

September 7th, 2011

At 7:00pm., on Monday, September 7th, 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, Tony Hilton and Craig Sloop, Public Works Director Steve Rowland, Town Manager Reed Linn, Deputy Town Administrator Debbie Goodman, Recreation Director Andrew Morgan, Administrative Assistant Heather Wood and Town Attorney Rick Locklear.

A quorum was met.

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

The invocation was led by Mayor Brown.

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mayor Dennis Brown.

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

Alderman Furr motioned, seconded by Alderman Safrit, to adopt the minutes from the August 1st, 2011 Regular Meeting as amended. All voted aye.

Mike Acquesta then gave a presentation concerning the last Photography Workshop held by the Town on April 2nd, 2011. Approximately 30 people had attended. The class had focused on Macro/Close-up photography and had been one and a half hours long. Some of it had been held in the Council Chambers, and they had on site work at Concord Memorial Gardens in Concord. Mr. Acquesta showed a slide show that showcased the work of all the participants. He concluded by saying that they hoped to hold another workshop in the fall, which would focus on landscape photography.

Town Manager Reed Linn and Recreation Director Andrew Morgan updated the Board on the Lake Corriher Wilderness Area. Manager Linn provided maps with an outline of the lakes, detailing the trails there. A survey had been conducted, and the area had five miles of usable trails. He stated that they were surprised by the amount of people already utilizing the area. On the maps the ponds and campsites were noted as well as the trails. Manager Linn thanked all of the Public Works staff for their hard work on the Wilderness Area, stating that they would not have been able to do it without them.

Director Morgan presented a slideshow with pictures detailing some of the changes and improvements that had been made in the area. They had cleared wooded areas for camp sites, and to clean up the trails. They were also working on accessibility – paths, steps, boardwalks, etc. He stated that it had been a very positive year so far, with very few problems with the area.

Director Morgan informed the Board that the pool would be closing on September 25th, 2011.

The first annual mud run would be held on September 24th, 2011 and Director Morgan stated that it would be a big event. So far they had 80-100 people pre-registered from all over North Carolina. There had been a lot of advertising connected to the event. In addition to the mud run, there would be vendors with food, inflatables, a movie, and a bonfire Saturday night. They were using the event as a “kick off weekend” for the official opening of the Wilderness Area. They were looking forward to a big turnout. Other than entry into the mud run, and food from the vendors, the entire event would be free.

Alderman Safrit commended Director Morgan and everyone that had helped with the Wilderness Area, telling them what a good job they had done so far and to keep up the good work.

A citizen, Mr. Wilkie, inquired about the campsite for the Boy Scouts that had been mentioned, he wanted to know how many people it could accommodate. Director Morgan stated that it would hold 8-10 tents and that he could call City Hall to reserve the space, but nothing had been set up yet.

The Board then discussed appointing an Interim Chief of Police. Mayor Brown stated that he had spoken to the candidate, Bob Wood, and he had agreed.

Alderman Safrit motioned, seconded by Alderman Hilton, to appoint Bob Wood as the Interim Chief of Police for the Landis Police Department. All voted aye.

Manager Linn then presented the Board with a resolution from the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program. It was a resolution for reimbursement, and was something the Board had to approve annually since the grant had been started. The amount that the Town would be reimbursed was \$24,200.00.

Alderman Safrit motioned, seconded by Alderman Sloop, to accept the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program, Local Governmental Resolution for Reimbursement. All voted aye.

There was some discussion and Alderman Hilton inquired as to what the grant paid for. Manager Linn stated that it paid for the officer's salary and the initial start-up costs of the equipment and car. Now the reimbursement covered only salary and benefits. Alderman Hilton inquired if the officer covered by the grant was required to go other places in the county. Manager Linn confirmed that was the case. Alderman Hilton recommended that they consider using an unmarked car for those occasions because they had gotten calls from citizens in the past about Landis being in other jurisdictions. Manager Linn stated that they could look into it, but the grant had bought a marked car and the car was clearly marked with the Governor's Highway Safety Program. Alderman Hilton stated that all citizens see is the Landis markings. He also commented that it was a great program and he was fully supportive of it.

