



**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
October 21, 2024
7:00 PM**

Mayor Huneycutt called the meeting to order. He asked Mrs. Leslie Murray, Town Clerk, to call the roll. Commissioner Brett Barbee, Commissioner Joey Carpenter, Commissioner Lanny Hathcock, Commissioner Latoya Jackson, Commissioner Bud Smith and Ms. Georgia Harvey, Town Administrator were present. Mr. Daniel Smith were also present.

Commissioner Barbee had the devotion for tonight's meeting. He shared that his thoughts about Western North Carolina and how we should be thankful for all we have. He shared from Matthew 14:14-21.

Approvals

Mayor Huneycutt entertained a motion to amend the agenda to remove Logan Marker with Girl Scouts as she is sick. He would like to replace this with Discussion on the Oakboro Police Department. Commissioner Barbee made a motion to amend the agenda. Commissioner Carpenter seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Mayor Huneycutt entertained a motion to approve the amended minutes of August 27, 2024. Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve the amended minutes of August 27, 2024 and Commissioner Carpenter seconded.

Mayor Huneycutt entertained a motion to approve the minutes from September 5, 2024, September 19, 2024 and September 23, 2024. Commissioner Barbee made a motion to approve the minutes of September 5, September 19 and September 23, 2024 and Commissioner Jackson seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Mayor Huneycutt entertained a motion to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$260,596.99. Commissioner Hathcock made a motion to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$260,596.99. Commissioner Barbee seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

George Crooker, YMCA in Western Stanly County

Mr. Crooker, director of the YMCA, spoke on two projects. There is currently a \$5 million dollar facelift that will be done on the existing YMCA in Albemarle which has not been renovated in 30 years. The second project is a plan to put a new YMCA in the Western part of Stanly County. It's been seven years in the making. The new YMCA will be located behind Wendy's in Locust. Mr. Crooker mentioned the smaller YMCA of about 30,000 sq ft. The building will have a chance to grow when the community grows. To begin with, it will be a \$17 million building. In the middle of next year, Mr. Crooker mentioned the fundraising would begin. The new YMCA plans to host a pool, fitness center and gym with the proposed construction to begin in 2028 which will depend on the money that will be raised. He thanked the board because they have had a program out here in Oakboro and mentioned the YMCA is more than a building.

Mr. Crooker introduced Kelly who was with him to share some words. She mentioned that next year will be the 75th anniversary of the Albemarle YMCA. She said they have to have community buy in.

Mr. Crooker introduced Mr. Charles Brown to speak. He reviewed the phases of the renovation of the Albemarle YMCA. He mentioned that there was a \$5 million goal to fundraise for Albemarle YMCA and any amount raised over this will go towards the Locust YMCA.

He seeks the board's advice, support in the community with the police department, fire department, schools, churches and organizations in the community. He stated they are not asking for any money from the board and the Locust YMCA will not seek tax increases in our area. Mr. Brown is looking for the support of the board. Perhaps a word on the street or passing a resolution endorsing the construction of the West Stanly YMCA would be ways they could be supported. He asked the board to ponder on these things and he asked Mayor Huneycutt to invite him back.

Daniel Smith – Pedestrian/Sidewalk Plan Update

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith mentioned that we have a guest speaker tonight, Ms. Lyuba Zuyeva, from the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan. He mentioned that Commissioner Jackson and Mr. Heath, that were present tonight, were on the steering committee. Mr. Smith mentioned that he would hope the board would adopt a resolution for this after the presentation. Ms. Zuyeva presented the information to the board.

Mr. Smith recognized Mr. David Heath as a steering committee member. Mr. Heath mentioned he was honored to serve on the steering committee. He pointed out community involvement during this project was a necessity.

Mr. Heath showed that based on the feedback from the steering committee, the priority changed a little. The draft top 5 priority projects were:

1. Downtown sidewalks
2. Main Street Biking and Pedestrian Improvements
3. Shared Use Path to District Park
4. 5-point Intersection on Main Street
5. Damon's Alley Improvements.

He pointed out the steering committee and the community input, the top 5 priority projects changed to:

1. Main Street Biking and Pedestrian Improvements
2. 5-point Intersection on Main Street
3. Shared Use Path to District Park
4. Shared Use Path along West Second Street/Railroad Crossing Improvements/Intersection Crossing Improvement
5. Sidewalks along Hamilton Rd and Claymon Street/Pedestrian Crossing at Claymon Street

He pointed out the importance of the steering committee's community involvement in tailoring what they thought were the top priorities.

He mentioned he really enjoyed serving on this committee and looks forward to the board approving the resolution.

Mr. Daniel Smith thanked Mr. David Heath. Mr. Smith read the resolution for the board. Commissioner Barbee made a motion to adopt the resolution. Commissioner Carpenter seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Discussion on Oakboro Police Department

Commissioner Bud Smith made a motion to terminate the long-term negotiation extend the short-term contract with the Stanly County Sheriff's Office and immediately hire a police chief. Commissioner Barbee seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Open Forum

Mayor Huneycutt opened the time of open forum and called on Mrs. Furr.

Mrs. Furr commended all of the board for making the decision they did about the police department and emphasized to the board to make sure things are done according to statute.

Mr. David Heath was then called on, but he spoke during the Pedestrian/Sidewalk Plan Update.

No one else signed up for open forum so this time was closed.

