

**July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

At 7:00pm., on Monday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011, in the Board Room of the Landis Municipal Building, Mayor Dennis Brown called to order the Town of Landis Board of Aldermen Regular Meeting. Those present along with the Mayor were Aldermen James Furr, Roger Safrit, and Craig Sloop, Public Works Director Steve Rowland, Police Chief Brian McCoy, Town Manager Reed Linn, Deputy Town Administrator Debbie Goodman, Recreation Director Andrew Morgan, Administrative Assistant Heather Wood and Town Attorney Rick Locklear.

Alderman Tony Hilton was not present.

A quorum was met.

Mayor Dennis Brown opened the meeting and welcomed all those in attendance.

The invocation was led by Mayor Dennis Brown.

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mayor Dennis Brown.

Alderman Sloop motioned, seconded by Alderman Safrit, to adopt the agenda as presented. All voted aye.

Alderman Safrit motioned, seconded by Alderman Furr, to adopt the minutes the June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Regular Meeting and the June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Recessed meeting as amended. All voted aye.

The first order of business concerned recognition of the Town of Landis from the North Carolina Special Olympics. Chief Brian McCoy presented the plaque to the Board on behalf of the North Carolina Law Enforcement Run for Special Olympics. He thanked them and stated that they wanted to recognize the Board for all they had done. The event had raised \$38,000.00 for those with special needs. Mayor Brown stated that he was proud of the work that had been done in that area.

Randi Gates with the Carolina Thread Trail then addressed the Board concerning the Thread Trail project. In Landis the Thread Trail would run from Ryder and Valley to Mt Moriah Ch over to Kimball. Ms. Gates stated that this project had inspired a lot of enthusiasm. It was one of the largest projects that had ever been planned. Their goal was to conserve local land and connect communities. It would connect 15 counties, 11 in North Carolina and 4 in South Carolina and potentially touch 4.3 million people. Ms. Gates stated that they wanted to help fund local efforts to help the Thread Trail grow over time.

There was more discussion of the Thread Trail and the history of the project.

Ms. Gates stated that they were contacting the 15 counties involved to help build the model because it needed to be a community process. She stated that there was a need for funding, and a lot of the trail funds required matching amounts. However, she stated that they had heard the communities "loud and clear" when it came to how tight budgets currently were. She stated they had three purposes: to help create visual connectivity, to provide technical assistance and to provide catalytic private funding through grants. Connectivity and Collaboration were their guiding principles. Ms. Gates also pointed out that they cannot use eminent domain to get land, nor did they support any communities that would try to get land for the Thread Trail in such a way.

So far 9 of the 15 counties had adopted plans, with Iredell County set to adopt on the 19<sup>th</sup>. 13 planning grants had been given to communities already. The counties will form a local steering commission with representatives from each participating community within that county.

What Ms. Gates was asking for tonight was for the Board to sign a resolution of support, simply to see which communities were interested in the project. In order to qualify for further grants, they would have to adopt the Carolina Thread Trail Master Plan through the planning process. However, signing the resolution tonight would not obligate the Town to anything; it was only to show support of the project.

Ms. Gates also stated that they were trying to figure out a process in the event that Rowan County did not get on board with the plan. Salisbury was currently on board; they had actually been one of the first. She stated that since Landis was adjacent to Kannapolis, who had gone through Cabarrus County, she felt that most likely they could connect the trail through Landis and Kannapolis without touching County land. Ms. Gates stated that so far they had 179 resolutions for support on record.

Alderman Furr stated that in 2005 he had attended the initial launch of the Thread Trail and that he felt our current lake project would mesh perfectly with this. At the time, the Board had wanted to develop the property at the lake and he had been avidly against that. He stated how important connectivity was because in the future we had no way of knowing what kind of connectivity would be required. Alderman Furr stated that we needed some reserve of connectivity down the center of the county for many reasons and he hoped that Rowan County could see that. He stated that he was proud to take leadership from the forefront on this project.

Alderman Safrit stated that he agreed, he thought it was a great idea to support the project and he looked forward to seeing it develop.

Alderman Furr motioned, seconded by Alderman Safrit, to accept the resolution of support for the Carolina Thread Trail. All voted aye.

Alderman Sloop inquired if the Thread Trail follows where the greenway would have gone through, on the Town's property. Manager Linn confirmed that was the case. The Town's portion of the Thread Trail goes from Ryder and Valley and follows Grants Creek to Mt Moriah Ch to the lake and over to Kimball at the YMCA. The Town owns all of the land involved and the right of ways.

Alderman Furr stated that the county was concerned about the land being taken, which confused him and he commented that he was willing to bet if the letter had been from the DOT about running a new interstate through those areas they would "come out of the woodwork".

Mayor Brown stated that this was a good project, and it was a "quality of life" issue.

### **Department Head Comments**

*Town Manager Reed Linn:* had several things to discuss with the Board. He reminded them that on September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011 the Town of Landis and the YMCA would have the first annual mud run that weekend at Lake Corriher. Also, on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Cancer Survivors Run/Walk would take place. Also, the fall festival would be taking place sometime in October. National Night Out would be held in August as well. He also had information from Electricities concerning the request from Duke Energy for an overall percentage increase in rates by February of 2012. Duke was asking for a 20.6 % increase in commercial rates, 22% in residential and 22.19% in industrial. Manager Linn stated that this was a very

large requested increase and he did not know if it would be approved or if it would affect the Town. He told the Board as he received more information he would forward it to them.

*Public Works Director Steve Rowland:* stated that he needed guidance with the Powell Bill Fund. They currently had \$200,000.00 in it this year and he wanted to know if the Board wanted him to focus on roads or sidewalks, or a little bit of everything. Mayor Brown stated that they had discussed repairing/replacing some of the sidewalks. Alderman Safrit stated that it was his opinion that they should fix South Chapel Street and replace the sidewalks there, do the other sidewalks and then if there was anything left after that they could do the roads that Director Rowland had discussed previously. Mayor Brown stated that some of the roads were in “bad shape”. Director Rowland stated that was the case, but it wasn’t that expensive to resurface. The Town also had three unpaved roads. Alderman Safrit recommended doing the sidewalks on Chapel and Ryder and then once those were done, Director Rowland and Manager Linn could decide what direction to go with the roads. Alderman Furr drew attention to the fact that they had talked about the sidewalks downtown and he felt they should be a priority for both traffic and appearance. That would be his focus before South Chapel Street. Alderman Safrit stated that the sidewalks on South Chapel Street either needed to be ripped up or replaced. Director Rowland stated that it would cost approximately \$12,000.00 to replace the sidewalks on South Chapel Street. The Board instructed Director Rowland to get a bid for the sidewalks downtown as well. There was further discussion on the matter. Alderman Furr stated that we needed to have the bid process before anything started.

*Police Chief Brian McCoy:* stated that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Night Out would be held August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011 and this year it would be larger and more organized. He hoped that it could continue to grow every year. It brings the community and the Police Department together once a year. He thanked the Board, Landis Public Power and the Town for their continued support of the event.

### **Board Comments**

*There were no Board comments.*

### **Citizens Comments**

*There were no citizens’ comments.*

Alderman Furr motioned, seconded by Alderman Sloop, to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm on Monday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

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Heather Wood  
Administrative Assistant