

Minutes
Special Called Meeting
Aberdeen Town Board

January 25, 2010
Tuesday, 6:00 p.m.

Aberdeen Recreation Station
Aberdeen, North Carolina

The Aberdeen Town Board met Monday, January 25, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. for a Special Called Meeting. Members present were Mayor Elizabeth B. Mofield, Mayor Pro-tem Robbie Farrell and Commissioners Pat Ann McMurray, Jim Thomas, Alan Parker, and Walter Wright. Staff members in attendance were Town Manager Bill Zell, Parks & Recreation Director Leigh Baggs, and Town Clerk Regina Rosy. Approximately 13 members of the Malcolm Blue Historical Society were present for the meeting. Reporter for the Pilot Hannah Sharpe and Reporter for the Fayetteville Observer Hilary Kraus were also in attendance for the meeting. The purpose of the Special Called Meeting was to discuss long-range plans for the Malcolm Blue Farm.

Pam Dannelley, President of the Malcolm Blue Farm Historical Society, introduced herself. Mrs. Dannelley stated she has been with the Malcolm Blue Historical Society for 10 years and her most important goal is to preserve and protect the Malcolm Blue Farm. Mrs. Dannelley stated the three largest events that are held each year by Malcolm Blue Farm are the Bluegrass Festival, the Farmskills Festival, and the Open House around Christmas time.

Manager Zell stated he and Mrs. Dannelley had talked the previous week about the viability of the farm and the maintenance of the farm that was needed. Manager Zell stated the Town contributes \$2500 each year to Malcolm Blue Farm. Manager Zell stated this past year the Town contributed \$10,000 to the farm which included the grading.

Treasurer Donna Niemi provided everyone with the financial status of the Malcolm Blue Farm. Mayor Mofield questioned the treasurer's report. Treasurer Donna Niemi stated there is \$4400 in the bank and \$2400 in the operating account. Ms. Niemi stated the \$2400 pays for insurance, gas, and utility bills. Mayor Mofield asked if the \$2400 would be enough to pay for the projected bills. Ms. Niemi stated there would probably not be enough in the operating account to cover projected expenses. Ms. Niemi stated she would feel more comfortable with \$14,000 going into the new year. Ms. Niemi stated the Malcolm Blue Farm does have certificates of deposit to be used for a back up supply of money.

Mrs. Dannelley stated she hopes fundraisers will go better this year and hopefully things will turn in the favor of the farm. Mrs. Dannelley stated she plans to ask several different organizations for contributions this upcoming year. Mayor Mofield asked how much the current membership fees are for the Malcolm Blue Farm Historical Society. The fees are \$25 for an individual, \$45 for a family, and \$100 for a sponsor. Commissioner Wright asked who the list goes out to for seeking membership in the organization. Commissioner Wright stated he hadn't

received anything in 2-3 years soliciting membership for the Malcolm Blue Farm Historical Society.

Mrs. Dannelley stated the Malcolm Blue Farm Board needs to reboost enthusiasm in the farm, which means there needs to be more activity at the farm. Martha Swaringen stated Aberdeen citizens have never supported this farm. Ms. Swaringen stated most of the volunteers come from Pinehurst and Southern Pines.

Mayor Mofield passed down her check for \$25 for membership. Mrs. Dannelley stated there are approximately 80-100 members. Commissioner Wright stated he saw there were only 76 members. Ms. Swaringen stated people would come to Malcolm Blue Farm events if they knew about the events – she stated there has to be more publicity and advertisement. A homeowner, who lives near the Malcolm Blue Farm, stated people stop by the farm all the time and want to go in the museum but the doors are usually locked because Malcolm Blue can't afford a staff person to work full-time. Mayor Mofield thought perhaps the farm could put articles in the Bon Accord and on the TV Station 99 about upcoming events. Mayor Mofield also suggested perhaps the farm could be opened up for tours by appointment. Mayor Mofield asked if the building at Malcolm Blue is ever available for private rentals. Mrs. Dannelley stated a wedding was held there once and other groups have asked to rent the facility. Mrs. Dannelley stated currently there are some safety issues on the property, and they do not feel comfortable renting the property. Mrs. Dannelley stated among other safety concerns, the netting on the ground, the grist mill, and the water tower are safety concerns.

Ms. Swaringen stated she would like to go out to the elementary school and have junior historians talk to the 4th and 5th graders about coming out on Saturdays to the farm – they could be responsible for keeping the farm cleaned up. Ms. Swaringen requested the Malcolm Blue Board make a motion to reactivate the junior historians. A motion was made by Martha Swaringen, seconded by Chuck Boyer, to reactivate the junior historians. Motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wright, seconded by Commissioner Parker, to adjourn the meeting. Motion unanimously carried.

Regina M. Rosy, Town Clerk

Minutes were completed in
Draft form on January 26, 2010

Elizabeth B. Mofield, Mayor

Minutes were adopted
February 8, 2010