

RETREAT
MARCH 4, 2006
8:30 A.M.

The Aberdeen Board of Commissioners met Saturday, March 4, 2006 for their Annual Retreat. Members present were Mayor Elizabeth Mofield and Commissioners Donna Shannon, Walter Wright, Robbie Farrell, and Pat Ann McMurray. Commissioner Arthur Parker was absent due to another commitment. Also in attendance were Town Manager Bill Zell, Town Clerk Nancy Matthews, Planning Director Giles Hopkins, Deputy Planner Ben Warren, Finance Officer Beth Wentland, Purchasing Agent Sharon Simpson, Police Chief Mike Connor, Fire Chief Tommy Brock, Parks & Recreation Director Leigh Baggs and Public Works Director Rickie Monroe.

1. Parks & Recreation Department – Leigh Baggs

Parks & Recreation Director Leigh Baggs gave a power point presentation showing conditions of the parks, lake trail, and gave an update on several of the current activities. She then gave a presentation on current and completed projects and on making the park equipment safer as required by state requirements. She reviewed with the Board the repairs needed pertaining to the condition of the dam for the next fiscal year. She stated these repairs are mandated by state regulations.

Ms. Baggs then talked about the master plan for the lake facility. She stated, “If the Town does not receive the PARTF grant or other funds, how does the Board want to proceed.” She also asked about when to start a fund raising campaign.

Ms. Baggs stated the Parks & Recreation Department’s focus for the next fiscal year was for more special events, partnering, better and more greenways and trails, and making the parks safer with future visions included, securing the new building, more staffing, securing more funding and better leadership.

During the Board’s discussion session, Mayor Mofield asked the Board, “Without the grant, is the Board willing to still go forward with the building.” Commissioner’s McMurray and Shannon gave their commitment. Commissioner’s Farrell and Wright needed more information before making a commitment.

2. Planning Department – Giles Hopkins

Planning Director Giles Hopkins informed the Board that the Town would be participating in a Dress Rehearsal 2008 Census in Moore County which will begin in late summer. He stated, within the next five to six years, the Town will probably have an additional 1,000 residential homes. He stated the Town has no other zoned property available for what is known as affordable housing.

Mr. Hopkins stated the Town is working on an agreement with the Town of Pinebluff pertaining to who will have annexation jurisdiction on and along adjacent boundaries. He also stated there will be some growth up Highway 5. He also stated the staff will be working to get some of the Town limits straightened due to boundary lines being irregular.

Commissioner McMurray stated the need for creating a HCOD on US Highway 15/501 and N. C. Highway 22. She also stated that it would be good for the Planning Board and the Town Board to have several meetings pertaining to this and other areas of zoning. She also asked if the historic district could be expanded.

Manager Zell suggested setting a schedule for when the Town Board, Planning Board, and Historic Preservation Commission can meet together on these issues.

Commissioner McMurray requested Mr. Hopkins supply the Board with a monthly report and update on all development projects currently in progress and future development startup projects.

3. Public Works Department – Rickie Monroe

Public Works Director Rickie Monroe stated money was needed for water and sewer improvements for Chapin Road. He stated that both systems need to be replaced. He stated the old lines would be abandoned after the new lines are installed. He stated this was the most stressful area in the Town that needed replacing at this time.

Mr. Monroe informed the Board that sidewalks could not be constructed on Poplar Street. He stated DOT can't put in sidewalks

without curb and gutter and can't do curb and gutter without putting in proper drainage.

Discussion followed concerning constructing sidewalks along US#1 Highway and putting in walking/gravel-like trail from the Baptist Church to the Southern Pine's Town limits.

Mr. Monroe is to get some estimates on both of these items. Mayor Mofield will contact DOT regarding the 80/20 funding for proposed sidewalk construction on US#1 Highway.

4. Finance/Purchasing/Billings & Collections – Beth Wentland and Sharon Simpson

Finance Officer Beth Wentland distributed to the Board graphs pertaining to the revenue received for the past five years. She also had graphs showing the fund balance available for appropriations the past four years. She stated these figures were taken from the financial statements prepared by the Town auditors. She stated the Town has a \$2.3 million surplus in the Fund Balance before the 8% (required by the LGC) that has to remain in the Fund Balance and the Powell Bill Reserve.

Purchasing Agent Sharon Simpson spoke briefly stating the only item needed within the Water Department was the purchase of a new bursting machine for the utility bills.

5. Police

Police Chief Mike Connor gave a power point presentation indicating the needs for his department. He stated he had already upgraded some furniture, purchased full-body armor, upgraded phone systems and purchased new computers for officers and offices. He stated he has applied for a three-year \$86,000 grant for securing one (1) additional officer. He stated he has twenty-three (23) officers at this time.

Chief Connor stated the police workload is increasing. He stated he has applied for another grant for another safety officer. He stated the following needs: More space, new security locks, need to replace an existing thirteen (13) yr. old gas furnace, replace a thirteen (13) yr. old generator and replace worn-out office chairs. He stated he needed to add

security doors to the front entrance. He also stated that the building needed to be expanded, plus the staff has run out of parking space. He also stated the department needed one (1) more cruiser. Chief Connor also requested to add a full-time narcotics officer. Another critical item was the purchase of an Automated External Defibrillator. He stated, that with the Town continuing to grow and more paperwork being required as mandated by the state, it is stretching his department really thin.

There was some discussion pertaining to place an AED in each building and in every Town vehicle.

6. Fire

Fire Chief Tommy Brock also stated that due to requirements mandated by the state, that his department is also being stretched thin. He stated as the rate of calls have increased, it was getting harder to get volunteers due to private businesses who are reluctant to let employees off to answer a fire call and stricter requirements mandated by the state.

Chief Brock stated he needed four (4) new paid personnel. He stated this will allow for fill-in personnel. He stated due to new NFPA regulations on self-contained breathing apparatuses, he needs to purchase nine (9) new SCBA. He stated the need to free up more firemen to have more time for effective training and additional equipment. He stated the building is in need of repairs and they need more room. He stated that a new fire engine will need to be purchased in the near future as the existing fire engines are getting some age on them.

7. Wrap-up

Due to the length of the day, the consensus of the Board was to adjourn. The Board will take these items under advisement and consideration as the budget process begins.

Nancy M. Matthews, Town Clerk

Elizabeth B. Mofield, Mayor