

MINUTES
SNOW HILL BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2011 – 7:00 P.M.
201 NORTH GREENE STREET, SNOW HILL, NORTH CAROLINA

1. **Call to Order** – Mayor Liles called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The prayer was offered by Commissioner Scarborough. The Pledge was led by Commissioner Shackelford.
2. **Roll Call** – The roll was called by Cathy Webb. All members were present and quorum was declared.
3. **Consider Agenda Approval** – Town Administrator, Dana Hill, asked that the Agenda be amended by deleting items 6(a) Traffic Schedule Agreement, (b) Parking Schedule Amendment and actions items 10 (d) Consider amendment to Parking Schedule as presented, and (e) Consider Amendment to Parking schedule as presented. A motion was made by Commissioner Scarborough, seconded by Commissioner Shackelford, and carried unanimously to approve the agenda with the amendments.
4. **Consider Minutes Approval** - A motion was made by Commissioner Scarborough, seconded by Commissioner Whitson, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the May 25, 2011 meeting.
5. **Presentations:**
 - Public Hearing** - A motion was made by Commissioner Scarborough, seconded by Commissioner Whitson, and carried unanimously to open up the public hearing for the Proposal of the FY 2011-12 Budget. Mayor Liles asked if there were any public comments on the proposed budget.
 - 1) **Gene Riddle** – Mr. Riddle explained that he had served on the Economic Development Board and that he had done a lot of research and had become very well versed in economic development, especially in rural areas. He said that he finds that people say that small towns are a good place to live but when they ask about the community dynamics, very few people have anything. So he asks “What kind of dynamics does Snow Hill Have? He said that the Town had a dynamic athletic program, a creek with a more less wet walking trail, and a museum. He asked that the Board consider increasing the amount of funding to the museum.
 - 2) **Sharon Ginn** – Mrs. Ginn stated that she was here tonight on behalf of the Greene County Museum. She said that the Board of Directors of the Museum were deeply disappointed in the cut in funding-from \$5000 to \$2500-a 50% decrease. She said that the figure might not seem large to some, but to the Museum it is. She said there were no paid staff at the Museum. Many volunteers come from all over the County. No money is used for refreshments -they are provided by the volunteers. She said that the museum had a USDA payment each year. Commissioner Scarborough asked about the funding. Ms

Ms. Ginn said that the money that they received from the County and Town went strictly into a fund for reserve to help pay the USDA Loan. Commissioner Scarborough asked what the USDA payment was for a year. Mrs. Ginn said that they payment was around \$15,000 per year-paid in quarterly payments. Commissioner Scarborough asked if the Town were Co-signers on the loan. Mrs. Ginn said that they were. Commissioner O'Brien asked if they were not able to meet that obligation, would the Town have to come in and pick it up. Mrs. Ginn said that this was true. Commissioner O'Brien asked how much money they had in reserve at the time. Mrs. Ginn said that they did not have any money that they could spend- but they had money in reserve to make the USDA Payments. She indicated that some of the money in reserve was Grass Roots and Delaney Woods monies that were restricted. Commissioner Whitson asked if they had not received the \$5,000 from the Town-would they be insolvent at this time. She said that they would. Commissioner Whitson said that every dollar that He wanted to make sure every dollar that was asked for was "needed" and not "wanted". He told Mrs. Ginn that he appreciated the clarification.

- 3) **Janeen Lee** – She said that it sounded like the Board had to deal with the nuts and bolts of the finance and that she understood that, but she said that their was also a responsibility to the adult citizens and children in bringing a quality of life to the community. What the museum provides is a legacy of the past-it is your only vessel which provides that for your citizens and the entire county. The museum provides on-going exhibits and events and she encourages all to utilize the museum.

