

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
THE TOWN OF LAKE LURE, N.C.
May 13, 1975

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held in the Town Hall May 13, 1975 at 7:30 P.M. The following members were present: Mayor J. Paul Wilson and Commissioner Jim Nance. Mr. Nesbitt, Town Attorney was also present.

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order and asked for the minutes of the regular meeting held on April 8, 1975 be read. Upon completion, Mayor Wilson asked if there were any corrections. There being none motion was made by Commissioner Nance, seconded by Mayor Wilson they be accepted as read. The vote was unanimous.

Mayor Wilson asked Mr. Martin Nesbitt if he had anything to report on the proposed introduction of a bill in the House, for an ABC Store election. Mr. Nesbitt said he had checked into the matter and that this would not be a good time to do it. He also stated that he would do some more checking.

Next Mayor Wilson recognized Mr. Joe Bell who requested the use of the Community Building Saturdays at 5:30 to 6:30, beginning June 14, 1975 and ending August 15, 1975, for the purpose of holding church services. Mr. Bell next read a letter he had written to the Board in November 1974, concerning the addition of another policeman and secondly what the Town has done about delinquent taxes. Mayor Wilson explained that in the fall he and Chief Swaringen submitted a budget to the Criminal Justice Planning Agency, requesting two more policemen and a fully equipped police car. After a discussion on the tax collection, Mayor Wilson reported that we had collected about 85% of the 1974 taxes and this year we have collected a total of \$1,191.69 for all other years.

Claude Nelson, acting as spokesman for the Civic Club, felt the fee for the use of the Community Building should be the same for resident and nonresident alike. Mayor Wilson suggested that the Committee call a meeting and try to resolve the problem.

The estimated budget for the Electric Power Facility was discussed. Commissioner Nance made a motion, seconded by Mayor Wilson and unanimously passed the following budget ordinance was adopted for the fiscal year May 1, 1975 to April 30, 1976.

Be it ordained by the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Lake Lure, N.C.

Section 1: APPROPRIATIONS: The following amounts are hereby appropriated for the operation of the Electric Power Facility for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 1975 and ending April 30, 1976, according to the following schedules:

EXPENDITURES

Plant operator	\$5,400.00
Relief operator	600.00
Supervisor	600.00
Clerical salary	330.00
Audit	475.00
Legal service	100.00
Supplies & Maintenance	3,450.00
FICA	405.40
State Retirement	105.52
Insurance	3,100.00
Bond retirement	23,000.00
Interest on bonds	8,700.00
Service charge	70.00
Transfere to other accounts	3,644.08
Total Electric Power Appropriations	\$50,000.00

Section 2: ESTIMATED REVENUES: It is estimated that the following revenues will be available during the fiscal year beginning May 1, 1975 and ending April 30, 1976, to meet the foregoing appropriations.

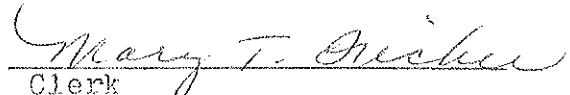
POWER REVENUES-Duke Power Co. \$50,000.00


Adopted this the 13th day of May 1975


J. Paul Wilson, Mayor


Mary T. Eicker, Clerk

There being no further business Mayor Wilson made a motion the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Commissioner Nance.


Clerk


Mayor

May 13, 1975

To the Mayor and Town Commissioners

Town of Lake Lure N.C.

Gentlemen:

At the Town Meeting of July 9th And again at the Town Meeting of Nov. 19th 1974, the matter of Town police protection was discussed. A letter detailing our views and suggestions was presented to the Council as a basis of discussion. This letter was included in the minutes of the November meeting. A copy is ~~ette~~ attached herewith.

No criticism was made then or is there any made now regarding the efforts of the Police Chief. We said then and since have had no change of opinion that a force of two policemen is not adequate to provide proper coverage. These men cannot be on duty at all hours and serve the community properly. In November it was agreed that four full time policemen were needed and Council indicated ~~that~~ with that objective in mind. In the six months since no addition has been made. The force still remains under-staffed at two.

