

TOWN OF WEBSTER

MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 2, 2015 BOARD MEETING



The Board of Commissioners for the Town of Webster met for its regularly scheduled meeting at the Webster Methodist Church. Mayor Breedlove called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Nick Breedlove, Commissioner Billie Bryson, Commissioner Allan Grant, Commissioner Danell Moses, and Vice Mayor Tracy Rodes

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Janice Blanton

OTHERS PRESENT: Tanner Hall of *The Sylva Herald*, Joe Rhinehart, George Frizzell, John Dills, Julie Spiro, Michele Smith, Raymond Ledford, Brian McMahan, Chuck Wooten, Aaron Krauss, Brad Moses, Mark Stein, Randy Doster, and Walter Turner

SPECIAL MEETING

Historic Walking Tour

Commissioners, Mayor Breedlove, and community members met at the Webster Methodist Church and walked to different points on the Webster Historic Walking Tour route. Mayor Breedlove gave a brief introduction of the journey the town had taken to get to this walking tour and introduced Webster Historical Society President Joe Rhinehart. Rhinehart spoke at each location, giving a brief historical anecdote. Locations visited were the Methodist Church, the old rock school (currently Southwestern Child Development Commission), the former locations of the Mountain View Hotel and Webster Courthouse, the Moore house, and the Hedden house. After the tour, the group had refreshments at Town Hall.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Amendment of Agenda

- a. Vice-Mayor Rodes motioned to add items 2) Taxation of split parcels and 3) World War II Monument to the agenda. Commissioner Grant seconded. The motion passed.

2. Taxation of split properties

- a. A resident questioned the taxation on their parcel of land split by the town and ETJ limits. This led to the tax assessor's office presenting the question to the board of how to tax property owners who have property split by the municipal boundary.
- b. A number of parcels are split between being in the town and the ETJ. Presently some of the parcels are being taxed, while others are not. Since the tax bills for this year have been sent, we would need to adopt a policy for taxing affected properties for next year.
- c. Several options are possible:
 - a. if a property is 49.9% or more in town limits, then tax them fully
 - b. tax only the percentage of the parcel that is inside town limits
 - c. tax the full property if any percentage is in the town limits
- d. The tax assessor asked that the board present a policy by January 2016.
- e. The idea was tabled until a future work session.

3. World War II Monument

- a. Mayor Breedlove contacted Southwestern Child Development Commission's (SWCDC) Director. They own the property our WWII monument is located on. They replied and offered their support of the town's efforts to do upkeep on the monument.
- b. Michele Smith will research easements the town might have on that marker. An initial search showed no easements granted to the town on that property. Without an easement, the town has no legal right to make repairs or be on that property to do upkeep. To formalize this, Smith recommended asking the SWCDC for a permanent easement allowing the town to do regular maintenance. David Noland from SWCDC agreed to provide permission for landscapers to access the property. The town would pay the legal fees for the easement work.
- c. County Manager Chuck Wooten expressed support on behalf of the county for the project. He said county crews could partner with our landscaper to come up with a nice plan for the initial 'spruce up.' Our landscaper will meet and coordinate with the county crews to create a plan for the site and execute it.

- d. Some cost, which should likely be less than what we had planned on before (\$1,200), will be incurred.
- e. Mayor Breedlove briefed Jackson County Veteran's Services Officer David Plaster on what's going on with the monument, our desire to clean it up and partner with SWCDC and the county, eventually pursuing a long-term agreement for upkeep. Plaster was very supportive and appreciative of Webster's efforts.
- f. Mayor Breedlove asked for the board to approve:
 - a. Biologic and rust cleaning supplies to clean the memorial (approximately \$100.00)
 - b. Permit attorney, mayor, or vice mayor to enter into talks with Southwestern Child Development Centers to enter into a permanent easement and authorize the execution of those documents
 - c. Permit reasonable costs for landscaping at the site
 - d. A reasonably priced flagpole should the Woodmen of the World not be able to donate one
- g. Commissioner Grant motioned to offer the approval of all items: Commissioner Moses seconded. The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Grant motioned to adjourn. Vice-Mayor Rodes seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Nick Breedlove, Mayor

Danell Moses, Town Clerk