- 4) **Commissioner O'Brien** asked Mrs. Ginn what the county had proposed to give the museum for the Fiscal year 2011-2012. Mrs. Ginn responded that she did not know-it had not been made public yet. Commissioner O'Brien asked what Hookerton had proposed. Mrs. Ginn responded That Hookerton had given \$100. Commissioner O'Brien asked about Walstonburg. Mrs. Ginn said that they had not received any funds from Walstonburg. Commissioner O'Brien asked about the number of citizens in the county compared to the number of citizens in Snow Hill. Mrs. Ginn said that the figures she had showed that the citizens of Snow Hill calculated to about \$2.50 per citizen. The number of Citizens in the County is about 20,000. Commissioner O'Brien and **Commissioner Whitson** said that the County could step up their contribution. **Commissioner Scarborough** said that her only comment on this was that she thought that Snow Hill residents benefited a little more from the Museum because they were within walking distance and the businesses -when events are going on-profit from the traffic and that we profit from the sales taxes and that we should support the museum.

- 5) **Kaye Barrow** - Mrs. Barrow said that she was a volunteer for the Museum since its inception. She said that the first thing they did

was to sponsor a K-12 art show. She said that she thought the museum had brought a lot of people together in the county because the volunteers were from all over the county and town. She said that the museum is not a county or city thing-that we were all in this together. She asked that the Town consider continuing the support that has been given.

Commissioner Scarborough said that she was in favor of funding the Museum project. She said that she did not believe the \$2500 would make or break the Town, because of the amount of \$67,000 in the contingency fund. **Commissioner O'Brien** said that she loved what the museum was doing, but that she thought the county should be funding more than the Town because of the difference in the number of people in the town and the number of people in the county. She said that she hated for the Town to have to pay more per person than the county. **Commissioner Whitson** asked if there was a request to the County for more than \$5,000 this year. Mrs. Ginn said that there was not. He asked if there was any indication from the county that they would not be able to provide the \$5,000 this year. Mrs. Ginn said that she had not heard. Commissioner Whitson said that the Board had heard from several county residents and that he hoped that they would contact their County Commissioners and stress to them what they have stressed to them tonight. Commissioner Whitson said that Mrs. Ginn made a very good point-it is \$2.50 per citizen in Snow Hill. and pennies for the citizens of the County-for the same amount of money.

- 6) **Gene Riddle** – Mr. Riddle said that he would like to see not only Mrs. Ginn contacting the County Commissioners, but that he would like for the Town Board to contact the County Commissioners and the County Manager to see if they would double their contributions and also that the Town consider increasing their funding. He said that this is the “thing” We needed to improve it-not downgrade it. He said that we needed to improve and grow. Commissioner O'Brien said that she agreed and said that she would go to the County Commissioners.
- 7) **Mike Edge** - Mike said that “you keep talking about the County” Mr. Edge said that they did a lot of things at the Museum that the County supported them in. He said that he had expressed to certain members of the Board a desire to put a Civil War marker in Town, but he could not get any support from the Town. He asked that the Board keep the funding for the museum where it was because they wanted to go forward-not backwards. Commissioner Whitson asked Mr. Edge if he had approached anyone on the current Board about the markers. He said that he had spoken to Don Davis about it and he said okay. Mr. Frank Warren spoke to the Board and got some opposition about where to put the marker. Mayor Liles told Mr. Edge that he would do some research on this and get back with him.

Mayor Liles if there were any further comments on the Budget Proposal. There were none. A motion was made by Commissioner Scarborough, Seconded by Commissioner O'Brien, and carried unanimously to close the Public hearing concerning the FY 2011-12 Proposed Budget.

Public Hearing- Regulating Front Yard Parking –

A motion was made by Commissioner Whitson, seconded by Commissioner Taylor, and carried unanimously to open the Public Hearing concerning Regulating Front Yard Parking. Mr. Liles asked for any public comments.