Now that Council is formulating the 1975-1976 budget it is appropriate to ask what is to be done. Without going into all the detail of the information from last November we wish to remind Council of some of the suggestions. One suggestion was to use Federal Revenue Sharing funds to defray this additional expense for this most important service. Another as a follow up of ~~the~~ the discussion in the June '74 meeting- when action was promised to collect delinquent ~~the~~ taxes, we, the taxpaying citizens want to know what action is being taken to collect such delinquent taxes. Why should those who pay their taxes when due pay for the services we all obtain ~~and~~ carry free riders. Collect such taxes and Council would not have ~~have-to~~ say that it cannot pay for essential services. According to the Town Tax Collectors statement dated March 12, 1975 in the Ruthford News there were 186 property listings amounting to a total of some \$9800 owed for 1974 taxes. Other than offering these for tax sale in April what other action has been taken and how much including penalties has been collected. In the published list one case was \$2500. plus, one was over \$500. one over \$200 and 21 from \$100 to 200. It is noted that a number are taxes covering public places. To give further notice of these over-due taxes, ~~was~~ of July 4, an up-to-date list of tax delinquent properties and the amount owed could be made ~~all~~ available each year.

In the June Meeting and again in November the Town Attorney stated that efforts were being made and cases were being prepared to legally proceed against overdue tax cases. We wish to be informed as to what progress has been made. It is recognized that the 1974 condition is just the current year, ~~probably~~ little different than previous years. That is why aggressive action and follow up is so necessary. So far as we are concerned we intend to insist that the tax burden be carried by all.

Without repeating in detail what was said in the Nov. letter, we wish to state that in the opinion of many citizens Traffic and law violation conditions have become worse further emphasizing the demand for more police protection. More and more undesirable elements seem to be converging on our area and will no doubt increase during the season. more and more parking overnite on private property and roadsides- more congregating of hangers-on- an element which rioted at the recent Hill Climb during which period a serious accident occurred on the Town bridge. As a result, the reputation of our Town and area is being damaged and this, unless corrected has and will affect property values, insurance rates and business. Friends in neighboring towns have commented that ~~the~~ Lake Lure no longer enjoys its past good reputation. If continued, this is bound to discourage ~~the~~ desirable people from establishing residences here.

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So lets get going on providing the police protection we need before it is too late. Council has had a year to relieve the situation. We would like to know what is being done. The money can be raised as said above and by other economies.

Otherwise taxes could be raised to cover the police cost. We don't think that is necessary if Council is aggressive in ~~forcing~~ getting everyone to pay their share. In this regard, it is discouraging to note that year after year a number of citizens delinquent on Town taxes do not appear on the County delinquent list. Could this mean that they have found that the Town is not as serious in its collection efforts as the County? Is the Town considered a soft touch ~~****~~ Compared with the County? One doesn't pay--the delinquency is advertised-- the tax lien is put up for bids--no bid-- so no pay-- the Town doesn't get around to do anything about it-- so why pay-- been going on for years. Meanwhile the rest of us pay our taxes to run the Town while the others have the Town services for free. As a last resort if taxes must be raised--its no cardinal sin-- we'd rather pay a few dollars more to protect our safety and property. But Council should remember, unless serious measures to collect all the taxes the burden will continue to fall on those who view taxes as an obligation of good citizenship.

The purpose of this letter is;

- (1) To apprise Council beforehand Of matters to be discussed. It is offered ~~ef-e~~ in spirit of co-operation, reflecting the thoughts and attitudes of quite a number of taxpayers and citizens, who appreciate the complications of Town problems that the Council has to deal with .
- (2) In order that those interested may have first hand knowledge of our position rather than by rumor or hearsay.
- (3) To recommend that Council approve the inclusion of this letter, as a matter of Record as an appendage to the minutes of this meeting, May 13th 1975

Respectfully,

J.V. Bell

