



**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
December 18, 2023
Regular Meeting
7:00 PM**

Mayor Huneycutt welcomed everyone to the regular meeting and asked the town clerk to call the roll. Commissioner Brett Barbee, Commissioner Joey Carpenter, Commissioner Lanny Hathcock, Mayor Chris Huneycutt, Commissioner Latoya Jackson and Commissioner Bud Smith were all present. Ms. Georgia Osborne-Harvey, Town Administrator, was also present along with Chief TJ Smith, and Mr. Josh Almond.

Mayor Huneycutt asked all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag. This was followed by a devotion from Commissioner Jackson. She spoke on the reason for Christmas and the joy of celebrating the birth of Jesus. We can truly be happy at Christmas regardless of what we are going through knowing that we are his children.

Mayor Huneycutt called for a motion to approve the agenda as printed. Commissioner Barbee made a motion and Commissioner Jackson seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Mayor Huneycutt called for a motion to approve the minutes from November 20, 2023 and November 27, 2023. Commissioner Hathcock made a motion to approve the minutes listed above. Commissioner Smith seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Mayor Huneycutt called for a motion to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$286,811.21. Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve the accounts payable in the amount listed above. Commissioner Barbee seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Khoa Gritson – Railroad

He's pleased that Charlotte Pipe is in Oakboro; however, it seems as if the railroad runs many times throughout the day. He realizes the railroad does what they want to. He would like to see the railroad avoid the times from 10pm until 5am while people are sleeping. He would like to see someone speak to Charlotte Pipe.

Open Forum

Peter Ascutto – Stanly County Commissioner

He likes to come to at least once a year to all town meetings. He mentioned that he spoke to Mr. Josh Almond and was glad to see the town participating in the parks and recreation grant.

David Heath

He would like to ask for the board to support his rezoning request that is coming later on the agenda.

Department Updates:

Budget and Finance

Mayor Huneycutt called on Commissioner Barbee for an update on budget and finance. Commissioner Barbee shared the following:

	Revenues	Expenses
General Fund	58%	40%
Water Fund	65%	31%
Sewer Fund	49%	40%

Cemetery and Streets

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Commissioner Carpenter for an update. Commissioner Carpenter referred to Ms. Harvey. Mr. Reggie Bowers was unable to be in attendance tonight.

Ms. Harvey shared that the department installed new stop signs, completed paving and pothole patching, installed speed bumps, installed signs at speed bumps and cleaned out ditches.

Mayor Huneycutt mentioned we needed to get a designee for the RRRPO. These meetings are held once a quarter. Mayor Huneycutt asked if Commissioner Hathcock would take this responsibility. Commissioner Hathcock agreed.

Police Department

The statistics are as follows:

Citations:	141
Warning Citations:	23
Incidents:	11
Arrests:	7

Chief Smith mentioned that December is what makes Oakboro Police Department special. There were several events. That included:

- Shop with a Cop
- Santa Paws with Santa and Joker
- Lieutenant Eschert and Santa – riding through town
- Lieutenant Kaus – Holiday Meal – delivered throughout the town and several came to Oakboro First Baptist Fellowship Hall to eat.
- K9 Joker's Facebook has raised an additional \$10,000 for Toys for Tots.

Chief Smith stated that he sent out Jzanese Weekes packet to the state and he should hear something back soon.

Chief Smith also shared that all officers had completed their firearms and in service

Chief Smith thanked the Methodist Church for the nonperishable food items that were delivered to those in need.

Commissioner Hathcock mentioned that Mr. Grover Shankle was in attendance and wanted to present an award to Chief Smith. Mr. Shankle is the president of Community to Cares. This is an organization that helps bring more pride to the community. He partnered up with Mr. Ralph Jackson in Oakboro and met

Chief Smith during this time. The number one goal was to support the elderly and single mothers and showing the young men how to be responsible.

He also wanted to thank the mayor and board who helped during the clean-up days.

Commissioner Hathcock also wanted to announce that Chief TJ Smith was selected as a hometown hero for being a Navy Veteran.

Parks and Recreation

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Ms. Jackson who turned it over to Mr. Josh Almond. Mr. Almond stated the grant Mr. Peter Ascuitto referred to is the Pickleball Court at Long Street. Mr. Jaiden Lee finished his Eagle Scout project there a few weeks ago when he installed benches for the court. Mr. Almond stated it was a nice addition.

Mr. Almond also stated he appreciated all of the work that his guys do. He wanted to recognize Rodney Hahn, Travis Little & Steven Thompson. He also wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Public Works

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Commissioner Smith. Mr. Bowers was absent so Commissioner Smith referred to Ms. Harvey.

- Sewer

The department worked on seven E-1 Pumps, worked and installed two new E-1 pump in Oaks at St. Martin, worked on and installed one new E-1 pump in Bo Run. They also cleaned out the pump station in Bo Run and 1500' of sewer line. The problems there were caused by the storm last week.

