

**MINUTES
SNOW HILL BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, MARCH 29, 2012
MUSEUM
SNOW HILL, NORTH CAROLINA 28580**

- 1. Call to Order-Mayor Liles called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Prayer was offered by Commissioner Washington. The Pledge was led by Mayor Liles.**
- 2. Roll Call – The roll was called by Cathy Webb. All members were present. A quorum was declared.**
- 3. Consider Agenda Approval – Town Administrator, Dana Hill, said that he had changed the agenda around some because some items were out of order. He also wanted to move action item 9-A to 5-Bb so that the Internet Café Ordinance could be voted on at that time. A motion was made by Commissioner Scarborough, seconded by Commissioner Washington and carried unanimously to approve the Agenda with the changes suggested by Mr. Hill**
- 4. Consider Minutes Approval – A motion was made by Commissioner Washington, seconded by Commissioner Shackelford, and carried unanimously to approve the March 12, 2012 minutes as presented.**
- 5. Presentations:**
 - 1. 2012 Girl Scout Week Proclamation – Mayor Liles took pictures with the Girl Scouts and presented the Proclamation to them in the Town Office. They had another meeting to attend.**
 - 2. Public Hearing – Proposed Internet Café Ordinance Amendment- A motion was made by Commissioner Shackelford, seconded by Commissioner Washington, and carried unanimously to begin the Public Hearing.**

Mr. Hill said that the major change in this proposed amendment would be to change the separation of internet sweepstakes establishments to 200 feet from 1000 ft. from any school, church, or residential use property. Another minor adjustment was in Item J & K where it did say Board of Commissioners was changed to The Town Board of Adjustment giving them the authority to recall or revoke any operating permits. Mayor Liles asked if there were any comments from the public.

- 1) Bill Wilkes – Mr. Wilkes asked why the ordinance was changed from 1000 ft. to 200 ft. Mr. Hill said that this was the recommendation from The Planning Board. Commissioner Taylor said that the recommendation was made fifteen months ago for the 1000 ft. requirement because it was the understanding of the Planning Board that**

the State was going to ban them and everyone was basically setting this requirement at 1000 ft. Mr. Wilkes asked if they did this because they did not want the internet cafes in Town. Commissioner Taylor said that he thought he was correct –that the Public came to some meetings and he didn't think they wanted them in Town. Commissioner Scarborough said that some people did not want them now, but they were opening themselves up legally if they completely put them at a 1000 ft. and this may result in discrimination. Mr. Wilkes said that he was being discriminated against. Attorney Pridgen explained that when the ordinance was previously adopted it was prior to the legislation taking action on and adopting new that would prohibit internet cafes in North Carolina. He said that the issue of 100 or 200 ft. is a Planning Board decision and several meetings have been held concerning this issue. Commissioner Taylor said that he did not see any difference in Bingo and Internet Cafes but that Bingo was not put in the ordinance. Commissioner Taylor said that anyone could come to the Planning Board and ask for a variance. Mr. Wilkes said that he did not have any plans to put an internet café on his strip, but he did not want it fixed so that they could not be put there.

- 2) **Melissa Shackelford – Ms. Shackelford asked for clarification- Commissioner Taylor told her that this meant that the internet cafe could not locate within certain footage (whatever is decided) of a school, church, or residential area.**
- 3) **Joyce Page – Ms. Page said that she had some concerns about the hours of operation of the establishments. Mr. Hill told her that the permitted hours of operation may be limited on a per-business basis by the Town with cause. She said that she thought the hours should be very strictly regulated and thought about in advance.**
- 4) **Allison Thomas –Ms. Thomas said that she it didn't seem right for the Town to set a 200 ft regulation for internet cafes when the Town ordinance required 100 ft. for a bar.**
- 5) **Bill Wilkes – He said that he thought this amendment to the ordinance changing from 1000 ft. to 200 ft. is wrong. He said that he just did not want anyone telling him what he could do with his property. Commissioner Scarborough told Mr. Wilkes that she had not heard him speak out against the 1000 ft. and it made her wonder if had been approached about renting his property for an internet café.**
- 6) **David Jones – Mr. Jones said that he had no problems with the internet Cafe, but they must be strictly regulated.**

7) **Bob Masters** – Mr. Masters said that he believes that the internet Cafes are coming. He said that he was concerned that a bar was regulated at 100 ft. and an internet café at 200 ft. He said that this did not make any sense to him.

Commissioner Scarborough said that she did not want anyone to think that the Board is not supporting economic development for the Town. She also said that maybe the Town needed to look at the bar ordinance.

Prior to closing the public hearing, Mayor Liles call for a show of hands from the Public on whether they preferred the 100- or 200- foot barrier for Internet Cafes. The vote was about equal for both distances.

A motion was made by Commissioner Washington, seconded by Commissioner Shackelford, and carried unanimously to reconvene to regular session.

Action Item: 5B – Consider Authorizing the Amendment to the Snow Hill Zoning Ordinance addressing the Internet Café:

A motion was made by Commissioner Washington, seconded by Commissioner Washington, and carried unanimously to send the Internet Café Ordinance Amendment back to the Planning Board for further review and discussion.

