

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
THE TOWN OF LAKE LURE, N.C.
JANUARY 13, 1976

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held in the Community Building at 7:30 P.M. on January 13, 1976. The following members of the Board were present: J. Paul Wilson, Mayor; Claude Nelson, A.T. Cashion, John Temple and William Keller, Commissioners. Also present for the meeting was the Town Attorney, Martin Nesbitt, Jr.

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order and welcomed all the citizens present to the first meeting held in the Community Building. He then asked the clerk to read the minutes of the regular meeting held in the Town Hall on December 9, 1975. At the conclusion Mayor Wilson asked if there were any question or corrections. Katie Burch made note that it was Bob Washburn and not Jim Washburn to be appointed to the committee to study the feasibility of having a fire department in Lake Lure. There being no other corrections motion was made by Commissioner Keller, seconded by Commissioner Temple they be accepted as corrected. The vote was unanimous.

Mayor Wilson asked Mr. Nesbitt to report on the Island cave-in. Mr. Nesbitt said he had contacted Mr. Gibson and that he had received the certified letter informing him of the problem. He also suggested to Mr. Gibson that he contact the Board. Commissioner Keller informed the Board that Mr. Gibson had called but he was out of town at the time. Mayor Wilson asked Commissioner Keller if he would accept the responsibility of the follow-up on this matter and he accepted.

Next Mayor Wilson asked Commissioner Cashion if he was ready to report on the feasibility of having a Fire Department in Lake Lure, Mr. Cashion said he was not ready at this time.

The next subject up for consideration was purchasing pontoon boats for sight-seeing. Commissioner Temple had contacted Mr. Lide, who had previously submitted a letter to the Board requesting permission to put boats on the lake for sight-seeing purposes. The Board agreed to Commissioner Temple's recommendation to confine it to two pontoon boats. After a lengthy discussion on the subject Mayor Wilson asked Mr. Lide to submit a proposal in writing so Mr. Nesbitt could check out the Town's liability and run down the loose ends by the next meeting.

Mayor Wilson reported on the proposed improvements of number one tee and number three green on the municipal golf course. He said we are concentrating on number one tee. Some of the timber in back of the tee will be cut down, to enlarge this tee and the timber will be sold to help pay for the improvements.

The Board discussed rebuilding the dock at the launching area. Commissioner Nelson asked the Mayor to investigate and present to the Board a cost estimate. Mayor Wilson said he would submit two estimates.

There being no other old business, the Mayor asked if there was any new business.

Commissioner Nelon said that he recently read an article in the Municipal League's magazine congratulating newly elected Mayors and Commissioners. The article stated that "No longer can you gripe about the gang at City Hall. You are now one of the gang, and it is you who must guide the progress of your community for the next few years! He said each Board member was acutely aware that they were one of "the gang" and that he was confident that each had the best interest of the community at heart. That during the election campaign he personally received 43 complaints or suggestions and that these, as well as those received by all Board members, were receiving careful consideration and evaluation. That he was very pleased with the effort and the coordination demonstrated by each in discussing and developing both long and short range projects and programs to enhance the progress of the community. He said that items under discussion included such things as a future Town Hall, Town Manager, Fire Protection, Maintenance/Storage Facility, Sewer and Water problems, Road and Street problems, etc. That the limited funds dictated very careful evaluation and planning to establish those priorities most essential to the welfare of the citizens and the community on both a short and long term basis.

To better utilize the potential of the Town work force as well as build confidence between the Board and employees and provide a system of checks, Commissioner Nelon said that it would be very profitable to have a Town Foreman. He said that Board members had discussed the situation and felt that Mr. Ray Vess was well acquainted with all work areas, the seasonal needs of manpower, and qualified for the position. He said that the Board would establish the work priorities and pass them to the Town Foreman for implementing and the proper utilization of the work force. He put in form of a motion that Mr. Vess be appointed Town Foreman and that his salary be increased from \$127.05 to \$144.00 per week. Part of the increase to compensate Mr. Vess for work required on weekends and holidays in connection with the water system. The vote *MOTION* was seconded by Commissioner Temple. The vote was unanimous.

The next topic of discussion was to adopt an ordinance requiring anyone building a private road that enters a Town road or street to first obtain permission from the Town Board. It was felt that such an ordinance was necessary to eliminate right-of-way, drainage, and other problems that constantly occurred for the Town and property owners. Commissioner Nelon made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner A.T. Cashion that the Town Attorney, Mr. Nesbitt, draw up the ordinance by the next meeting. The vote was unanimous.

The construction of a maintenance/storage facility was discussed. Commissioner Nelon said that the facility needed to provide proper security and storage for valuable equipment and supplies that was now located outside and exposed to rot and corrosion from the weather. That it would also give the employees a place to repair and perform required maintenance on equipment when the weather would not permit outside work. There was agreement that these factors would result in a considerable saving for the Town. In addition, the room behind the Town office could then be cleared of supplies and equipment to provide the needed space for the Police Department. Mayor Wilson said that it would be necessary to develop a plan of the facility to determine cost, and then start talking about a location. Commissioner Temple made a motion that Mayor Wilson draw up the plans and provide an estimate for the project. Commissioner Keller seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Next Commissioner Keller asked Chief Swaringen for a police report. Chief Swaringen's report for the month of December 1975 is as follows:

The two officers worked a total of 615 hours. During this period one man had a week's vacation. There were 33 calls of various problems and they patrolled between 1,000 and 1,500 miles each man. In December 1974 there were seven breaking and entering violations, with property loss of \$2,785.00 and in December of 1975 we had only one break-in with a total of \$3.00 property loss. Chief Swaringen next informed the Board that it had been almost a year since Mr. Biggerstaff leveled off the property that the Town leased to him for a parking area and since then he has done nothing. It is necessary for this parking area to keep the cars off the street and out of private yards. Commissioner Nelson said he would contact Mr. Biggerstaff and see if he can get it done.

A citizen, Mr. Joe Bell stated that a year ago he brought before the Board the need for a third policeman. He stated at that time the Town forget about Region C and provide the necessary funds ourselves. The time is almost here for the new budget and he said he would like it to go on record that he is advancing that same request.

The Board discussed cleaning out the channel using a dragline and turn the river. Kate Burch suggested that the channel be blocked off and provide another area for launching the boats. Commissioner Keller put in the form of a motion that Sidney Nelson act as a consultant to help clean out the channel. Motion was ~~made~~ ^{Seconded} by Commissioner Temple. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Keller said he would like to donate ^{the use of} a small lake on his property for trout. Mayor Wilson offered to call Mr. Hamrick, who is with the Wildlife Commission, to look at the lake and if he approves we will file an application for the fish right then.

There being no further business Commissioner Keller made a motion the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Commissioner Nelson. The vote was unanimous.

J. Paul Wilson
Mayor

Mary T. Sicker
Clerk