- Water

The department installed 3 new water meters, installed water taps, fixed a large water leak on Big Lick Road and also fixed the chlorine pump at the well.

Mayor Huneycutt also referred to Ms. Harvey regarding the proposed changes in the Engineering Standards. Ms. Harvey spoke on the proposed changes in the Engineering Standards. She would like to work with Chambers Engineering to get this changed.

Commissioner Hathcock made a motion to adopt the proposed changes to the Engineering Standards. Commissioner Carpenter seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Ms. Harvey also spoke on the proposed water and sewer fees. She emphasized that this is not the water/sewer fees for the homeowners. She would like approval to make this effective on January 1, 2024. A motion was made by Commissioner Barbee to adopt the fee changes. Commissioner Carpenter seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Advisory Board/Code Enforcement

Commissioner Hathcock informed the Board that the Planning and Zoning Board approved the final plat for the gas station at Big Lick. Commissioner Hathcock stated they did meet all requirements that were asked of them. Commissioner Barbee made a motion to approve the final plat at the Big Lick gas station. Commissioner Smith seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hathcock informed the board that Mr. David and Betsy Heath have requested a zoning change at their South Main Street property from Industrial to Light Industrial. Commissioner Barbee made a motion to set a public hearing at the January 16, 2024 meeting. Commissioner Carpenter seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Historic Committee

There are no updates this month.

Mayor and Commissioner Comments

Mayor Huneycutt read over the top winners for Readers Choice as many of them are in Oakboro.

Commissioner Jackson congratulated everyone who made the Readers Choice. She also congratulated TJ Smith for the award from Mr. Grover Shankle. She commented on how great Quality Child Care was as it had been one of the winners from the Stanly News & Press Readers Choice Awards. She also congratulated everyone who achieved this distinction of Readers Choice Awards. Thank you for everyone who works for the town. She also thanked everyone who came out tonight. She wished everyone a safe and happy holiday.

Commissioner Smith wished everyone a Merry Christmas. He thanked Chief TJ Smith for his work in the community and stated it was impressive what Mr. Grover Shankle shared. Commissioner Smith commented that Mayor Huneycutt has done a tremendous job in his first year as mayor. He is very thankful for his transparency. He appreciates what all the board members have done. He wishes everyone the best in the new year.

Commissioner Barbee stated it was good to see everyone here tonight. He shared that he had the pleasure today to seeing a hidden gem in our town, our regional museum. He thanked Mr. Brooks Barnhardt for sharing a lot of his knowledge. He mentioned that the folks at the museum does a great job and everyone should go by there and thank them. He did mention that the train does wake him up from time to time in response to Mr. Gritson's concerns. Commissioner Barbee also followed up with what Commissioner said and thanked Mayor Huneycutt for his hard work. He finished with wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and to remember that Jesus is the reason for the season.

Commissioner Carpenter hopes everyone has a Merry Christmas and encourages everyone to spend time with their families. He congratulated everyone in the paper for the Readers Choice Award and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Commissioner Hathcock thanked everyone for attending the meeting tonight. He also mentioned it was Ms. Harvey's birthday and asked everyone to give her a round of applause and sing Happy Birthday. He hoped everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mayor Huneycutt stated he appreciated each person being here tonight. He said that we are very blessed with great people in Oakboro. He shared that we have great employees in the town and that they go above and beyond what's required. He thanked Chief Smith for his service to our country and our town. Mayor Huneycutt wishes Ms. Harvey a happy birthday. He shared that it had been a great year and he thanked the commissioners for all of their hard work and dedication. He finished by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and encouraged everyone to spend time with their families as well as remembering that this season is all about Jesus.

Closed Session

Mayor Huneycutt asked for a motion to go into closed session for personnel and attorney client privilege (G.S. 143-318.11 (6) & G.S. 143-318.11(3)). Commissioner Jackson made a motion to go into closed session. Commissioner Hathcock seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Open Session

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to go back into open session. Commissioner Carpenter seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

During closed session the following took place:

The board approved back pay for Officer Jennifer Antonucci and Sergeant David Daigle. Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve the pay increase dating back to July, 2023. Commissioner Carpenter seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

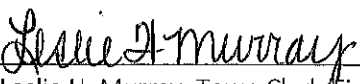
The board approved paying the Fire Department \$0.08/100 beginning in January 1, 2024. Commissioner Hathcock made a motion for to approve this \$0.02 raise for the Fire Department and Commissioner Smith seconded. Commissioner Carpenter voted no, everyone else voted yes; therefore the motion carried.

Adjourn

Commissioner Hathcock made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Barbee seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.



Christopher N Huneycutt, Mayor



Leslie H. Murray, Town Clerk/Finance Officer