

**Town of Oakboro  
Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
February 1, 2021**

The Board of Commissioners met in a regular session, Monday, February 1, 2021 at 7pm. Mayor Little opened the meeting, welcomed everyone and asked the Assistant Town Clerk to call the roll. The following were present: Commissioner Efird, Commissioner Hathcock, Commissioner Huneycutt, Mayor Little, Commissioner Smith, Commission Watkins, Chief of Police TJ Smith and Town Administrator Doug Burgess.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Little.

Mayor Little recognized Commissioner Efird for the devotion time.

Commissioner Huneycutt made a motion to approve the agenda as printed. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Efird made a motion to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$70,961.73. Commissioner Hathcock seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Huneycutt made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting on December 21, 2020. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Tim Pressley was present to speak regarding the Oakboro Police Department and the Toys for Tots program. He presented the Marine Corp of the United States Reserve Commanders Award to the Oakboro Police Department for their third annual "Cop on the Top." The money raised in checks and cash was \$8,098.48, 63 books, 997 stocking stuffers, 698 toys with 70 of those being bicycles. Toys for Tots gave away a total of 6,366 toys this year to 1,679 children here in Stanly County.

There was no one signed up for open forum.

**DEPARTMENT UPDATES:**

Budget and Finance: Commissioner Smith recognized Doug Burgess for a report. Mr. Burgess shared where we are at the six-month mark. Total revenue is 68%; 53% expenses in general fund. Water fund is 53% revenue and 50% expenditures and sewer fund is 70% revenue, 45 expenditures. Mr. Burgess also brought up the new budget ordinance and Commissioner Smith shared the purpose of the ordinance is to budget funds received from various grants for the installation of the water/sewer infrastructure to serve Charlotte Pipe and other customers along the lines. The funds are to come from Golden Leaf 2.5 million dollars, Utility Development Fund 1 million dollars, EDA 2.5 million dollars, RIA 1 million dollars, JMAC 1.1

million dollars. Commission Smith made a motion to approve this budget ordinance. Second by Commissioner Efird. All voted and carried unanimously.

Cemetery and Streets: Commission Hathcock had no report

Police Department: Commissioner Huneycutt recognized Chief of Police, TJ Smith for a report. Chief Smith reported the department had 157 citations written, 198 calls, 12 folks arrested, 902 neighborhood and business checks. Chief Smith is very proud of the department.

Chief Smith also took the time to recognize Sergeant Jason Eschert for obtaining his Advanced Certificate. Sergeant Eschert has over 12 years in law enforcement, he has logged over 1,200 hours that's non-mandatory. This is an award everyone strives to obtain. Chief Smith and the commissioners congratulated Sergeant Eschert for his hard work.

Chief Smith reported that he and Officer Hall were working together to create a neighborhood watch program. This is an inexpensive program to start. Signs have been created by Officer Hall and Chief Smith to place in the developments. There will be a block captain that keeps in contact with Chief Smith. It lets the communities know that the police department is watching for criminals.

Lastly, Chief Smith shared some information with the commissioners regarding a K-9 program. He stated he had raised \$14,000 from businesses in town already. Most programs start by donations. The total cost for the program for two officers and two K-9s is \$41,200. The breakdown of costs is as follows:

\$25,000	Room & Board for two handlers; Two K-9s and Partial Training for K-9s.
\$10,000	Vehicle Equipment
\$5,000	Portable Kennels
\$1,200	Deployment and training equipment
\$800	Food and Heartworm Medicine (not included in the above amount)

Sergeant Jason Eschert and Sergeant David Daigle will be the handlers and will work split shift during the days. Sergeant Eschert added that most agencies have to have the donations to be able to start the program. With the amount of traffic stops, the K-9 is an added benefit to finding drugs. The K-9s are also there for safety – if someone (child, dementia patient) went missing – the K-9s can help with that.

Chief Smith requested permission from the board to start a separate fund that would house the donations towards starting the K-9 units. After some discussion with the board, Commissioner Huneycutt made a motion to allow a fund to be created specifically for the K-9 units. Commissioner Efird seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Parks and Recreation: Commissioner Smith called on Josh Almond, Director of Parks and Recreation for an update. Mr. Almond stated that spring soccer was opened but no monies are being exchanged at this time in case the season was unable to be held due to COVID. Mr. Almond also reported that the town did not receive the bicycle and pedestrian grant due to funding constraints but encouraged us to reapply.

Water and Sewer: Commissioner Efird reported nothing new at this time.

Advisory Board/Code Enforcement: Commissioner Efird asked Chief TJ Smith for an update. Chief Smith stated there had been three new housing requests in the past month. He also reported that Gus Vanegas, Phillip Austin, and Cletus Burns had stepped down from the Planning and Zoning Board. Chief Smith thanked them for their service. He proposed adding Charles "Chip" Osborne at 409 E Second St., Wesley Tucker at 1324 N Main St. and as an alternate, Lanny Hathcock. Commissioner Hathcock has agreed to sit in place until someone in our ETJ is interested. Commissioner Smith questioned how the new members are chosen. Chief Smith stated he asks around, but has had a hard time finding someone outside of town limits. Mr. Hathcock will serve until he is able to find someone outside town limits. Chief Smith requested these new members be approved for the planning and zoning board. Commissioner Efird made a motion and Commissioner Smith seconded. All voted and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Huneycutt made a motion to go into closed session, seconded by Commissioner Efird. All voted and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to go back into open session and seconded by Commissioner Huneycutt. Voted and carried unanimously.

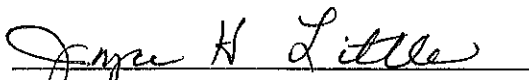
Commissioner Huneycutt made a motion to hold a public hearing on February 15 for this incentive from EDC. Commissioner Efird seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

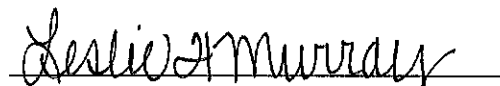
Discussion during the closed session was regarding Hatley-Burriss Road.

Town Administrator suggested we give Sergeant Daigle \$0.50 raise. Commissioner Huneycutt made a motion to approve this and Commissioner Hathcock seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Efird made motion to adjourn. Commissioner Smith seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

This the 1<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2021.

  
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Joyce H Little, Mayor

  
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Leslie H Murray, Assistant Town Clerk

