sent back 48 Ert's that needed to be replaced and have a warranty. – Waiting for approval.

Wastewater Treatment has an issue with power surge and outages. It is interrupting the process and things have to be manually reset. Working with technician to solve this issue.

We replaced battery backups for the booster pump for Scada controls and we currently are performing maintenance on the collection system and in the process of cleaning some sewer lines. NC DEQ will visit on Wednesday, and they will be doing a study on some of the collections at the plant. 3,000 ft clean outs are required annually.

Water updates: Roger switched the bolt tank to chlorine which provides a more efficient disinfection process. For Scada, backup batteries have been replaced and the Scada control system at each well and the water tower. The batteries were at no cost, and neither were the circuit boards used with Scada due to our contract.

For Park/Rec, Park signs will be received soon. Bathroom signs will be here on Wednesday, July 12th. The other signs such as parking and pets will be here within the next 2 weeks. Light covers have been discussed.

Public Works/Sanitation, Robert is working on parking barrier waiting on phone call. Hopefully within the next week or two. The Sidewalk project to correct areas discussed among Main Street and another area Councilman Bass brought up and we are in the planning stage for that.

Working with NCDOT to discuss coming up with plan/project schedule. Trying to provide a projected schedule on when they will be resurfacing areas in Town. Looking to do small project periodically to update some areas. Robert received the street sweeper to clean the streets.

Electric Department, outage in Saratoga caused by downed tree, outage caused by accident in Black Creek, additional outage in Saratoga July 4<sup>th</sup> evening due to a bad transformer affecting 2 properties. Millrock issue was more difficult than expected. Issue caused by a tree. Jeff cut this back. Had to get an equipment piece to find out what was going on. – looking at the price for this equipment so we don't have to continuously borrow.

Asset audit done by Martin, the auditor—count was fairly accurate. Over on 1 count, a 40 ft pole. Short 5 poles in one area and short 4 poles in another area. Jeff Hill to recount.

A new internal policy was implemented over the weekend regarding the building. Doors will be closed and locked when the building is not occupied.

**Police Report:**

No citations in the month of June. Just issued some warning citations. Chief and Manager Hawley spoke about this. The police department made changes in how to conduct patrols. They positioned themselves to get people to slow down. The Chief received the new speed tracking sign to slow some people down. That equipment did not cost anything. Part of the governor's highway program.

Councilman Harper questioned why we had additional calls about alarm activation at the school after it was supposedly fixed. A new contact has been made and should be taken care of. The school is paying for those calls from county funds.

**Manager's Report:**

Town Manager Hawley reached out to Wilson County after speaking with Greg Gates about the Code Red System. Our intention is to become an active participant, and this will allow us to better notify citizens about weather alerts, outages, etc.

Councilman Harper verified that we are still part of one-call. Possibly remotely send out power outage notices, etc.

When the changes for phone services were made, the phone line with the police department is connected to Wi-Fi, so when the power goes out their phone line goes out. They need a land line for safety purposes. Finance Officer, Victoria Lucas states one call does have a battery back up at no cost.

The planning board conducted a training on June 8<sup>th</sup>, they enjoyed it and want to do additional training in the future to become familiar with zoning and other ordinances.

Town website is working progress and we are getting it done.

Wilson Times was here this past week and wanted the Town to know the ants are no longer around in the play area and cemetery. Councilman Harper noticed the extra pile of mulch behind the park and questioned what that is for. Town Manager Hawley states that is for around Town in flower beds, etc.

Councilman Horne questions the paved parking next to the bank and asks what Town Manager Hawley's thoughts are regarding this. Truist has hired a firm to go around and update most bank locations and parking areas. Engineers will be adding an ADA ramp area. Engineer Mike McCallister and Town Manager Hawley spoke with them about the option of doing a project to expand the parking area into the area the Town owns to save money. Councilman Bass has had a few companies come out and do quotes. There is an initial site plan.

Town Manager Hawley is aware of limited parking around Town.

Councilman Harper reminds Town Manager Hawley about mosquito spray around Town to get an update on that. Josh is certified to do this. Town Manager Hawley will get it taken care of.

Councilman Harper questions the check for the Embers to verify that it is for the Crepe Myrtle Festival – it is.

Councilman Bynum is concerned about the ditch near the railroad and the Johnson grass that is growing there. He warned Town Manager Hawley about it taking over so they may want to take care of it.

Councilman Bass is concerned about the number of feral cats around Town. He wants to reach out the animal control regarding this.

Councilman Bass questioned whether citizens have complained about their trash being picked up only one day a week since the hot weather has arrived and the trash could possibly smell. – no calls so far.

Mayor Rhodes has a list regarding committees and commissions. She needs to get this for the ETJ to the county for approval after the council's review.

Councilman Bass is asking whether there is a certain number of members within that board that is required from part of the ETJ. We are required to have 2 members. Town Manager Hawley states they are also supposed to be a part of the Board of Adjustment.

Attorney Slade Rand states they do not have to be a part of the quorum if you have 4 members present.

Councilman Horne made motion to go into closed session. Passed unanimously.

Councilman Harper made motion to go back into open session. Passed unanimously.

Councilman Bynum made motion to adjourn. Passed unanimously.