

March 3rd, 2014

At 7:00pm, on Monday, March 3rd, 2014, in the Board Room of the Landis Municipal Building, Mayor James Furr called to order the Town of Landis Board of Aldermen Regular Meeting. Those present along with the Mayor were Aldermen Roger Safrit, Dennis Brown, Tony Hilton, and Dorland Abernathy, Town Manager Reed Linn, Public Works Director Steve Rowland, Police Chief Bob Wood, Recreation Director Andrew Morgan, Deputy Town Clerk Debbie Goodman, Administrative Assistant Heather Wood and Town Attorney Rick Locklear.

A quorum was met.

Mayor James Furr opened the meeting and welcomed all those in attendance.

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mayor James Furr.

Alderman Hilton motioned, seconded by Alderman Safrit, to adopt the agenda with the addition of item 4-A – Judy Klusman, a candidate for Rowan County Commissioner. All voted aye.

Judy Klusman, who is running for Rowan County Commissioner, spoke briefly to the Board, introducing herself and urging everyone present to vote.

Alderman Brown motioned, seconded by Alderman Abernathy, to adopt the minutes from the February 3rd, 2014 Regular Meeting as written. All voted aye.

The next order of business was a Public Hearing concerning the voluntary satellite annexation of certain Town owned properties. Manager Linn explained that the parcels in question had been given to the Town by the D.C. Linn family and were located in the East Landis water district. They were not currently within the Town's corporate limits, nor contiguous with the Town's limits. The parcels in question were identified as follows:

1. Tax parcel 133A-103 (Dial Street)
2. Tax parcel 133A-105 (Coldwater Street)
3. Tax parcel 133A-112 (Dial Street)
4. Tax parcel 133A-204 (Coldwater Street)
5. Tax parcel 133A-205 (Coldwater Street)
6. Tax parcel 133A-226 (Dial Street)

They would all require satellite annexation and had met all requirements necessary for the Town to annex the parcels.

Mayor James Furr called the public hearing to order.

Nadine Cherry spoke, stating that all of the parcels needed to be put up for sale. She had checked this afternoon and they had a collective value of \$149,000.00.

There were no further comments.

Mayor Furr closed the public hearing.

Alderman Brown stated that these parcels had been a gift to the Town and they would be “crazy” not to annex them.

Alderman Brown motioned, seconded by Alderman Safrit, to adopt an ordinance to extend the corporate limits of the Town of Landis, effective March 4th, 2014. All voted aye.

The next item on the agenda was an update from Robert Allen of Waste Pro, but Mr. Allen was not present most likely due to weather. The Board moved on to the next agenda item.

The next order of business was a Memorandum of Understanding for a School Resource Officer (SRO) at Corriher-Lipe Middle School. Manager Linn explained that the new SRO was already in place and Rowan County would be paying the officer’s salary. Kenny Isenhour was the officer filling the position and it was clarified that the Landis Police Department would maintain complete operational control of any SROs located at schools.

Alderman Brown motioned, seconded by Alderman Safrit, to adopt the Memorandum of Understanding for a Middle School Resource Officer at Corriher-Lipe Middle School as presented. All voted aye.

The next item on the agenda was to approve additional funds for the upcoming Sewer Project. Manager Linn stated that he had been speaking with Mike Acquesta about the sewer project. Citizens had approved a bond referendum in 2007 for both the water and sewer projects. The water project had come in under budget, but the sewer project was about to begin. Because of additional repairs that would be needed, and the increase in construction costs, the price of the sewer project needed to be increased. They were requesting to add \$1,092,831.00 to the project. It would be covered via a USDA loan and would still be covered under the bond as well. They would also be seeking further USDA grant money. The Board commented that they really had no choice in the matter. Mayor Furr stated that this information was being presented in a timely manner and that the project was already approved under the bond referendum.

Alderman Safrit motioned, seconded by Alderman Brown, to approve the increase of \$1,092,831.00 for the upcoming sewer project. All voted aye.

The next order of business concerned a request to allow parking on the 100 block of West First Street from the office of Dr. Merrell. Dr. Merrell’s practice had recently merged with Dr. Lassiter and Dr. Kesler and their staff needed additional parking. So, Dr. Merrell’s office was requesting this additional parking during daytime hours only on one side of the street. There was some discussion of the matter and Police Chief Bob Wood stated that it would not create any problems during the day for employees to park on one side of the street. He had spent time over there looking at the block in question and did not

feel it would impact safety at all but would help the business. There would still be no overnight parking allowed. There was further discussion.

Alderman Hilton motioned, seconded by Alderman Abernathy, to allow daytime parking on one side of the street in the 100 block of First Street for employees of Dr. Merrell's practice. All voted aye.

Department Head Comments

Recreation Director Andrew Morgan: stated that the PARTF Grant application had been submitted and they should hear something by June 1st. The Polar Plunge had been last Saturday with approximately 25-30 participants and it had gone well. Director Morgan stated at the general store/new park office had opened and it would be open seven days a week. The store would be staffed by a combination of Director Morgan and part time staff. On April 19th a 5K race would be held using the Town's course and Director Morgan would be assisting. It was being done by a teacher at Catawba and all proceeds would go to help kids buy school supplies. It was being funded by a grant. This event was not sponsored by the Town.

Dorland Abernathy inquired about the group that was now handling the little league program in Landis. Director Morgan explained that the secretary of that group had resigned and she handled many of the day to day things there. Her resignation was unexpected and many things had been left undone, so the group was now playing catch up. There would be no spring season, but registration would resume for the fall season.

Town Manager Reed Linn: reminded the Board that the annual budget retreat would take place on Saturday, March 22nd, 2014 at City Hall. He went over some of the people that would be present at the retreat. The start time would be 8:30am.

Police Chief Bob Wood: went over the calls received by the Police Department during the month of February:

- 4 accidents
- 12 calls for assistance
- 18 disturbances
- 16 property crimes
- 0 violent crimes
- 14 arrests from warrants
- 28 citations issued out of 63 stops

There were 155 general calls.

Chief Wood then spoke about five breaking and entering instances between February 18th and February 24th in the northwest section of Town. The crimes had been a high priority for the Police Department

and Wednesday of last week they had arrested Dustin Montgomery for the crimes. They had found property from every home that had been broken into at his residence. He was arrested on 12 felony counts. There was some discussion and Chief Wood stated that it was the result of very good police work and a bit of luck.

There was then some discussion of the Instagram issue concerning pictures of underage girls. Chief Wood clarified that Landis was not the lead agency on that investigation. The Board praised the PD.

Board Comments

Alderman Dorland Abernathy: stated that town resident Willie Beaver had buried both his wife and daughter recently. Alderman Brown stated that Junior Beaver had also lost his wife. Alderman Hilton stated that Bob Kriminger had lost both of his sons and wife in the same year. There was some discussion.

Alderman Hilton: inquired about the warning lights at the schools. Chief Wood stated that they had not heard anything back from the DOT yet.

Alderman Safrit: thanked and congratulated the Police Department.

Citizens Comments

There were no citizens' comments.

Alderman Brown motioned, seconded by Alderman Safrit, to go into Executive Session to discuss legal matters and to adjourn the meeting after the Executive Session had concluded. All voted aye.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm on Monday, March 3rd, 2014.

Heather Wood
Administrative Assistant