

October 3rd, 2011

At 7:00pm, on Monday, October 3rd, 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, Police Chief Bob Wood, 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 Reverend Bill Coughlin.

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mayor Dennis Brown.

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

Alderman Hilton motioned, seconded by Alderman Safrit, to adopt the minutes from the September 7th, 2011 Regular Meeting as written. All voted aye.

Parks Director Andrew Morgan updated the Board on the Wilderness Area at Lake Corriher as well as on the work done at the Pavilion. He stated that the tennis courts had been patched and painted and that the courts were open. He was going to evaluate their use and if there was a lot of traffic on them, he would then look into a full scale resurfacing of them.

Director Morgan then explained that the PARTIF grant had not been awarded to the Town. There had not been enough public input nor recreation built into the project. DC Linn's family had been met with and they were on board with adding additional recreational uses to the property as well as doing smaller portions of the project in phases over several years. The Town would be writing a new grant, and asking for a land match on the property and for the renovations on the supply store. He explained that it would be looked more favorably upon if things were combined into one, it would provide more points on the grant. Also, they would need to do a public survey.

The Mud Run event had been a success, with approximately 350 turning out to participate. Director Morgan stated that word of mouth would likely make the event almost bigger than they could handle next year. He stated that the next Mud Run would be held in April instead, so that the Town could team with the YMCA. The reason for the change of month was so that the YMCA would not be in the middle of their blackout period. They were expecting more than 1500 people for the next run. Those that had also participated in the Warrior Run stated that the Mud Run had been better.

Director Morgan went over updates that had been done to the park, as well as pictures from the Mud run. Everyone had loved the event.

Alderman Hilton recommended putting signs up on the various trees and vegetation in the Wilderness Area describing what they were. It would add to the enjoyment and help to educate people as well. Alderman Furr agreed.

The Board of Aldermen thanked Director Morgan and staff for the excellent job with the Mud Run.

Mayor Brown then read a letter thanking the McNeely family for the use of a portion of their land (that part of the trail in the Wilderness Area had been located on) during the Mud Run event.

Alderman Hilton asked if the trail had been moved fully onto Town property now. Manager Linn confirmed that it had been.

Manager Linn then made a request from Staff and the First United Methodist Church to close the 100 block of South Central and the 200 block of East Mill on October 29th, 2011 from 5pm until 10pm for the Fall Festival. It would be a joint event with the church's trunk or treating.

Alderman Furr motioned, seconded by Alderman Hilton, to close the 100 block of South Central and the 200 block of East Mill on October 29th, 2011 from 5pm until 10pm for the Fall Festival. All voted aye.

Police Chief Bob Wood then addressed the Board concerning declaring certain Town property surplus. They had an old patrol car that they wanted to declare surplus. Public Works Director Steve Rowland had spoken with a gentleman with Govdeals.com and they wanted to use this vehicle as a test run to see how things were listed and later would have more vehicles to declare as surplus. They would also have the old computers from the cars at some point as well. The Town had used Govdeals.com in the past, but they had changed the way things were handled. Govdeals.com would handle everything, take 7% of the sell price and then send the Town a check. The hope was that they would eventually be able to use Govdeals.com exclusively and stop using the public auction option all together. Alderman Hilton commented that Salisbury uses Govdeals.com for surplus property as well.

Alderman Furr motioned, seconded by Alderman Safrit, to declare a 1999 Ford Crown Victoria, Vin#2FAFP71WXXX103834, as surplus. All voted aye.

Department Head Comments

Parks Director Andrew Morgan: reminded everyone that the Fall Festival would be Saturday, October 29th, 2011.

Town Manager Reed Linn: stated that permits had been issued for the demolition of the Old Corriher Mill, it would start this week and in 2-3 months should be cleared. The new mill will not come down (on Main Street where Turning House Millworks was located). Things had started mobilizing today. Manager Linn also asked the Board to send him recommended dates for when to hold the employee Christmas party. He then informed the Board that the audit had been completed. It was two months earlier than it had been in the previous years. Final changes were being made and it would be submitted this week. The auditors had stated that the Town had made substantial improvements. The LGC (Local Government Commission) would not let the Town do anything with the bonds until they had seen the audit. Manager Linn also informed the Board that as of August 31st, 2011 there was over \$1.7 million in the combined funds.

