

MINUTES OF A REGUIAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF  
THE TOWN OF LAKE LURE, N.C.  
NOVEMBER 19, 1974

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held in the Town Hall on November 19, 1974 at 7:30 P.M. The following members of the Board were present: Mayor Paul Wilson, Commissioner ~~Don Cothran~~, Commissioner Jim Nance and the Town attorney Mr. Nesbitt.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Paul Wilson.

Mayor Wilson asked that the minutes of a Special Meeting held on November 11, 1974 concerning the increase in the number of Commissioners to serve on the Board, be read. The Chair welcomed any comments on this matter and many of the citizens voiced a favorable opinion.

A letter of resignation from Donald Cothran was read by Mayor Wilson. Mr. Cothran had served as a policeman for the Town since the first of the year. His reasons for leaving were personal. A motion to accept the resignation was made by Commissioner Nance and seconded by Mayor Wilson.

Mayor Wilson asked for the minutes of the regular meeting held on October 8, 1974 be read. There being no comments Commissioner Nance made a motion they be accepted as read. Mayor Wilson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Mr. Bell, representing a number of tax paying citizens, read a letter concerning police protection for the Town. He also pointed out several ways the Town might conserve on expenses, namely the lights on the bridge, the overhead outdoor decorative lights and the use of a smaller truck to read water meters. The letter is attached to the minutes.

Mrs. Bartruff asked what progress had been made to date on naming the streets and the proposed plan for a playground. Mr. Nance answered by saying work was still being done on the streets and we are waiting for the Civic building for the playground.

Mr. Bill Wilson and Mr. Rom Storey, property owners on the Boys Camp Rd. asked when they could expect the Town to pave their roads and when they could get city water and in some cases sew age line access. Mayor Wilson said if the property owners would put up 50% of the cost of paving the Town would put up the other 50%. Mr. Storey asked the Town to check into any available funds for this purpose. He submitted a letter to be included in the minutes.

Commissioner Nance made a motion that Chief Swaringen bring in a qualified, competent man before the Board as soon as possible for the Police Department. Mayor Wilson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Mary T. Fisher  
Clerk

J. Paul Wilson  
Mayor

J. PAUL WILSON  
MAYOR

DON COTHRAN - JIM NANDE  
COMMISSIONERS

MARY FICKER, CLERK  
MARLENE WILSON, DEPUTY CLERK

## *Town of Lake Lure*

LAKE LURE, N. C. 28746

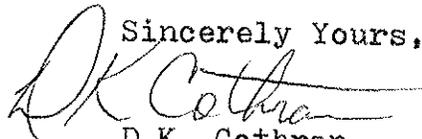
Nov. 10, 1974

Board of Commissioners  
Town of Lake Lure  
Box-255  
Lake Lure, N.C.

Dear Sirs;

I hereby submit my resignation as Police Officer for the Town of Lake Lure, effective November 10, 1974. For personal reasons.

Sincerely Yours,

  
D.K. Cothran

Nov. 19th 1974

To the Mayor and Town Commissioners  
Lake Lure N.C  
Gentlemen:

Representing a number of concerned citizens, we urge that Council give immediate attention to the matter of Police protection for the Town. Council will recall as covered in the minutes of the July 9th meeting we recommended that (1) a professional and adequately trained Police Dept. be built up and (2) volunteer police be eliminated. So far as we citizens know Council has done nothing to remedy the situation. Without going into detail, (however we are prepared to, if necessary) the Police situation has deteriorated to a point which has become extremely serious. Word has it that the criminal element views the Town as an easy mark, spread as it is with miles of roads, the Lake and various activities that need patrolling. A number of robberies has occurred—speed violations are rife—rumors of drugs and drug traffic are heard. Our citizens fear for their personal safety and property. Unless corrected, insurance rates may be jeopardized.

No criticism of Chief Swearingen is here implied. We can't expect him to work day and night without adequate professional help. ~~It is the~~ In our opinion he is doing the best he can under the circumstances. He needs real help and it is up to the Council to without further delay to provide him with the force he needs so he can do the job of administering the most important <sup>DEPARTMENT</sup> in the Town government.

How many trained professionals should the Town considering the territory and its problems? Council is in a better position to determine this. One thing is obvious—that the Chief and his force should not be obligated to work day and night—seven days a week. To attract the kind of responsible officers we need it is our judgement four full time people working reasonable hours are needed to provide full time coverage. To recruit such professionals, we recommend that Council immediately investigate the possibility of employing suitable trained men who may become avail from the present Sheriff's Dept. This is one possibility but search should not be limited to this field. However, none other than experienced law enforcement officers should be considered. One further word in this regard, It should be fully understood that the Chief will have full responsibility for running the Department and use of its equipment under supervision of the Council itself and not any one individual.