6. Report of Officers-

a) Town Administrator –

- 1. FY 12-13 Budget Calendar – Mr. Hill presented the budget calendar for the fiscal year 2012-2013.**
- 2. 9 April Meeting – Mr. Hill asked to cancel the April 6, 2012 meeting due to the Easter Holiday.**
- 3. Water System Funding – Mr. Hill explained to the Board that there was some money left over from Phase I of the Alternative Water project. There is a question as to whether the County will be able to use the balance for Phase II of the project. If not, the Rural Center may give each Town (Snow Hill, Hookerton, Walstonburg) \$50,000 each if they can justify a critical need. Mr. Hill recommends since the money is county money, that the County get it if they find a critical need or if it can be used for Phase II of the project.**
- 4. Surplus Garbage Truck – Mr. Hill asked for permission to declare the old garbage truck as surplus property and try to sell it for whatever he could get for it.**
- 5. Parking Lot Bids – Mr. Hill presented the low bid for the paving of the Greene Street parking lot and also the parking lot behind the Town Hall. The low bid was \$75904.40 which would be paid for from the General Fund –Fund Balance.**

b) Town Clerk/Finance Officer –

- 1. Budget Amendment VI – The Finance Officer asked for permission to amend the general fund budget for disaster payments-increase of \$65,000 and Capital Outlay for \$17,516 for the purchase of a Garbage truck.**

7. Report of Boards –

Developmental Advisory Commission –Mr. Riddle talked about the Parking Lots. He said he wanted to see the lots paved, but he did not want to miss an opportunity. Bob Masters said that he had discussed this with Mr. Riddle and Dana and that people were doing interesting things with parking lots. He invited the Board to look at the Town of Clinton on line and see what they had done. He urged the Commissioners to consider adding beautification amenities such as landscaping, an amphitheatre and a gazebo to the parking lots stating that these things could be funded through federal and state grants. There was some discussion between Mr. Masters and some of the Commissioners about Snow Hill needing a “vision” for the future. Commissioner Scarborough said that the Board had been talking about these parking lots for almost two years adding that just getting them paved would enhance and beautify downtown. Mr. Masters said that the Town was sustaining from moving forward and that there were good reasons why he had not sought projects with the town over the past several years. Commissioner Scarborough responded that maybe the reason he had not come knocking on the door was because there wasn’t any money to be made off the Town. She noted that Mr. Masters made money securing grants and loans for clients. She said that sometimes he sounded like a “used car salesman”.

8. Public Comments –

- a. Melissa Shackelford – Ms. Shackelford thought that the paving was a good idea. She said that there were many grants that the Town could get. She thinks a hotel would be good-it would bring in more revenue. She said that the change was needed and everyone must be willing to accept change. She also commented on some things that needed to be addressed concerning the Sweet Potato Festival.-Commissioner Taylor told her this was a Greene County issue and that she could discuss this with the County Commissioners. She said that the property on Elm Street, that was owned by the Town, needed to be cleaned up-it was very grown up. Mr. Hill said that this was wooded property and that the Town did not maintain the property but that Town would clean up the right-of-way.**
- b. David Jones – He said that a parking lot was great, but a vision of a community gathering place is much better. He would like to see something done that would create interest in the downtown area. He believes this would increase the revenue.**

9. Action Items –

- A. Moved to 5B**
- b. Consider canceling the 9 April 2012 Regular Meeting due to the Easter Holiday – A motion was made by Commissioner Washington, seconded by Commissioner Shackelford, and carried unanimously to cancel the 9 April 2011 meeting.**
- c. Consider declaring the old garbage truck surplus property – A motion was made by Commissioner Washington, seconded by Commissioner Shackelford, and carried unanimously to declare the garbage truck as surplus property.**
- d. Consider adopting Budget Amendment VI – A motion was made by Commission Shackelford, seconded by Commissioner Hagans, and carried unanimously to accept Budget Amendment VI as presented.**
- e. Consider Authorizing Administrator to proceed with paving improvements to Greene Street and alley parking lots from General Fund Balance- A motion was made by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Scarborough and carried unanimously to proceed with the parking lot paving and to allow Mr. Masters to come back to the Town with a plan for other potential improvements to help beautify the Town.**

10. Commissioner Comments –

Commissioner Washington asked that the Board consider having the Board Meetings at the Community Center on W. Harper Street.

Commissioner Taylor said that he had been approached about limiting Parking-maybe 2 hr. parking-in the downtown area. He said that he had been told that employees of the businesses were parking on main Street and this may need to be looked at.

Commissioner Scarborough commented that plans and projects had not been a focus of the previous Board because of lack of up-to-date financial records and insufficient funds.

Commissioner Washington responded that the Town was not in poor financial condition at that time-that was a lie.

Mayor Liles stated that he had never said that the Town had insufficient Funds and that he wanted this “nipped in the bud” right now. He urged everyone to move forward.

- 11. Adjourn – There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Commissioner Shackelford, seconded by Commissioner Hagans, and carried unanimously to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.**

Mayor

Clerk