- 1) **Clara Shaw** – 107 Harper Drive- She said that she did not really understand. Commissioner Whitson said that they had looked at other town ordinances and that they opened this up for citizen input to see what some of the citizens thought. Mrs. Shaw said that she did not have a problem with the idea of not allowing people to park in their front yards, because it was a distraction. However, where she lives, is on a hill, She said that if they parked in the driveway, there would be no way that an emergency vehicle could get up there. She said that there are handicapped people that have to park close to the house. Commissioner Scarborough said that some people did not have choices about where to park on their property and that some did-this ordinance would encourage those that did to not park in their front yards. Mrs. Shaw said that she had come tonight on behalf of some of the elderly people in her neighborhood that were not able to be here and voice their opinion.
- 2) **Gene Riddle** – Mr. Riddle said that we had to do everything that we can to make our community as presentable as possible if that means removing a lot of kudzu or keeping cars from parking in the front yard, then he thinks we need to do it.
- 3) **Leonard Phillips** – 102 Rollingwood Dr. – He said that he has listened to all the talk about parking places but that a lot of people have small yards. He said that what they should be talking about is rezoning this town. He said that everyone needed to be paying taxes. Dana Hill told Mr. Phillips that the Town was in the process of annexing some areas, but that legislation would not allow it at this time. Attorney Pridgen said that the matter should be voted on some time this week and that we should know something concerning this real soon. He said that voluntary annexation would remain the same, but involuntary annexation would severely restricted.
- 4) **Joyce Paige** – She asked about the ordinances we already have in place- could we not use that to work on this problem that we are having concerning the parking in front yards. Mr. Hill said that we have ordinances in place on junked cars and cars that are not registered. Ms. Shaw asked if the Town could not enforce some of these ordinances- maybe that would help. She said that she did not like cars parked in

front yards. But if a person had visitors, and they did not have ample parking space, would they get a ticket for parking in the front yard. Commissioner Whitson responded that some of the other town ordinances that they had looked at allowed surplus cars that would not fit in the driveway on a temporary or overnight basis-none of these ordinances encourage law enforcement to be involved in a situation like this-just on-going occurrences.

- 5) **Clara Shaw** - She said that many of the elderly in her neighborhood had children that would come on the weekends-sometimes as many as ten cars in the yard- will they have a problem with being ticketed. Commissioner Scarborough said that the only thing they were looking at was the on-going occurrences or eye sores or public safety issues.
- 6) **Kevin Smith** – 1013 Hull Road - He said that some of his neighbors had talked to him about their driveways. He asked if they had to pave their driveways. Mr. Hill said that some of the ordinances that had been looked at had mentioned an improved surface whether it be rock, gravel, or whatever, but that no mention had been made of making people pave their driveways.

Commissioner Taylor said that he was all for annexation. This would increase the population. Mr. Taylor's home and Tennis club is in the city limits because he asked to be.

- 7) **Joan Atkinson** – 910 Hull Road –Mr. Atkinson said that The Board was talking about parking in front yards-but that her question is-you have old laws that you are not enforcing-so she thinks that you need to work on the old laws before talking about new ones. She was talking about junk cars and the grass at abandoned houses that the Town use to take care of. She said that there were a lot of eye sores that needed to be taken care of.
- 8) **Clara Shaw** – She said that there were a lot of eye sores in her neighborhood. She said there were raccoons and fox running through the neighborhood. Animal control has put cages in the yards. She said there was an abandoned house in the neighborhood, and she understands why there has been nothing done about this issue-waiting for legal action.
- 9) **Gene Riddle** – Mr. Riddle announced that there would be a development Board meeting next Monday night, June 20, 2011 and invited anyone to join the Board that was interested.

Commissioner Whitson asked Mr. Hill when the Town received a report of an abandoned vehicle, what actually takes place. Mr. Hill

said that a registered letter was sent and gave the owner 30 days in which to move the vehicle. If not moved, the Sheriff's Department would be called and the vehicle would be towed. Mr. Hill said that in the last twelve months there had not been a lot of ordinance enforcement simply because of other pressing matters. Commissioner Whitson asked the citizens present if they saw any ordinance violations to let Mr. Hill know and he would try to get the matter taken care of.

- 10) **Woodrow Edwards** – 904 Jennifer Lane - Mr. Edwards said that he had classic and antique cars-some under shelters-some not. He asked what would they do about that. The Board said as long as they were not abandoned-grass growing up under them-everything would be okay.
- 11) **Carolyn Newcombe** - She said that the worst parking is on 306 W. Greene Street and that there was plenty of parking area available.

Mayor Liles asked if there was any more community input. There was none. A motion was made by Commissioner Scarborough, seconded by Commissioner Shackelford, and carried unanimously to close the public Hearing.

