

July 11, 2005

MEETING MINUTES

Snow Hill Board of Commissioners

Monday, July 11, 2005—7:00 pm

Snow Hill Town Hall

201 North Greene Street

Snow Hill, North Carolina 28580

The Snow Hill Board of Commissioners regular meeting convened at 7:00 pm on Monday, July 11, 2005 in the Snow Hill Town Hall with the following present: Mayor Don Davis; Commissioners Phyllis Burruss, Percy Edwards, Lyn Lane, Allison Thomas, and Lorraine Washington; Kristie Chase, designated secretary; Bob Clark, town administrator; Jim Cauley, town attorney; Lemmie Smith, Greene County Sheriff. Others present signed an attendance sheet.

Mayor Davis sounded the gavel and called the meeting to order. Commissioner Percy Edwards offered prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A quorum was established via roll call.

Mayor Davis recognized a special guest in attendance. Mr Malik Harris is Commissioner Edwards neighbor in New Jersey.

Mayor Davis informed the board that Ren Baker, town clerk, fell and broke her arm July 9, 2005.

It was without objection to appoint Kristie Chase designated secretary to record the minutes of the July 11, 2005 regular meeting of the Snow Hill Board of Commissioners as a result of the clerk's absence.

Mayor Davis asked if there were any corrections or modifications to the agenda. Motion was made by Commissioner Edwards, seconded by Commissioner Washington, and carried unanimously to approve the agenda of the July 11, 2005 meeting of the Snow Hill Board of Commissioners as drafted.

Due to the Town Clerk's accident, the board tabled approval of the June 29, 2005 regular meeting minutes until the next meeting.

Greene County Sheriff Lemmie Smith addressed the board regarding law enforcement in Snow Hill. He began by announcing the county jail's capacity is 22 inmates, as of now they are housing 40. The rash of break-ins has slowed down. Sheriff Smith announced that two suspects had been arrested. When this suspect was out on bond, the break-ins started again. He has been arrested again and a higher bond was set. Commissioner Thomas questioned Sheriff Smith about the bond setting process. He explained that the bond is raised when the offender is arrested the second time. Sheriff Smith gave an update on the McDonalds robbery. The suspect was dressed

in all black, “like a ninja,” Sheriff Smith said and must have known the process. The manager of McDonalds said they count money at the same time every morning.

Mayor Davis asked if the board had questions for Sheriff Smith. Commissioner Lane asked, “What kind of plans, if any, do you have for right now?” Sheriff Smith responded by saying he has four officers that permanently patrol town. If for any reason they are out, he immediately assigns a county deputy. “It’s never left open,” Sheriff Smith said. He suggested marking the deputies’ cars “Snow Hill Town Patrol” for visibility. Mayor Davis asked Sheriff Smith how he felt about the break-ins, and he said that he felt like they have arrested the two that were responsible. Commissioner Lane asked Sheriff Smith if he thought it would be a good thing to increase town coverage even if it means over time. Sheriff Smith said, “If you want to pay over time, I’ll be glad to do it.” Commissioner Edwards suggested advertising when we experience a rash of break-ins. Commissioner Thomas suggested making the new deputies more aware of all streets in town. Commissioner Washington inquired about speeding tickets. Sheriff Smith reported he has four officers in his department radar certified, and they are writing speeding tickets.

Without objection, Mayor Davis asked to amend the adopted agenda to ask those residents present if they had any questions or comments for Sheriff Smith. Having hearing none, the board consented to receive the report of the Greene County Sheriff.

Without objection the board authorized an amendment to the adopted agenda to hear from Mr Kenny Barrow regarding his efforts to start a new community crimewatch.

Mr Barrow said that he has advertised in The Standard Laconic to try to raise interest among residents for another crimewatch. He also reported that he has not had much of a response yet, but will continue trying to form the crimewatch.

