



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

Mayor Huneycutt welcomed everyone 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. Chief TJ Smith, Mr. Reggie Bowers, Utility Supervisor, Mr. Josh Almond, Parks and Recreation Director, and Ms. Georgia Osborne-Harvey were also present.

Mayor Huneycutt asked everyone to stand for the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Following the pledge, Commissioner Smith led in a short devotion. Commissioner Smith spoke on "A Policeman's Prayer." He commended Sergeant Eschert for his fast thinking with the event on September 4, 2023. Commissioner Smith went on to say due to Sergeant Eschert's quick response saved lives. He then went on and read "A Policeman's Prayer." Commissioner thanked all emergency personnel.

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

Mayor Huneycutt called for a motion to approve the minutes from August 21, 2023 and August 29, 2023. A motion to approve these minutes was made by Commissioner Hathcock and a second by Commissioner Barbee. There was no discussion. Voted and carried unanimously.

Mayor Huneycutt entertained a motion to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$242,659.74. Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$242,659.74. Commissioner Carpenter seconded. There was no discussion. Voted and carried unanimously.

Ms. Ashley Coppedge – Ruby Ridge Subdivision Speed Bumps

Ms. Coppedge spoke on excessive speed through Ruby Ridge Subdivision. She mentioned there were 35 children under the age of 10. Ms. Coppedge questioned getting a speed hump instead of a bump and wondered if it was because of the cost that the town does bumps. Mayor Huneycutt confirmed. Mayor Huneycutt also referred to Fire Chief Rodney Eury about what is better for the fire department. He stated that speed humps are better for them. Ms. Coppedge didn't feel comfortable with going forward with the bump since she asked her neighbors to sign the petition for the hump. She asked if the HOA could possibly pay for the hump if that's what they would like. The board decided they would look at the policy and discuss the issue.

Mrs. Lisa P Marker – Girl Scouts

Girl Scout Troop 2160 presented a Flag Retirement Box to be located in the lobby at the Oakboro Police Department. They did a presentation and asked Mayor Huneycutt to place the first flag in the Flag Retirement Box. The troop invited the Mayor and Board of Commissioners to attend the Flag Burning Ceremony on Thursday, September 5, 2023.

Open Forum

Mr. David Beard, a 13-year-old resident of Ruby's Ridge. He reiterated the importance of the speed bumps in the subdivision. He said he sees people going through the neighborhood fast and that he and a friend were almost hit. The board thanked him for speaking.

Department Updates

Budget and Finance

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Commissioner Barbee. He gave an update on the budget. Currently, the revenues and expenditures for each fund are as follows:

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| • Water Fund | Revenues: 32% | Expenditures: 17% |
| • Sewer Fund | Revenues: 27% | Expenditures: 17% |
| • General Fund | Revenues: 9% | Expenditures: 23% |

Cemetery and Streets

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Commissioner Carpenter. Commissioner Carpenter referred to Mr. Reggie Bowers. The department has been cleaning out ditches and putting in new pipe. They are also getting ready to sweep the streets for the cruise in coming up.

Police Department

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Commissioner Hathcock who, in turn, referred to Chief Smith.

Chief Smith thanked Commissioner Smith for his words during the devotion. He talked a little about the situation and first wanted to recognize Sergeant Eschert for his exceptional work earlier this month at a domestic disturbance. Chief Smith shared the report for the last month:

- 22 incident reports
- 7 arrests
- 149 traffic stops (44 citations; 105 warnings)
- 401 business checks
- 513 residence checks
- 115 patrols

He stated that the guys were patrolling and they are in the neighborhoods at least twice at night.

Chief Smith shared that the fence is up at the police department and this was donated by a company in town.

He also informed everyone that the 20th Anniversary Cruise In was coming up September 22-23, 2023 and that the town will be congested with people and a heavy police presence.

Mayor Huneycutt asked Chief Smith to reach out to the Stanly News & Press to make sure they can be here Monday to do an article on Sergeant Eschert.

Parks and Recreation

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Commissioner Jackson. Commissioner Jackson recognized our Parks and Recreation Director, Mr. Josh Almond. Mr. Almond informed the commissioners and mayor about the DOT grant and that we are nearing the end of that. DOT will work on finishing that up and prepare a report.

Basketball registration started last week and soccer is ongoing right now.

Mr. Almond commended Commissioner Jackson regarding the event in the park at the end of August with the bands and food trucks.

Public Works

Mayor Huneycutt called on Commissioner Smith for the update on Public Works. Commissioner Smith referred to Mr. Bowers. In the water department, he stated the department had worked on old meters as well as installed new water meters. He shared that there have been several small leaks that have been repaired. He informed the board of the major 12" water leak two weeks ago. He spoke highly of his crew, Anthony Gasparini, Adam Harvell and Canyon Lowder and how hard they worked during that time to get that fixed. The crew came in about 10pm that night and worked until approximately 5am. He also stated that were right back at work at 7am to start the next day.