The Board then received a donation from Dave's Gunsmith of a 20 gage shotgun that the Police Department would be raffling off. The proceeds would benefit the Special Olympics program. Dave's Gunsmith would be handling the transfer paperwork for whomever won the raffle. The tickets would be sold at \$1.00 a piece.

Alderman Furr motioned, seconded by Alderman Safrit, to accept the donation of a 20 gage shotgun from Dave's Gunsmith to be auctioned off for Special Olympics. All voted aye.

The next order of business concerned the renewable energy charge. The Town had received a recommended reduction of the rate. The residential rate would go from the current \$.55 to \$.42 and the industrial rate would go from \$31.42 to \$21.42. There would be no change in the commercial rate. Alderman Furr stated that he wished they could reduce all charges by the same percentage.

Alderman Furr motioned, seconded by Alderman Safrit, to set the new renewable energy charges at \$.42 for residential customers and \$21.42 for industrial customers. All voted aye.

The Board then received a request from China Grove to consider changing the speed limit on North Main Street from 45mph to 35mph. China Grove was considering doing the same thing from their city limits to where Food Lion is located on Main Street and they were requesting that Landis do the same. Alderman Furr commented that it was his understanding this was being done to accommodate China

Grove's low speed vehicle ordinance and that he was opposed to the change. He stated that today's vehicles are generally more efficient at 45mph and greater and he felt dropping the speed limit would penalize most people with standard vehicles. Alderman Hilton agreed, stating that he also opposed the change and that he had been told by Mayor Bringle of China Grove that the matter had been tabled. Manager Linn confirmed that the China Grove Board had tabled the matter pending the Landis Town Board's decision.

Alderman Sloop stated that Main Street was a state maintained road and China Grove would have to get permission to change the speed limit. Manager Linn stated that China Grove had already obtained permission. Alderman Hilton once again stated that he was against the change.

Alderman Hilton then stated that the Town needed to look into Powell Bill funds to extend the sidewalks in that area to Food Lion because a lot of people walk there and that it was a safety issue without the sidewalks. He stated that he would rather see that happen than "fooling with the speed limit".

Alderman Furr motioned, seconded by Alderman Safrit, to deny any consideration to change the speed limit on Main Street in Landis from 45mph to 35mph. All voted aye.

Department Head Comments

Town Manager Reed Linn: stated that the auditors had been at Town Hall last week and they had finished at Town Hall and were now back at their offices putting the audit together for submission. Manager Linn also stated that he would like to have one large Christmas party held for employees and they could decide on a date and time at a later date. The cancer run had also been postponed until March of 2012 because the Town had several large events going on in the next 30 days and it would put a strain on staff.

Alderman Hilton stated that the Town looked good and clean currently and everyone was doing a wonderful job. Alderman Safrit asked about the status of Chapel Street. Director Rowland stated that they would start on it this week, they had been waiting on the North Carolina contractors to sign off. Aldermen Safrit and Hilton both stated that a wonderful job had been done on the sidewalks so far.

Board Comments

None.

Citizens Comments

Nadine Cherry: stated that she felt the Town had lost a very good police chief and she was sorry to see him leave.

Ann Robinson: stated that she has a major problem and cannot breathe inside of her own home because her neighbors have been using a "smoker" in their yard every day. She stated that she has to sleep in the shed to breathe. She felt that the Town should have an ordinance to protect against such things. She stated that she had contacted both the Town and the EPA. She stated that the woman next door to her had agreed to move the cooker, but her husband had refused. She stated that the smoke was coming through the vents and she had to call a restoration company to get the smell out of the house. She had also contacted a lawyer. She

stated that people like to make things difficult and the Town should have an ordinance and that she shouldn't have to leave her house. She also read information from California concerning the cooker in question. She stated that it was "cruel" what her neighbors were doing.

Michael Toler: asked when they would fix the flag at the Fire Department because it was torn up. Manager Linn inquired which station Mr. Toler was referring to and stated it would be taken care of tomorrow. Mr. Toler also stated that it was a good decision to make Bob Wood (interim) Chief (of Police).

Alderman Furr motioned, seconded by Alderman Safrit, to go into Executive Session to discuss Legal and Personnel Matters and to adjourn the meeting following the conclusion of the Executive Session. All voted aye.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm on Monday, September 7th, 2011.

Heather Wood
Administrative Assistant