Anticipating that Council may take the position that little or no money is available at this time we urge that consideration include the following:

(1) Does the Town have an uncommitted surplus that could be used for this purpose? How much is such surplus?

(2) At the June meeting the Town Attorney stated he had under preparation legal action to collect delinquent taxes for 1973 and prior years. Has this been done and how much has been collected thus far? What is estimated of how much will be collected thru vigorous action and by what date? If money has been collected has it been spent and for purpose?—or what is planned? Now that we are in November, what % of 1973 taxes has been collected? Also what % for the last five years? It may be of interest as a basis of comparison that as of August Rutherford County had collected 94% and according to the press the County Attorney had given final notice to the remaining 6% then delinquent for 1973. Charlotte ~~collected~~ had then collected 97% for 1973, and then over 99% for 1972 and 1971.

(3) It is noted that under the present budget thru June 1975 Federal Revenue Sharing of \$13603 was expected. This added to a surplus as of July 1974 of \$23530, a total of \$37000 plus was appropriated to the Recreation Dept. In view of our Police emergency cannot a portion of this Federal money be diverted to the Police Dept to be balanced out, if necessary, in the 1975-1976 budget. It is our understanding, subject to the opinion of the Town Attorney, that a town may change such spending plans. Incidentally, we have heard nothing further about the playground plan presented in which Council said it would study indicating that perhaps a thousand or \$1500 is this money still available?

(4) To see us thru this emergency until more permanent measures can be taken to adequately fund the Police Dept. <sup>could be open</sup> Council should again review the operations of all departments. Any money that can be raised thru economies or deferment of border-

(2)  
line or unnecessary expenditures could help fund the Police Dept. Just to mention a couple of examples (there are probably more) The Town installed lights on the bridge, at what expense? In our opinion this money could have been spent for more urgent purposes. Incidentally we think the lights present a traffic hazard due to glare when the pavement is wet. During the energy crisis, overhead decorative lights were installed and on at least two occasions burned all night. To read meters the Town uses its largest truck while the Water Dept light truck is idly parked in front of the Town Office where it interferes with people wanting to short-time park for Bank, Town or Post Office business. Also, since we have a Water Dept, why is it necessary to pull men off from the town crew to read meters. These men have more pressing work to do. These few items are cited examples that have caused comment by many taxpayers who wonder, though some expenditures may by themselves, may be small if they could not be spent for essential services.

The purpose of this letter is;

of  
(1) to apprise Council beforehand matters to be presented. It is offered in spirit of co-operation, reflecting the attitudes and thoughts of quite a number of taxpayers and citizens, who appreciate the complications and Town problems that the Council has to deal with.

(2) in order that those interested may have direct knowledge of our position rather than by rumor or hearsay.

approve

(3) to recommend that Council include the inclusion of this letter as an appendage to the minutes of this meeting: November 19th 1974

Sincerely,



Lake Lure City Council, Mayor Wilson

Concerning Boys Camp Road residents and property owners.

Being within the municipality paying city and county taxes, we would like to know when we may expect improvements or additions of City services as now enjoyed by other areas in the municipality.

Specifically , paved roads, city water and in some cases, sewage line access. Many of us are aware of not only paved roads elsewhere in the municipality but some have been repaved.

As taxpayers of the City, what and when may we expect correction of these inequities.

Respectfully

Rom C Story

## Town of Lake Lure

LAKE LURE, N. C. 28746

11-4-74

Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Nelon  
Lake Lure, North Carolina

Dear Sidney:

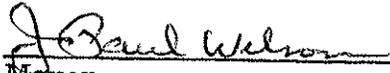
It has come to the attention of the Town Board that an unfortunate situation has arisen in regard to the new mobile home which was placed adjacent to your other structures located on Highway # 74. As best we can determine there were no arrangements made for the taps on to the water or sewer line of the Town of Lake Lure and as far as we can determine, without an on the sight survey, the trailer is located on town property.

As to the tap on to the town's sewer system the town is in a position where it must refuse any further taps at the present time. The Department of Natural and Economic Resources has banned any such taps until certain repairs are made to our sewer line. In the case of a water tap it should be made by the Town of Lake Lure or at least supervised by someone representing the town, to insure that it is done properly.

The problem under ownership of the property is much more severe and we would request that you contact members of the Town Board in the very near future in order that arrangements can be made for a survey and other necessary steps to determine if in fact the trailer is located on town property.

We regret that these unfortunate circumstances have arisen and hope that the matter can be resolved with a minimum of inconvenience to all parties involved.

Sincerely yours,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner