

August 2nd, 2010

At 7:00pm., on Monday, August 2nd, 2010, 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 Tony Hilton, Roger Safrit, James Furr and Craig Sloop, Town Manager Reed Linn, Public Works Director Steve Rowland, Recreation Director Julie Noblitt, Police Chief Brian McCoy, Deputy Town Administrator Debbie Goodman, 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 Beverly Copeland.

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mayor Dennis Brown.

Alderman Furr motioned, seconded by Alderman Hilton, to adopt the agenda as is. All voted aye.

Alderman Safrit motioned, seconded by Alderman Sloop, to adopt the minutes from the July 6th, 2010 Regular Meeting as amended. All voted aye.

Brandy Cook then addressed the Board and those gathered. She stated that this was her 10th year as an assistant district attorney and she was running for the position of District Attorney of Rowan County. She spoke briefly about some of the challenges that the DA's office now faced and stated that she was ready to "tackle crime" and she was the only candidate with experience prosecuting 1st degree murder cases and a 100% conviction rate. She also spoke of an aggressive approach to DUI, stated that she had a 95% conviction rate for this charge. She went on to say that she had tried all types of cases. She was also a volunteer in the school system, mentoring children and she was ready to tackle the gang problems over the next 3-4 years. She was also a liaison with the Attorney General's office, helping to screen cases to see if they are gang related. She concluded by stating that she would appreciate any votes.

The first order of business to come before the Board concerned the adoption of a local government resolution involving the Governor's Highway Safety Program. Manager Linn explained that the Town had received the grant last year, but they could not receive grant money this year until this resolution was passed. The resolution would have to be passed each year. It needed to be submitted to the state by the end of the week. The amount received would be \$34,658.00.

Alderman Hilton motioned, seconded by Alderman Safrit, to pass the resolution for the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program, Local Governmental Resolution Form GHSP-02-A. All voted aye.

Manager Linn then addressed the Board concerning future plans for the water plant house. He explained that he had already spoken with some of the Board members concerning this matter. The house in question used to be the operator's house for the water plant. However, for the last 12-15 years they haven't needed operators so the Town had decided to put the house up for rent. Manager Linn stated that it would be a good place to start renovations for the parks, as the house was located at the area they were going to be developing. It was suggested that the house be made into a park office, where things like fishing permits, camping permits and things of this nature could be obtained. Manager Linn clarified that this was a project that would not start until some months from now, as it would take several months to help the family currently

renting the house to relocate before they could even begin renovations. Manager Linn was simply posing the suggestion as something for the Board to consider.

Alderman Hilton inquired if the current tenant was planning to move already. Manager Linn stated they were not, but if the Town had other plans, they would move. The rent being charged was currently \$450.00 per month. Alderman Hilton commented that this was “below market value”. He also stated that he had no problems making the house into the new recreation office, that the current one was “below par” and he felt if they were going to spend money on renovations he would rather see it done there.

Manager Linn stated that the A/C unit had gone out at the current recreation office and it would cost \$7,000.00-\$8,000.00 to replace it. They had opted to repair it enough to get it through the season instead of investing that much into the current building. What Manager Linn was mainly after at this time was approval to move forward, notify the family current residing in the home. Mayor Brown stated that he felt this was a good idea, as it was located in what would become a “heavy use” area. Manager Linn stated that there were three structures located on the property – a carport/covered area, the old pump house and then the residence. There was further discussion of possible plans and the Board all agreed to allow Manager Linn to move forward.

The next order of business was a request from Recreation Director Julie Noblitt to declare certain items in Recreation as surplus. The South Rowan Youth League had asked permission to use the left over equipment and to do this the Town would need to declare the items as surplus so they could donate them. Manager Linn stated that he has asked Director Noblitt to retain enough equipment for employees to play softball.

Mayor Brown stated that the Town no longer needed the equipment, so he thought it was a good idea.

Alderman Furr stated that to keep it official they would need to provide the quantity of each item. Director Noblitt stated that she would provide the numbers.

Alderman Hilton motioned, seconded by Alderman Safrit, to declare certain items in the Recreation Department as surplus and to donate them to the South Rowan Youth League. All voted aye.

The next request was from the South Rowan Sports League to use the concession stand at the pool during ball games. They would not begin using it until the pool had closed for the season, so sometime in October. Alderman Hilton commented that they needed to make sure the condition of the area remained the same and Alderman Furr inquired if there was a door to secure the pool area. Director Noblitt confirmed that there is. Manager Linn also reminded the Board that the pool manager from Charlotte Swim Club also visited two times a week year round to make sure everything was in the proper condition. Alderman Hilton if the door to the pool had a separate key, for safety reasons. Manager Linn stated that all the doors at the pool used one key, but they could secure the door to the pool another way, perhaps with a padlock.

The Board all approved of letting the South Rowan Youth League use the pool concession stand for its ballgames.

Department Head Comments

Recreation Director Julie Noblitt: stated that she had a brochure ready for classes and programs that the Recreation Department would be offering. She went over some of the things that would be offered, such as cake decoration, fencing, art classes, etc. She stated that she had many things “in the works”.

Town Manager Reed Linn: stated that he had met with staff at the YMCA at the trail head, Lake Wright and the Reservoir. They had come up with an outline of what they would like to see happen – they would be present at the September meeting with a presentation. He went on to state that they had people lined up to start clearing out the area around the lake and that the YMCA staff was adamant about not cutting down any more trees. So far, all material and labor had been donated and they hoped to have the lower lake presentable by December and have the phases planned out by September. Also, Lex Graham (with the South Rowan Youth League) had asked for field improvements at Linn Field – a new batting cage, etc. The mill owns the field and has given their permission for the work, as long as the Town was alright with it. These improvements would cost the Town nothing. They were looking to paint the concession stand, the dugouts and other small projects at their own expense.

Manager Linn also reminded everyone that National Night Out was tomorrow night from 6pm-9pm and that Read to Your Child Day was Wednesday. He also reminded the Board that the Electricities Conference was next Wednesday at 5pm at the YMCA.

Alderman Hilton inquired how the media attention had gone (concerning the new recycling program). Public Works Director Steve Rowland stated that it was going well, pick up on East Side would begin tomorrow, and they were still in the process of distributing bins to the west side.

Alderman Furr stated that he'd had several questions and there was some confusion. He stated that some people thought that the recycling would now be weekly, but he had assured them it remained every other week, under the same schedule it always had been.

Mayor Brown inquired about making arrangements for people who were unable to roll their bins out. Director Rowland stated that they could call the number on the bin, or if they called City Hall, staff would forward the request on to Sharks Recycling.

Manager Linn also reminded everyone that there may be “glitches” at first. Director Rowland stated that it had been indicated that recycling would go from 20% to 80% within the first year.

Board Comments

Alderman Roger Safrit: commended Director Rowland and staff on their work with the recycling program, stating that they had done a “fantastic job”.

Citizens' Comments

None

Manager Linn reminded the Board that their September meeting would be held on September 13th, 2010 due to the Labor Day holiday. This had been voted on at the first of the year.

Alderman Furr motioned, seconded by Alderman Safrit to go into Executive Session. All voted aye.

Alderman Furr motioned, seconded by Alderman Hilton, to come out of Executive Session. All voted aye.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:10pm on Monday, August 2nd, 2010.

Heather Wood
Administrative Assistant