

October 6th, 2014

At 7:00pm, on Monday, October 6th, 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, and Dorland Abernathy, Town Manager Reed Linn, Recreation Director Andrew Morgan, Deputy Town Clerk Debbie Goodman, Administrative Assistant Heather Wood and Town Attorney Rick Locklear.

Aldermen Tony Hilton was not in attendance.

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 Brown motioned, seconded by Alderman Safrit, to adopt the agenda with the addition of Item 7-A Presentation on Cancer Awareness by Dorland Abernathy. All voted aye.

Alderman Safrit motioned, seconded by Alderman Abernathy, to adopt the minutes from the September 8th, 2014 Regular Meeting as amended. All voted aye.

The first order of business was a Resolution Providing for the Sale and Issuance of \$1,446,000.00 Wastewater Bond Anticipation Notes. Manager Linn explained that on September 10th, 2007 the Town was authorized to issue up to \$2,200,000.00 in wastewater bonds. The Local Government Commission would be meeting tomorrow and the Town is on the agenda. This resolution is the last step in approval for the sale of the wastewater bonds.

Alderman Brown motioned, seconded by Alderman Safrit, to adopt the Resolution Providing for the Sale and Issuance of \$1,446,000.00 Wastewater Bond Anticipation Notes. All voted aye.

The next order of business concerned the adoption of a Resolution Opposing the Proposed Changes to the Rules Defining “Waters of the US” as requested by Rowan County. Manager Linn asked the Town’s attorney, Rick Locklear, to address the Board regarding the resolution. Mr. Locklear discussed the resolution and its intent to oppose the changes that were being considered to the “Waters of the US” stating that many different agencies were against these proposed changes. He stated that this was just another example of the bureaucracy trying to expand their control in regards to the Corps of Engineers. He stated that he liked the resolution and that he encouraged citizens to write letters and for other governing bodies to oppose the changes as well.

Mayor Furr stated that he could not agree more. He stated that he tried to keep his “thumb on the pulse” of issues in relation to things that the state and federal governments were proposing that would affect local governments and he saw these changes as an “overreach”. It was another mandate that would have no money to actually help implement it which would just put more of a load on local governments. He

also supported adopting the proposed resolution. He stated that it was a small step but if enough people make their voices heard it could make a difference.

Alderman Brown motioned, seconded by Alderman Abernathy, to approve the Resolution Opposing the Proposed Changes to the Rules Defining “Waters of the US” as requested by Rowan County. All voted aye.

The next order of business was a presentation concerning cancer awareness, as requested by Alderman Dorland Abernathy. Alderman Abernathy stated that he chose to address those present from the floor instead of from where the Board sits because he was speaking as a member of the community not as an alderman. He stated that on October 6th, 2007 he had faced the specter of breast cancer. He had a cyst removed behind his nipple and had met with his doctor who informed him that he had a rare form of breast cancer. The following Monday, he had gone into surgery to have the cancer removed. Today he was celebrating seventeen years cancer free. He had a second surgery to make sure all of the cancer had been removed and the results showed that it had. There was some discussion of the process that Alderman Abernathy had gone through, including his first mammogram.

Alderman Abernathy stated that this year 1400 men and 175,000 women would die of breast cancer; two men died today and every ten minutes two women die. He stated that while the statistics were against men being diagnosed with breast cancer, they did still get it. Alderman Abernathy had a story with him that he had written entitled “I am a Man and I have Breasts” and that he had copies he would distribute if anyone would like more information. There was some discussion.

Alderman Abernathy stated that most men who die from breast cancer die out of ignorance or pride. Sometimes it is ignorance on the part of the doctor because a lot of doctors are simply not aware of this problem. He stated that he had gone to another doctor for two years regarding drainage from his nipple and that doctor had told him not to worry about it. He stated that if this had gone on for two more years, it likely would have claimed his life.

Alderman Abernathy stated that following his diagnosis, he had spoken to his pastor and called Michael Campbell and asked permission to speak with his wife Lindel (who had also had breast cancer) about what she had gone through during the process and that she had been a great help to him through everything. He stated that she never let it dominate her life and that she became his hero and mentor during the entire process.

Alderman Abernathy stated that he had volunteered today to work at Logan’s for their “Pink Out” and he provided the quote of: “Don’t tell God how big your storm is, tell the storm how big your God is”. There was some discussion and he stated that he wanted to thank Mrs. Campbell for all she had done for him. Alderman Abernathy spoke more about his story and ended by urging men to get up and examine themselves and that “no one had ever died of embarrassment”.

Mayor Furr thanked Alderman Abernathy, stating that he had never heard of men getting breast cancer until he had gotten to know Alderman Abernathy and learned of his story. Alderman Abernathy stated that at the same time he was being treated for breast cancer, Ralph Gregory’s son had died from the very same condition. He stated that he was not embarrassed, he was grateful to be alive.

Department Head Comments

Recreation Director Andrew Morgan: stated that the Town was now able to proceed with the PARTF Grant and that he had called around to see what companies they would need to contact and that he would have more information next month. He stated that the annual 5k had been a great success and reminded everyone the Fall Festival would take place on Saturday, October 25th, 2014 from 6p-8p up town.

Assistant Fire Chief Ron Miller: went over the calls the Fire Department had received the previous month. He also stated that 201 in house training hours had been completed and that 13 new sets of turnout gear had been purchased via a grant. He also stated that the Fire Safety House is a big hit and has gone to three different events in the county recently. He also offered a special thank you to Director Morgan, Finance Officer Ginger Gibson, and the Fire and Police Departments for all their hard work preparing for and during the annual 5k.