6. Report of Officers-

Mayor

- a. Mayor Liles announced that the Farmer's Market is opening on Saturday morning from 8:00 am – 12:00 p.m. He urged everyone to go out and support the Local Farmers.
- b. He announced that the museum was sponsoring Samantha Casey and the Bluegrass Jam concert to be held on Tuesday, June 14, 2011 in the courtyard of the museum. Mrs. Ginn said that box lunches would be available for \$10 each-the concert is free.
- c. Mr. Liles announced that on July 8, 2011 a video of the Snow Hill "Billies", a ball team, would be shown at the Senior Center beginning at 6:30 p.m. Free Hotdogs and popcorn will be served.
- d. The Bicycle Race will be held on June 18th. The race will begin in Kinston at 6:30 a.m.

Town Administrator

- c. **Mutual Aid Agreement** – Mr. Hill presented a Mutual Aid Agreement between the Town and the Greene County EMS. There is no cost associated with this.
- d. **Capital Improvement Plan** – Mr. Hill presented a Capital Improvement Plan for the Town for the years 2011-2016. The capital improvement plan is the Town's five year blueprint for creating, operating, and maintaining the crucial infrastructure that will support its continued growth and development. CI Expenditures for projects and/or assets form the basis of the

Annual appropriations for capital improvements in the annual Budget ordinance.

Town Clerk/Finance Officer

- a. Expense/Revenue Statement - Cathy Webb informed the Board that these expense and revenue statements contained the budget amendments that were approved at the last meeting. Also, journal entries had been made to the Community Center Project as approved. She said that there would probably be a few more budget amendments at the June 29, 2011 meeting.

7. Unfinished Business – NONE

- 8. Report of Boards- Planning Board** – Mr. Hill told the Board that the Planning Board had a request from Cheryl Jeffers to open a café and 903 Harper Street and that no special permission was needed. The business wants to sell alcohol. The citizens present were urged to voice their opinions on this matters to the Local ABC Board or to the Sheriff. Many residents did not want a bar in their neighborhood.

9. Public Comments –

- 1) **Clara Shaw** – Ms. Shaw asked about vases being broken at the cemetery. and who was responsible for replacing them. Mr. Hill said that the contractors were if they reported the damage to him. Ms. Shaw also asked about a vacant wooded lot in her neighborhood. She said that it needed to be cleaned up. She asked why the storm victims would receive a water bill. Mr. Hill told her that in-town residents bills were waived. The address that she gave was a county water bill.
- 2) **Carolyn Newcombe** – Ms. Newcombe asked if maybe a curbside pickup could be arranged next year instead of putting the dumpsters at the Public Works complex. She said that curbside would be easier for the Senior citizens and those who did not have a truck.
- 3) **Cheryl Mozingo** – Ms. Mozingo asked about some metal/bronze Plaques that use to be on some of the graves at the Cemetery that were put there by the VFW. Mr. Hill said that he would check on this.

10. Action Items –

- a. **Consider Adoption of FY 2011-2012 Budget Message** – This item was tabled. Will be discussed at the recessed meeting on June 20, 2011.
- b. **Consider Adoption of FY 2011-2012 Budget Ordinance** – This item was tabled. Will be discussed at the recessed meeting scheduled for June 20, 2011.
- c. **Consider Adoption of FY 2011-2012 Budget** – This item was tabled.

Will be discussed at the recessed meeting scheduled for June 20, 2011.

- f. Consider Approval of Mutual Aid Agreement** – A motion was made by Commissioner Scarborough, seconded by Commissioner Taylor, and carried unanimously to approve the Mutual Aid Agreement.
- g. Consider Adoption of 2011-2016 Capital Improvement Plan** - A motion was made by Commissioner O'Brien, seconded by Commissioner Scarborough, and carried unanimously to approve The Capital Improvement Plan presented by Dana Hill.
- h. Consider Action on ABC Local Opinion** – **No motion was made.**

- 12. Commissioner Comments** – Mr. Whitson thanked all the citizens for coming to the meeting and asked them to come back anytime.

Commissioner Scarborough suggested having work sessions next year to work on the Budget.

13. Adjourn – A motion was made by Commissioner O'Brien, seconded by Commissioner Scarborough to recess until June 20, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting recessed at 9:15 p.m.

Mayor

Clerk

