

January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015

The Town of Warsaw Board of Commissioners met in regular session on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 7:30pm in the conference room of the Town Hall.

Present:

Mayor Russell Eason  
Commissioner Al Searles  
Commissioner Scotty Smith  
Commissioner Tommy Jones  
Commissioner Dr. Owen Martin

Absent:

Commissioner Joal Smith

Also Present:

Town Clerk Myra Mays  
Code Enforcement Officer Ed Collins  
Public Works Director Ivey Knowles  
Wellness & Recreation Director Josh Crowell

Number of citizens present was 9.

Mayor Russell Eason opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Eason asked to table item number 6 and 10 for the next meeting.

Mayor Eason asked to add a budget amendment for the Police Department Governors Crime Commission Grant.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mayor Eason asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014 meeting.

Commissioner Scotty Smith made the motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Joal Smith seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve the minutes.

**Public Comments:** Commissioner Scotty Smith made the motion to open for public comments. Commissioner Searles seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to open for public comment.

There were no comments.

Commissioner Searles made the motion to close for public comments. Commissioner Scotty Smith seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to close for public comment.

**Appointment of New Town Clerk / Finance Officer:**

Mayor Eason swore in Lea Futrell as the New Town Clerk / Finance Officer.

**Presentation of plaque to retiring Town Clerk / Finance Officer Myra Mays:**

Manager Condon presented the plaque to Ms. Mays in appreciation of her eleven years of service to the Town of Warsaw.

Ms. Mays thanked the Board for the experience and the challenge of being the Town Clerk / Finance Officer for the Town of Warsaw.

**Presentation from NCDOT regarding proposed removal of traffic light at intersection of Hwy 117 and Hill Street:**

Katie Hite, Division Traffic Engineer with the NCDOT noted that according to the DOT, the traffic light is in need of upgrading due to outdated equipment, and as is standard practice with NCDOT, an evaluation was performed to see if the traffic light was still needed. After performing a traffic signal analysis, NCDOT concludes that the traffic light is not necessary, and should be removed to minimize unnecessary maintenance costs. Ms. Hite stated that the cost of a new upgraded light would be \$67,000. This cost would be for the town to pay. Ms. Hite also noted that a one day count was taken of the traffic at that intersection.

The Town Manager noted that the Planning Board had reviewed this issue since they worked on the developing of the Town's Comprehensive Transportation Plan. They recommended that if the traffic light was removed that a blinking light be installed in addition to the stop signs.

Several of the Commissioners noted that the light was installed years ago when we did not have as much traffic. Now we have more traffic and DOT wants to remove the light. It did not make a lot sense to them. They asked for another traffic count to be done. Ms. Hite said that could be done.

**Request from the Local ABC Board to defer the Cap & Bottle Tax:**

Walker McNeill chairman of the ABC Board stated that the ABC store had not met their 3 ½% profit margin required by the state. He noted that the state allows the store to ask for a deferment of payment of the Cap & Bottle Tax every year that they do not meet that 3 ½% profit.

Commissioner Searles made the motion to allow the deferment of the Cap & Bottle Tax from the Local ABC Board for the 2014-2015 year. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve the deferment.

**Approval of the Audit Contract from Thompson, Price, Scott and Adams:**

The Audit Contract for the 2014-2015 year from Thompson, Price, Scott and Adams is the same as last year. Contract was presented as \$8,650.00 for basic audit, \$1,000.00 for financial statement preparation and there will be an additional cost of single audit on water projects.

Commissioner Jones made the motion to approve the audit contract. Commissioner Searles seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve the contract.

**Reappointment to the Warsaw Planning Board:**

Manager Condon stated that three of the Planning Board seats are expiring; Jeff Smith, Sharon Hilton and Earl Rouse. The Planning Board has recommended the reappointment of these three members for another 3 years.

Commissioner Searles made the motion to reappoint Jeff Smith, Sharon Hilton and Earl Rouse to another 3 year term. Commissioner Scotty Smith seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to reappoint the three members.

**Town appointment to the Duplin County Transportation Committee:**

Manager Condon noted that the Duplin County Transportation Committee has recently been revived and have begun meeting this year. The Town would need to appoint a member and an alternate to represent the Town on the committee.

Commissioner Jones made the motion to appoint Earl Rouse to represent the Town of Warsaw on the Transportation Committee and Ed Collins as an alternate.

Commissioner Searles seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to appoint Earl Rouse to the committee and Ed Collins as alternate.

**Budget Amendment for Police Department (Governor's Crime Commission Grant):**

Manager Condon stated that at the time of the budget the town did not know if they were getting the grant. At this time they have received the Grant. The grant entails a 75% Grant from the state and 25% match from the town. The amount of the grant for equipment is \$15,345.58; 75% of the grant will be \$11,201.88 and the town's match of 25% will be \$4,143.70.

Commissioner Jones stated that he thought that the police department should use funds that they have in their budget. Manager Condon noted that the budget would have to be amended anyway to cover the grant. He noted that the police department would look to see if there were funds available that could be use for the Town's 25% match.

Commissioner Jones made the motion to approve the budget amendment for the Governor's Crime Commission Grant with the stipulation that the Police Department try to find the Town's 25% for the grant within their budget for this year. Commissioner Martin seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to approve.

**Mayor's Update:**

There was none.

**Board Comments:**

Commissioner Al Searles stated that he appreciated all the hard work by the Public Works Department on putting the Christmas decorations up and taking them down.

**Adjournment:**

Commissioner Jones made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Scotty Smith seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting.

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Mayor

Attest

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Town Clerk