Town Manager Reed Linn: stated that construction had started on South Central to move the lines for the railroad and that the wastewater project had also begun. There would be a few more lines on South Central that would need to be completed for water relocation and that should be done within a few weeks.

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

- 7 accidents
- 20 calls for assistance
- 19 disturbances
- 16 property crimes
- 4 violent crimes
- 9 arrests from warrants
- 39 citations issued out of 117 stops

There had been two fights between students at South Rowan, one case involving child abuse (the case was still ongoing) and one vehicle assault at West Hoke that resulted in minor injuries. These accounted for the four violent crimes.

There were 146 general calls. The Police Department averaged a response time of 1.48 minutes for emergency calls and 2.38 minutes for non-emergencies.

Chief Wood stated that on September 30th, 2014 a resident had observed a man attempting to break into his home on Rice Street. The resident confronted the man and he ran away. Officer Kevin Johnson had responded to the call and had followed the suspect's footprints in the wet dew. He followed the man to his house, the victim identified him as the man trying to break into his home and he was arrested.

On October 1st, 2014 a business on Pinnacle Way Drive had their building broken into and some equipment had been stolen. Officers Safrit and Prince had investigated, found the individual responsible and arrested him, with all property being returned to its owner.

Chief Wood stated that the Police Department Foundation would be having a Turkeyshoot every weekend beginning on October 18th, 2014 and running through November 22nd, 2014. It would begin at 10:00a and go “until”. The PD would be using the range at no cost. All proceeds from this fundraiser would be used to purchase school clothes for children in the community who could not afford them. The Police Foundation had been established to raise funds to help those in our community.

Mayor Furr commended the PD on their excellent work.

Board Comments

Alderman Dorland Abernathy: thanked those that had helped with and participated in the 5k, stating that they had a lot of volunteers that day and he had a chance to speak with a lot of different people. There was some discussion. Alderman Abernathy thanked everyone as a survivor and on behalf of Judy Abernathy who had received the proceeds of last year’s 5k.

Alderman Dennis Brown: wanted to reiterate everything Alderman Abernathy had stated, especially as a cancer survivor himself. He stated that an event like that did not come together overnight. Alderman Brown also inquired about the times listed on the signs at the elementary school, wanting to know if they were correct. Chief Wood stated that the state had been contacted about the incorrect times and they were told it would be done quickly, but it had not yet happened. Alderman Brown stated that Dean Beck still directs traffic there every day even though he no longer has a child at the school. Chief Wood stated that they would contact the state again about the signs.

Alderman Roger Safrit: thanked everyone (for their help with the 5k) stating it was being done for a very good purpose. Alderman Safrit also stated that Captain Roger Hosey had police badge pins made up and urged everyone to support the foundation and donate. Alderman Safrit stated that Officer Johnson was a “local boy” and that he had turned out to be a really good police officer and that he had done some “real old fashioned police work” that night.

Mayor James Furr: stated that he agreed with everything that had been said thus far and thanked the PD for all of its hard work. He also thanked everyone who had helped with the 5k run Saturday, stating that he had lost his mother to cancer and he never wanted to see anyone suffer. He appreciated all the hard work everyone had done.

Citizens Comments

Nadine Cherry: wanted to know how it was a resident was able to run the business he was running out of his home in the 200 block of East Rice Street when that area is not zoned for that type of business. She stated that it was located next to the substation on Chapel Street. She wanted an explanation as to how that could happen. There was some discussion and Manager Linn stated that the substation is zoned for M-1 (Light Manufacturing) but he was not certain of the specific zoning of the resident’s

property. However, the Town has already been in contact with the owner because his equipment was “spilling over” onto Town property. The correspondence had gone out last Thursday.

Alby Stamey: thanked Director Morgan, stating that the traffic on Tranquil Lake had been better, except for the Cheerwine delivery truck, but it was also towards the “end of the season” so there was less traffic in general. He stated that he wanted to see the same thing still happening in the spring and that he did not want to be having the same conversations all over again then. He stated that he opposed what they were trying to do to his community with the park office, that he was against all traffic coming into their development and that it wasn’t fair to force it on the residents. Mr. Stamey stated that because of the time of year there wasn’t much traffic, but he was asking the Board and staff to still be thinking about this next spring. He wanted the development to stay “nice and quiet” because that’s what they had paid for and that there should have been more due diligence before the office was built. Mr. Stamey “congratulated” Aldermen Abernathy and Brown on being “cancer free” but stated that he just wanted his neighborhood to be “traffic free”.

Mr. Stamey stated that a few meetings ago the Board had approved a change order and he wanted to know if it was double the original amount. Manager Linn stated that they had added \$20,000.00 to the original engineering contract, but that had been in regards to the water project, which had ultimately come in under budget. However, the big increase was concerning the wastewater project which had gone out to bid again and the overall price had increased due to the passage of time.

Mr. Stamey stated that there was a fire hydrant in his yard and he wasn’t sure what the specifications were supposed to be for how far out of the ground it should be, but the one in his yard stuck out of the ground by at least twelve inches. He was told the new hydrant was different because of the level of the water line. He stated if that’s how it was supposed to be that was fine, but he felt it looked “stupid”. Manager Linn explained that they had tried to get the hydrants higher off the ground for the Fire Department to reach more easily but that he would come out to check the hydrant in question.

Jerry Wright: stated that the water situation hadn’t just happened in the last year. He stated that twenty to thirty years ago, a gentleman with the Army Corps of Engineer had told him that in twenty-five years there would only be four water systems in North Carolina and that after everything merged, customers would see prices really going up. There was some discussion of this.

There were no more citizens’ comments.

Alderman Brown motioned, seconded by Alderman Safrit, to adjourn the meeting. All voted aye.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm on Monday, October 6th, 2014.

Heather Wood
Administrative Assistant