Administration

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Ms. Harvey for any administrative updates. Ms. Harvey reminded everyone that Ms. Beverly Parr resigned back in August and Ms. Harvey shared that we have hired Sarah Hall who will be starting at the end of October. Officer Payton James has notified the town that he is moving to Arkansas and he will be leaving Oakboro Police Department.

She shared information on the benefits that is in their packets and advised the board of some changes which would save the town money as well as increase some of the benefits. The town staff will now have the option for short term disability and also a flex card. She mentioned the broker we will be working with will offer day to day support.

She mentioned the board has a list of items in their packets for surplus items for disposal and/or repurpose.

Department Updates

Budget & Finance

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Commissioner Barbee. Mr. Barbee shared the following information:

	Revenues	Expenditures
General Fund	7%	22%
Water Fund	30%	13%
Sewer Fund	20%	17%

Commissioner Barbee made a motion to scale up the minimum pay to \$20/hour for our parks and recreation department and adjust the ones who have been here accordingly. Commissioner Carpenter seconded.

Cemetery & Streets

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Commissioner Carpenter. Mr. Carpenter shared the streets report from Mr. Reggie Bowers since he was unable to be at the meeting. The staff worked on storm debris cleanup, cleaned out ditches, added gravel to roads among many other things. There is a contractor working at Trotters Ridge Road to help with the ground water issue and Mr. Bowers ordered new street signs.

Parks and Recreation

Mayor Huneycutt called upon Commissioner Jackson. Commissioner Jackson referred to Mr. Daniel Smith. Mr. Smith started by thanking the Mr. George Crooker and his staff for coming out tonight and mentioned remembering 25 years ago his dad was serving as president of the Oakboro Youth Athletic Club and he remembers him saying we needed a YMCA in Western Stanly County. At that time, the Albemarle YMCA was one of the only fitness centers in this area. On a personal level, Mr. Crooker befriended his dad while helping with the Live Strong program that is done with cancer survivors. He feels strongly about the future expansion of Western Stanly County.

He mentioned the 2-day Cruise In this month on October 25-26, 2024 and wanted to remind everyone of this. He shared there will be a Showcase of Power both nights from 7-8:30pm.

He shared there was a good turnout at the fall festival the first Saturday in October and he appreciated everyone coming out for that. He is currently planning some Christmas events and hope to have final details soon and will share that on our social media.

Mayor Huneycutt commented it was very nice at the fall festival and it was great to see so many people there.

Public Works

Mayor Huneycutt called upon Commissioner Smith. Commissioner Smith shared the water and sewer report since Mr. Reggie Bowers was absent.

Water

- Replaced and installed new water meters
- Repaired water leaks
- Repaired water lines
- Flush fire hydrants
- Test sites for water lines are determined by DEQ

Sewer

- Repaired pump stations
- Cleaned and tested pump stations

- Tested generators
- Sewer taps
- Repaired E-1 pumps
- Test of force main at Streamside (passed)
- Test of sewer pump station at Streamside (in process)

Advisory Board/Code Enforcement

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Commissioner Hathcock who asked Ms. Harvey for an update. Ms. Harvey reported there have been several applications for fences, roofs, renovations, one new build in Streamside. She investigated complaints regarding noise, animals and safe living conditions.

Commissioner Hathcock shared that Streamside is a development in Red Cross town limits and that Oakboro is only furnishing water and sewer.

Historic Committee

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Commissioner Carpenter who advised there was no report.

Closed Session – G.S. 143-318.11 (1)(3)

Commissioner Barbee made a motion to go into closed session. Commissioner Smith seconded. Commissioner Smith made a suggestion for the board to move rooms and allow the citizens to stay where they are. Voted and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to return to open session. Commissioner Carpenter seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Open Session

Mayor Huneycutt referred to Attorney Albert Benshoff. Attorney Benshoff spoke on social media accounts

1. Separate your social media accounts
2. Label your social media accounts
3. The town should clearly authorize who can or can not speak for the town on social media.

His recommendation was for the board to adopt this updated social media policy and it be updated tonight. Commissioner Barbee made a motion to adopt this updated social media policy and Commissioner Carpenter seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Attorney Albert Benshoff brought up the pornography policy that has to be put into place by adoption by the board. Attorney Benshoff shared a potential pornography policy with the Board of Commissioners. He asked for a vote to put this into effect. Commissioner Hathcock made a motion to adopt the resolution regarding prohibiting pornography on town equipment or on town networks. Commissioner Barbee seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Mayor & Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Jackson thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting. She thanked Commissioner Barbee for going with her to Oakboro STEM Choice School and talked with the third graders.

Commissioner Smith thanked Mr. Crooker and his guests that presented the information to the board tonight on the YMCA in Western Stanly County. He thanked everyone for coming tonight.

Commissioner Carpenter thanked everyone in town who came to support the meeting.

Commissioner Hathcock thanked everyone for the comments and asked everyone if they had something to say to please say it.

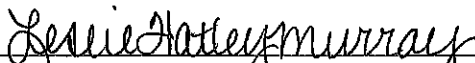
Commissioner Barbee piggybacked on what Commissioner Jackson said. He shared that the STEM school was doing some really high-level stuff. He thanked everyone for coming tonight.

Mayor Huneycutt thanked everyone for coming. He mentioned that it was interesting to see the children at the school last year when he got to go. He thanked the board members for their work tonight and felt the board made good decisions. He thanked all the town employees.

Adjourn

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

Christopher N Huneycutt, Mayor



Leslie Hatley-Murray, Town Clerk/Finance Officer