Regarding the sewer department, the guys had been working on E-1 pumps. Some of those have had to have repairs and some have just had to be restarted. Mr. Bowers told the board that he has had three of the pump stations that the department worked on and now all three are up and running fine.

Mr. Bowers asked the board if they would consider purchasing a new bush hog. The one he is looking at is \$3,208.93 and would be bought from Oakboro Tractor. Commissioner Barbee asked if Mr. Bowers could find out if Oakboro Tractor could give us a month or so to pay this. Mr. Bowers stated he would look into that.

Advisory Board/Code Enforcement

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Commissioner Hathcock. Commissioner Hathcock referred to Interim Zoning Officer, Chief Smith. Chief Smith stated he didn't have anything going on right now that wasn't administrative. He would bring a complete list to the next council meeting.

Historic Committee

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Commissioner Carpenter. Commissioner Carpenter referred to Chief Smith. Chief Smith shared a little about the property beside Hinson Tax. A donor came to Chief Smith wanting to put picnic tables there along with shading. The donor wants to dedicate this area to his dad. The only cost of this would be the liability insurance. We would have to get a lease agreement on the property since it's not owned by the town.

Chief Smith also commented on the Oakboro Cemetery Archway discussed in the past. He's asking for a total of \$4,800 which is about \$1,000 more than expected. If allowed, Chief Smith can go back to Owens Welding and give him permission to proceed. Commissioner Barbee made a motion to allow the money to be used on this. Commissioner Hathcock seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Fire Department

Chief Rodney Eury spoke to the board asking for the board to match the 2% of the increase the county provided to the fire department. He shared how the number of calls had increased. They would like to purchase a tanker which would cost around \$500,000. He shared this is the largest fire district and covers the most area. Currently, they have 32 members with 15 of them being active. They also staff two people Monday-Friday. One works 7am-3pm and the other 10am-6pm. Chief Eury stated he would like to get where they can do 24 hour coverage. When Charlotte Pipe came into the town, that pushed the fire department to look at upgrading some of the items they have and add new items needed. Lastly, Chief Eury shared that the fire department is rated by NCDOT (Department of Insurance) on a 1-10 scale. One being as good as you can get and 10 being like no fire department is in the town. Oakboro Fire Department was rated at a 5 which means that anyone in the area is getting the lowest premium for insurance.

Board Comments:

Commissioner Smith shared that he would not forget the Girl Scouts presentation and he would not forget Mr. David Beard's words. He appreciates the young people taking a stand in our area. He thanked Ms. Coppedge for speaking on the speed bumps. Commissioner Smith shared that a lot of good things are happening in Oakboro. He appreciated both of our Chiefs, Chief Eury and Chief Smith. Commissioner Smith also thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting.

Commissioner Hathcock thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting and encouraged everyone to come out to the 20th Anniversary Cruise In. He shared that the mayor will welcome everyone and there would be an auction for the Petty Foundation; the girl scouts would man the bounce houses and he wanted them to know how much that was appreciated. He also thanked Chief Eury and the fire department along with our police department.

Commissioner Barbee thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He stated it meant a lot to see smiling faces. He also shared how impressed he was with all of the young people. Commissioner Barbee also wanted to make sure everyone purchased their Cruise In shirt for the 20th Anniversary Cruise In.

Commissioner Jackson thanked everyone for being at the meeting tonight and for their support. She thanked the girl scouts and Mr. David Beard for speaking tonight. She thanked the staff and mentioned Mr. Josh Almond, Ms. Cindy Thompson and Mrs. Leslie Hatley-Murray for helping with the event at the park last month.

Commissioner Carpenter thanked the girl scouts and the staff for doing a great job. He also told Mr. David Beard that he did a great job speaking.

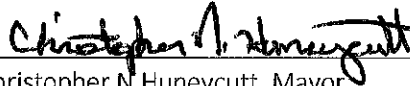
Mayor Huneycutt stated he was especially glad to see the Girl Scouts and Mr. Beard speaking. He thanked Commissioner Smith for "A Policeman's Prayer" that he shared earlier in the meeting. Mayor Huneycutt is thankful for the protection our police department provides. He also thanked the town employees with a special mention of Commissioner Jackson and Mr. Josh Almond for their work at the event last month in the park.

Mayor Huneycutt entertained a motion to go into closed session for personnel. Commissioner Jackson made a motion to go into closed session for confidential information (G.S. 143-318.11(1)) and Commissioner Barbee seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hathcock made a motion to go back into regular session. Commissioner Barbee seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hathcock made a motion to get a sign for a "No Towing Zone" for South Dorsett Street and add Mr. Kendale Huneycutt's number as a contracted towing service. Commissioner Jackson seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hathcock made a motion to continue the meeting until October 10, 2023 at 7pm. Commissioner Jackson seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.



Christopher N Huneycutt, Mayor



Leslie H. Murray, Town Clerk/Finance Officer