Public Works Director Steve Rowland: stated that last month there had been 70.03 tons of garbage and 20.44 tons of recycling collected. This represented a four week month. Also, he had been looking at green energy projects, and putting in LED lights on South Chapel Street. Director Rowland stated that the lights were more expensive than standard lights, but would not require the long arms that traditional street lights required, and in the long run would save the Town money. He went over the cost of installing 10 lights.

There was some discussion of various grants and help that were available for such projects.

Director Rowland stated that he was looking at redoing the sidewalks on the 100 block of South Central. He would like to demo the ones currently there and completely reinstall them and do some landscaping as well. There was some discussion on the matter. Manager Linn stated that doing that block would cost under \$70,000.00. Alderman Hilton stated that he wanted to see more bids, but otherwise thought that sounded reasonable. Director Rowland stated that he would like to do a block per year. Alderman Hilton stated that he would like to see the sidewalks on Main Street extended to Food Lion for safety because a lot of people were walking that area. There was brief discussion on the matter. Director Rowland stated he could measure the area and get a quote. Alderman Sloop stated that since it's a state maintained road they would not be able to use Powell Bill funds to put sidewalk in on Main Street to Food Lion. Manager Linn stated that there were other available programs though, such as the connectivity with schools program. So there was money out there. The Board advised Manager Linn to look into the matter.

Police Chief Bob Wood: read two commendations that Detective Roger Hosey had received for his work with the Anti-Fraud and Counterfeiting Task Force for two separate occasions. Chief Wood explained that he wanted the Board to see what Detective Hosey did on his own time; it had cost the Town nothing. The Town had a mutual aid agreement with the Secretary of the State's Office. He stated that there was currently a bill in the works that would treat counterfeited material that was confiscated the same way drugs were treated. If it passed, then the Town would receive some revenue from any confiscated items because of the mutual aid agreement and the involvement of one of our officers. Chief Wood stated that he wanted to commend Detective Hosey for the work that he was doing on his own time.

Chief Wood then stated that all of the new computers had been loaded and the department would have training tomorrow. It would last two hours and when they left the training they would be able to put the computers into the cars and begin using them this week. Chief Wood stated that it was a very effective tool, especially for the patrol officers. There was some discussion of the new computer systems/software.

Chief Wood then stated that he had been contacted by Sergeant Bob Price at the Rowan County Sheriff's Office about the G.R.E.A.T. Program. Every middle school in the county was doing it except for Corriher-Lipe currently. All of the costs of the training would be covered. The only costs the Town would incur would be for the cost of meals, and that would also be reimbursed. All the Town would pay in regards to the program would be the salary of the officers that would go to the school (this would be done by current patrol officers). Chief Wood stated that he would be sending two officers to the school in South Carolina (the closest location). The program deals with gangs and trying to reach young people. He stated that he wished the department had become involved in the program earlier. He stated that he had spoken to Dr. Pugh at Corriher-Lipe about the program and she was excited; she expressed her disappointment that the Police Department had not already been in the school with the program.

The Board congratulated Detective Hosey.

Board Comments

Alderman Tony Hilton: stated that some citizens in Town had spoken to him about the size of their garbage cans, stating that they were heavy and inquiring if smaller bins were available. He stated that several bins had already been swapped out by Director Rowland and if citizens wanted, they could contact City Hall and the larger bins could be swapped out for smaller ones.

Alderman Roger Safrit: congratulated Director Morgan, Director Rowland, Manager Linn and staff for the excellent work on the Mud Run. He also wanted to recognize what a great job Chief Wood was doing with the Police Department so far and to congratulate Detective Hosey as well.

Alderman Tony Hilton: inquired how hard it would be to get the state to put in flashing caution lights at the elementary school. After some discussion, the Board instructed Manager Linn to look into this.

Mayor Dennis Brown: stated that at the Annual Electricities Conference there had been an awards banquet and that the Town was as good as the other municipalities and he wanted to figure out what had to be done for Landis to get nominated. He instructed Staff to look into it. Alderman Safrit agreed, stating that it wasn't just big cities that had received awards.

Citizens Comments

Nadine Cherry: stated that several months ago Sam Deadmon had inquired about email addresses on the website and she wanted to know why there had been a delay in updating the minutes on the website.

Alderman Furr motioned, seconded by Alderman Sloop, to go into Executive Session to discuss Legal and Personnel Matters. All voted aye.

Alderman Furr motioned, seconded by Alderman Safrit, to come out of Executive Session and to adjourn the meeting. All voted aye.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46pm on Monday, October 3rd, 2011.

Heather Wood
Administrative Assistant