

Town of Webster
Minutes
August 2, 2011

The Board of commissioners for the Town of Webster met for its regularly meeting at 1411 Webster Road.

Members Present:

Commissioner Billie Bryson, Commissioner Jean Davenport, Commissioner Rick Fulton and Commissioner Allan Grant.

Members Absent:

Mayor Larry Phillips and Tracy Rodes

Others Present:

Attorney Michael McConnell (sitting in for Attorney Kim Lay), Nick Breedlove with The Sylva Herald and Louise Stephens.

Agenda:

Vice Mayor Grant called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with a call for additional Agenda items. The addition agenda were:

- a. Department of Transportation
- b. Town Hall Parking
- c. Historic Preservation

Approval of Minutes:

Vice Mayor Grant called for a review and approval of the minutes. There was a correction made under caption Guest Speaker. The correction made was a calming circle not colony circle. A motion was made to approve by Commissioner Fulton and seconded by Commissioner Davenport.

Approval of Financial Report:

Town Clerk Nicholson reported that the town had received \$2,211.46 for the month of July and spent \$81,404.40. That amount is higher than usual, due to the fact that it included the final payment to retire the debt on the town hall, a \$74, 894.90 expense. As of this date the town has not received a deed from Mr. Scott Baker. The Powell Bill funds remaining are \$59,172.52.

The budget was approved after corrections by Commissioner Fulton and seconded by Commissioner Bryson.

Old Business:

R-5000-Town board members discussed Commissioner's Chairman Jack Debnam's July 5, 2011 discussion of the R-5000, a planned road that would connect N.C. 116 and N.C. 107 through the Southwestern Community College campus. Commissioner Davenport stated "should we oppose it or let it ride?" Webster has been asked to sign off on the project. Commissioner Fulton stated it would be good to have a different perspective on the connector, and town board members unanimously agreed to ask Setzer to come to a future meeting to answer questions that they would want to ask regarding this matter. Commissioner Davenport's concern was people could only access the connector from Cullowhee toward Sylva and not if they were southbound on N.C. 107 and also Commissioner Davenport was concerned regarding the velocity of the water coming off the road.

Town of Webster welcome sign:

Board members unanimously approved a new three foot by 5 foot sand cast full color sign to replace the damaged "Welcome to Webster sign at a cost of \$1,875.96. Board members will discuss where to locate the new sign and who will need to install it. The discussion will take place at a future meeting.

Other: Speed limit in Webster to be observed.

Committee Reports:

The Greenway Committee:

Vice Mayor Allan Grant stated the Greenway Committee did not **meet**.

The Planning Board: (see handout)

A motion by Commissioner Bryson and seconded by Commissioner Davenport to approve the minutes from the joint town board and planning board session that was held July 26, 2011 were unanimously approved with a word change. Both boards will need to approve the minutes. Commissioner m Fulton stated that he would be involved in the audit. Vice Mayor Grant stated he was impressed and it was an excellent meeting.

The Traffic and Safety Committee:

The report was carried over due to Mayor Phillips absence.

TWSA: (see hand out)

Commissioner Davenport reported the Tuckaseegee Water and Sewer Authority would be holding a retreat on September 17, 2011 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and she would like to know what issues other board members would like to see discussed. Commissioner Davenport got maps which has locations where lines would be run in Webster.

There was a discussion regarding septic systems-which it is cheaper to put in a septic system in Webster than to connect to TWSA. This matter will be discussed in a future meeting.

New Business:

Department of Transportation –repair sidewalks:

A letter dated July 20, 2011 from the N.C. DOT Division 14 Engineer Joel Setzer stated that the town has three options to pursue fixing the deteriorating sidewalk. The three options were:

a. Widening the sidewalk only at driveways in which the sidewalks would not be replaced. The cost for this option would be \$23,000.00 and Webster would pay approx. \$6,000.00 to acquire right of way.

b. Widening the sidewalk at driveways and replacing remaining sidewalk. The cost for this option would be \$100,000.00 and Webster’s cost would be to pay an estimated \$6,000.00 to acquire the right of way.

c. Replace the existing sidewalk and create a grass strip between the curb-gutter and sidewalk. The cost for this option would be \$160,000.00 and Webster’s cost would be \$40,000.00 to acquire the right of way.

The widening at driveways would be required in any option to bring the sidewalk up to Americans with Disabilities Act code the letter from DOT states. At the points where the sidewalk meets the driveway curb cuts, there is insufficient width to traverse the sidewalk in a wheelchair Mr. Setzer stated.

Vice Mayor Allan Grant, presided in the absence of Mayor Phillips stated they should talk to the people who would be impacted by the third most sidewalk fix, the one that includes the three foot setback from the road.

Town Hall Parking: Mr. Brad Moses who lived beside the Town Hall has noticed that people are parking in his private space Vice Mayor Grant stated. Vice Mayor Grant agreed to look into this matter with some kind of marking. A sign will be posted at the Town Hall regarding where to park. The Town of Webster now has three parking spaces and one is handicapped and one is for the apartment the other for members of the Town Board.

Parking is available at the Southwestern Child Development Building. Vice Mayor Grant stated that Mark Jamison stated parking is available at the post office if not during business hours.

Historic Preservation Commission:

A motion was made by Commissioner Davenport to reappoint Joe Rhinehart and seconded by Commissioner Bryson.

Other: Next meeting will be September 6, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Fulton brought up the mention of holding the meetings each month at 6:00 instead of 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment: There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Vice Mayor (Allan Grant)

Gwen F. Nicholson
Town Clerk