

MINUTES
SNOW HILL BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2015
G. MELVIN OLIVER TOWN HALL
201 N. GREENE STREET
SNOW HILL, NC 28580

- 1. Call to Order – Mayor Liles called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The prayer was offered by Commissioner Hagans. The Pledge was led by Commissioner Wilkes.**
- 2. Roll Call – The roll was called by Town Clerk, Cathy Webb. All were present except Commissioner Taylor. A quorum was declared.**
- 3. Consider Agenda Approval – Motion made by Commissioner Washington, seconded by Commissioner Hagans to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.**
- 4. Consider approval of minutes of the March 9, 2015 meeting- Motion made by Commissioner Washington, seconded by Commissioner Shackelford to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.**
- 5. Program/Presentations**

Citizen Recognition – Mayor Liles presented an Outstanding Citizenship award to Mr. & Mrs. Jasper Barfield for their efforts in renovating their property on Kingold Blvd. They had done an outstanding job in beautifying that property and he wanted to thank them for their efforts.
- 6. Report of Officers –**
 - a. Mayor – NONE**
 - b. Town Manager/Public Works Director**
 - 1. FY 2015-2016 Budget – Mr. Hill presented a “Draft Copy” of the FY 2015-2016 Budget. He asked if the Board had any questions concerning the budget. He also presented the Budget Calendar. He said that he had received a request from the Snow Hill EMS asking for some additional funding. The proposed budget does not include this because it was received after the proposal was done. He said that any significant changes from last years’ budget were noted in red. He said that the biggest change was the property insurance rates. These rates have not been received, but he added an additional 25% more than last year.**
 - 2. Comprehensive Capital Improvement Plan – Mr. Hill said that at the last meeting there was some preliminary discussion**

on a downtown renovation project and that he had asked Greene Engineering to put together a thorough cost estimate. He expects those numbers to be back in about two weeks and hopefully by the May meeting there would be some pretty firm numbers to look at. He also asked how the Board felt about moving forward and obtaining some cost estimates and proposals for putting together a Comprehensive Improvement Plan. He said that it had been some years since the Town had a true plan as such. He would like to see a plan where there would be citizen input as to what they would like to see the Town do. He said that he believes the cost of this plan would cost between \$10,000-\$15,000. Commissioner Washington said that she thought this was a great need-so they could prioritize things that needs to be done. All other Commissioners agreed. He said that he would move forward with this and hopefully have some proposals by the next meeting.

3. **Property Sale** – Mr. Hill said that the property on 308 Hines Street that was foreclosed on because of unpaid taxes was sold for \$29,000. The highest bidder was Salvador Abrego. The upset bid time was up on April 13th and there was not another bid.
4. **2015 Election Filing Fee** – Mr. Hill said that the Board would need to adopt a filing fee for potential candidates in the 2015 municipal election. The fee in previous years had been set at \$5.00.

c. **Town Clerk/Finance Officer-**

- 1) **Cathy Webb** asked the Board to release taxes charged to Carolina Opportunities. The business moved out of Town before January, 2014. The amount of the tax is \$15.06.

7. Report of Boards – None

8. Public Comments - Mayor Liles asked that since the attendance was larger than usual, that he would like for anyone who wished to speak to go to the podium and state their name and address.

- 1) **Sharon Ginn** – Chairman of the Exhibit Committee for the Museum – She discussed the exhibits and asked everyone to go over and look at them if possible. The opening ceremony for the “Vintage Hats” will be held on May 5th from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- 2) **Robert Masters** – He said that he would like to make some comments on all the activity going on, starting with the beautification efforts inside of Snow Hill. He said that he thought people had a little “fire” going on and that people wanted to do something. He said he had heard a lot of good ideas. He said that a plan was done

about five years ago, but there was never any closure on it. He said that he thought that it would be a good idea to do this plan and that he would like to see public participation in the plan.

- 3) Roger Whitson – Mr. Whitson said that he agreed with Mr. Masters. He said that as a citizen of Snow Hill it was embarrassing for him to drive to Farmville, Kinston, etc. He said that these towns realized that it was not about making the Town pretty, but functional. He said that attractive areas bring businesses, increase real estate tax values, and bring in visitors. He said that the planning is already out there- or we can spend \$10,000-\$15,000 on it. He said that the Historic Preservation Committee will make a recommendation on what communities typically do as the first step. He said there is nothing that says we cannot work and plan at the same time. He asked that anyone who would like to come to the Historic Preservation Committee meeting on April 27, 2015 at 6:30.
- 4) Jo Ann Stevens – Mrs. Stevens talked about the West Harper Street and Rosenwald Revitalization and hoped that in the planning process these two areas would be a consideration.

Mayor Liles said that the Town had put new bathrooms and lights at the ballfield. He said that the Town was working with Leo Greene out of Wilson to get some prices on the sidewalk project. He said there is a process-he said you could not put the power lines down and walk on dirt. He said that Mr. Hill was working diligently to get these answers to let the citizens know where we are at. He said that the water lines that were replaced were the oldest lines. He said that 2nd street would be paved soon.

Mrs. Joyce Paige asked about the water problem on Harper Street. Mr. Hill told her that this project would begin in about 2 weeks.

Salvador Abrego asked about the parking lot on Mill Street. Mayor Liles said that they were working on it.

9. Action Items

- 1) **Consider setting the Filing fee for the 2015 Municipal Election at \$5.00-Motion made by Commissioner Wilkes, seconded by Commissioner Hagans to set the fee at \$5.00. Motion carried.**
- 2) **Consider Tax release in the amount of \$15.06 for Carolina Opportunities-Motion made by Commissioner Washington, Seconded by Commissioner Wilkes to approve the release.\ Motion carried.**

10. Closed Session – Contract Negotiation/Legal Consultation – Motion made by Commissioner Shackelford, seconded by Commissioner Washington to go into closed session. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Washington, seconded by Commissioner Shackelford to reconvene to regular session. Motion carried.

11. Commissioner Comments –NONE

11. Adjourn – There being no further business to come before the Board, A motion was made by Commissioner Washington, seconded by Commissioner Shackelford to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting Adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor

Clerk