Town Attorney Cauley gave an update on the interlocal agreement for a group self-insurance pool for workers’ compensation risk sharing. Mr. Cauley stated the interlocal agreements were approved subject to legal review. He has completed the review. Mr. Cauley informed the board the town of Snow Hill has been a member of North Carolina League of Municipalities interlocal risk pools since early 1980’s. The town of Snow Hill participates in all three lines of coverage: property and liability, workers compensation and life. Interlocal risk pools are designed to help towns in North Carolina fund losses collectively to avoid fluctuations in the commercial market. Mr. Cauley also stated the fund balance is very well capitalized and the pools are very well managed. The board consented to receive the report of the town attorney.

Town Administrator Bob Clark requested a one-minute recess. The mayor directed the board to “stand-at-ease.”

Mayor Davis called the meeting back to order.

Mr. Clark gave an update on the North Carolina Division of Forestry Urban and Community Grant Program that will assist with phase II of our tree program. Snow Hill was awarded \$7,278.00 for new tree plantings.

Mr. Lane commented it was brought to his attention that a tree was blocking visibility at Robert Taylor's Washerette, and Mr. Taylor would like to see the tree removed. The mayor commented he needed to study the situation, he thought the tree was on private property.

Mr. Clark presented the Around-the-Town report covering community development activities. The report is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

The board consented to receive the report of the town administrator.

Mr. Clark presented the Planning Board's report as follows:

The Planning Board recommended that the board hold a public hearing in response to Mr. Bobby Ham's request to zone the recently voluntarily annexed property (R-8 and HC).

The Planning Board recommended that the board approve a final plat for O.P. Miller, Jr. the division of property for Perry Drive extension.

The board consented to receive the report of the Planning Board.

New Business:

Motion was made by Commissioner Washington, seconded by Commissioner Edwards, and carried unanimously to renew the law enforcement contract between the town of Snow Hill and the Greene County Sheriff's Department with noted budget amount.

Motion was made by Commissioner Washington, seconded by Commissioner Edwards, and carried unanimously to authorize an agreement between the town of Snow Hill and North Carolina Department of Environmental and Natural Resources for the tree grant.

Motion was made by Commissioner Burruss, seconded by Commissioner Edwards, and carried unanimously to set a public hearing in response to Mr. Bobby Ham's request to zone the recently voluntarily annexed property R-8 and HC for Monday, August 8, 2005 at 7:00p.m. or soon thereafter.

Motion was made by Commissioner Washington, seconded by Commissioner Edwards, and carried unanimously to approve a final plat for O.P. Miller, Jr. the division of property for Perry Drive extension.

Motion was made by Commissioner Edwards, seconded by Commissioner Burruss and carried unanimously to release the eleventh year ad valorem taxes.

Mayor Davis recognized Mrs. Sharon Ginn for a report on the Greene County Museum "Salute to Veterans" exhibit.

Commissioner Edwards announced that July 21, 2005 is Snow Hill Night at the Kinston Indians game.

Commissioner Lane raised a question about the funding of the Fourth of July parade. Mr. Lane said he was told the town was not being a part of the parade, but while attending the parade, he was approached and thanked for helping fund the event. Mayor Davis said that he had spoken with the parade organizer and initially she mentioned a \$100 contribution to the town administrator, but it was not clear as to what they needed. Mayor Davis also stated that during this conversation with the parade organizer, he asked if \$100 was enough. Commissioner Thomas asked the mayor why did he ask if \$100 was enough. Mayor Davis said because it was a town activity open to the general public deemed in the best interest of the town. He also said that he was not sure if it was mentioned at the last meeting, but would be more than willing to review the meeting tapes. Mr Lane said there was no need to review the tapes because he knows what he heard. Mayor Davis said that there was no intent to deceive anyone and apologized if there was any miscommunication. Commissioner Thomas commented that she asked for account balances and as of today she still did not have them.

There being no further announcements or comments, motion was made by Commissioner Edwards, seconded by Commissioner Burruss and carried unanimously to adjourn.