

Town of Webster
Minutes
September 6, 2011

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

Members Present:

Mayor Larry Phillips, Commissioner Billie Bryson, Commissioner Jean Davenport, Commissioner Rick Fulton and Commissioner Allan Grant and Commissioner Tracy Rodes

Others Present:

Attorney Michael McConnell (sitting in for Attorney Kim Lay), Nick Breedlove with The Sylva Herald, Kathy Mathews, Steve Williams, DOT, George Stanley, Project Manager SCC, Susan Leveille, Jonathan Woodard, DOT (sidewalks).

Agenda:

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

- a. Change of time for meeting and meeting date.
- b. Meetings will be the first Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Davenport made the motion to accept the changes and Mayor Phillips seconded the motion.

Approval of Minutes:

Mayor Phillips called for a review and approval of the minutes. Commissioner Fulton made the motion to accept the minutes and Commissioner Rodes seconded the motion.

Approval of Financial Report:

Commissioner Bryson in the absence of Gwen Nicholson reported that the town had received \$3,447.31 for the month of August and spent \$5,237.34. The Powell Bill funds remaining are \$58,847.52.

Mayor Phillips received a notice from the Inspector General of North Carolina By June 3 2012 the town must spend allocated funds or they will revert back to the state. Board members asked Woodard to check to see if the town could encumber its Powell funds through escrow or another method for a sidewalk project so that the funds would not revert back to the state. Woodard will notify the town via email regarding this issue.

Commissioner Fulton made the motion to accept the financial report a written and Commissioner Davenport seconded the motion All approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

SIDEWALKS:

There were three options for repairing sidewalks that were given to the town board in a prior DOT letter. They were:

- Widening the sidewalk only at driveways where the remaining sidewalks would not be replaced.
- Widening the sidewalk at driveways and replacing the remaining sidewalk. The estimated cost would be \$100,000.00 and Webster's share would be an estimated \$6000.00 to acquire the right of way.
- Replace the existing sidewalk three feet back of the existing sidewalk and create a grass strip between the curb and gutter and sidewalk, according to Jonathan Woodard.

The project along N.C. 116 is an old project and right of ways was not recorded. When property changed hands there were no records of right of ways of a certain width in the chain of the title, and it becomes an issue for DOT to claim right of ways.

R-5000:

This is the planned road that will link N.C. 116 and N.C. 107 through the SCC campus.

George Stanley was the guest speaker regarding the R-5000 who wanted to answer questions from the board members.

Mayor Phillips had a concern whether the road was needed which the price tag associated with this project is approximately twelve million dollars.

Stanley stated it was originally looked at as an at-grade road. When plans got to Raleigh and were reviewed it was determined that the at-grade road would not be possible.

Commissioner Davenport stated that people traveling this road cannot access the road from two directions (referring to people traveling south on NC 107 past Burger King) and will not be able to turn on the planned road. Stanley stated the road would be steep and could not make standards for a southbound entrance.

There will be some 2900 cars using the connector each day although some cars could pass through more than one time per day. Stanley stated that SCC students do not arrive at 8:00 a.m. and leave at 3:00 p.m. as they would in public school.

Commissioner Rodes asked how construction could impact the residents of Webster who travel on N.C. 116 toward N.C. 107. Commissioner Rodes asked about the time frame of the traffic calming circle which DOT engineer Steve Williams estimated would take eighteen months to complete.

Commissioner Rodes has concerns regarding the amount of dirt that would be moved through Webster in dump trucks which Williams said could be approximately 680,000 cubic yards.

Mr. Stanley stated that SCC needed a second entrance due to security issues related to the Columbine High School in Colorado shootings and that this would give them a second way out.

Commissioner Davenport had questions regarding Mill Creek which flows by the National Guard Armory as to whether this would cause increased water flow. Williams stated that the N.C. DOT would install

larger culverts and drain boxes along that side. Stanley stated that the same amount of water would flow through Mill Creek, a point which Susan Leveille challenged.

Commissioner Davenport asked if R5000 could be rethought, Stanley stated that he did not know how as this was the only solution they could come up with.

Michael McDonald attorney sitting in for Kimberly Lay stated that the town could request a shift in the wording in the document the town had been asked to sign with DOT and that would give the town more comfort. The document agrees that the road is ok to come through and since the town is not providing funds for the road the change in the document's wording should show that the town will have no responsibility.

TOWN OF WEBSTER SIGN:

Commissioner Davenport will update in an email.

Committee Reports:

The Greenway Committee:

Emily Elders part time Greenways Director resigned and county Recreation Director Jeff Carpenter and Planning Director Gerald Green would take over her duties regarding grant implementation.

Commissioner Grant stated that the Judaculla Rock site would be featured in a Smartphone App that would give information about the site.

Judaculla Rock Preservation-parking lot and signage should be in place at the end of the month.

Judaculla Rock will be more protected at this time.

The Planning Board:

Susan Leveille stated the Planning Board has been working with Ginny Faust on the draft ordinances and has a meeting scheduled for September 14, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. to continue this project.

The Traffic and Safety Committee:

Mayor Phillips gave a report on the Sheriff's patrol per the breakdown on Jim Henry and Donnie Allen's invoice as to how many tickets and warning tickets were issued in August 2011.

TWSA:

Commissioner Davenport reported that McGill Associates is searching for five acres along Highway 64 for a new sewer plant location. The Tuckasegee Water and Sewer Authority would be holding a retreat on September 17, 2011 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Commissioner stated that something exciting could happen for Webster but she could not share at this time.

Webster Public Forum: No action

New Business:

Meeting times will be held starting in October 2011 the first Thursday of each month beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Town Hall Parking:

Signs are now posted on the Town Hall.

Historic Preservation Commission:

Completed last month.

Other:

Next meeting will be the first Thursday of each month beginning October 6, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment:

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. Commissioner Fulton made the motion to adjourn.

Larry Phillips, Mayor

Gwen Nicholson, Town Clerk