

**Minutes
Special Called Meeting
Aberdeen Board of Commissioners**

May 4, 2009
Monday, 6:30 p.m.

Aberdeen Town Hall
Aberdeen, North Carolina

The Aberdeen Board of Commissioners met Monday, May 4, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. for a Special Called Meeting for the Annexation Public Hearing. Members present were Mayor Betsy Mofield and Commissioners Robbie Farrell, Pat Ann McMurray, Donna Shannon, and Jim Thomas. Commissioner Walter Wright was not present for the meeting. Others in attendance were Town Manager Bill Zell, Planning Director Kathy Liles, Public Works Director Rickie Monroe and Town Clerk Regina Rosy. Laura Eddy with the Pilot, John McHenry with Benchmark and Town Attorney T.C. Morphis were also in attendance along with nine members of the public.

Mayor Mofield opened the Public Hearing for Annexation. John McHenry stated the goals are to explain services of the plan, for the Board to hear comments on the annexation, and use those comments for consideration of the annexation. Mr. McHenry stated a decision will be made on Monday, May 18th at 6:30 p.m. and if approved for annexation the areas will be annexed effective June 30, 2009.

Mr. McHenry described the plans for the Chapel Green area, showed a boundary map for the areas to be annexed in the Chapel Green area and the status of municipal services (police, fire, water, sewer, streets maintenance, and solid waste). He stated for the police service there are 32 personnel, 30 sworn officers, response time of less than 5 minutes, and a dispatch within 50 seconds of call. For the fire service he stated service is already provided by the Town of Aberdeen with 16 full-time, 2 part-time and 34 volunteer firefighters. For the streets service he stated there is a resurfacing program, drainage maintenance, street sweeping, debris removal, and public streets are maintained by the Town instead of NCDOT. For the solid waste service he stated residents receive a 65 gallon roll out container, curbside pick up of white goods/bulky items, pick up twice per week, and access to a recycling center. Mr. McHenry stated the water service is already located throughout town and most of the ETJ area and under most circumstances there is no requirement to tap on, and the area is currently served by major trunk lines. The sewer service is already located throughout town and part of ETJ and under most circumstances there is no requirement to tap on. Mr. McHenry stated the area will require major interceptor extensions which will begin construction within one year of the effective date of annexation.

Mr. McHenry stated the Chapel Green comparison of costs and revenues generated from the annexation will be approximately \$44,903 for revenues and approximately \$56,159 for expenses. There would be a one-time capital cost of \$242,000 to expand sewer service to the area. Mr. McHenry stated there would be a population increase of 1.8% from the Chapel Green annexation.

Next, Mr. McHenry described the plans for the Thrushwood area, showed a boundary map for the areas to be annexed in the Thrushwood area and the status of municipal services (police,

fire, water, sewer, streets maintenance, and solid waste). He stated for the police service there are 32 personnel, 30 sworn officers, response time of less than 5 minutes, and a dispatch within 50 seconds of call. For the fire service he stated service is already provided by the Town of Aberdeen with 16 full time, 2 part time and 34 volunteer firefighters. For the streets service he stated there is a resurfacing program, drainage maintenance, street sweeping, debris removal, and public streets are maintained by the Town instead of NCDOT. For the solid waste service he stated residents receive a 65 gallon roll out container, curbside pick up of white goods/bulky items, pick up twice per week, and access to a recycling center. Mr. McHenry stated the water service is already located throughout town and most of the ETJ area and under most circumstances there is no requirement to tap on. He stated the area is currently served by major trunk lines. The sewer service is already located throughout town and part of ETJ and under most circumstances there is no requirement to tap on.

Mr. McHenry stated the Thrushwood comparison of costs and revenues will be approximately \$85,842 for revenues and approximately \$97,275 for expenses. There would be a one-time capital cost of \$180,500 to expand sewer service to the area. Mr. McHenry stated there would be a population increase of 1.1% from the Thrushwood annexation. He also stated there would be a land increase of 2.60% by annexing the Thrushwood area.

Katherine Giquinto, 703 McQueen Road, wanted to know how much her property taxes would be after this annexation. Mayor Mofield stated it would be \$0.43 per \$100 of valuation. Mayor Mofield stated the County's rate is \$0.455 per \$100 of valuation. She also asked if it is required to hook up to sewer. Mayor Mofield stated she would not be required to hook on to sewer but it would be available to her if she ever wanted to. She wanted to know the price to tap on to sewer – Public Works Director Rickie Monroe stated it costs about \$800.

Harold Harkess, 610 Longleaf Road, wanted to know if the fire tax disappears, and the town tax added after annexing into the Town of Aberdeen. He stated right now he pays \$73 every 3 months for trash pickup and now he will have town trash pickup which will be cheaper. He stated he has already been introduced to NC tax laws.

Algene Johnson, 103 Pleasant St., had a question about cemeteries. She wanted to know what impact this annexation would have on the cemetery on her property. Town Attorney T.C. Morphis and Planning Director Liles stated the statute does not appear to conflict with cemeteries in Town limits as long as it is a church cemetery. Mr. McHenry stated it would continue to operate as normal once annexed. Town Attorney T.C. Morphis said her ability to operate the cemetery would remain the same as now.

Annabelle Reeve, 128 Chapel Greens Place, wanted to know would the Town just send her a big whopping bill for taxes after annexation. Manager Zell stated citizens pay for July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010 in advance. Tax bill dates are in the first part of July with notices going out late July to August. Mayor Mofield stated a decision will be made regarding the annexation on May 18, 2009. Mayor Mofield asked when Public Works Director Rickie Monroe would have trash containers available for annexed areas.

Wayne Buies, 110 Chapel Greens Place, stated his taxes are escrowed with his mortgage payment. He wanted to know if the mortgage company will receive the increased tax bill. Mayor Mofield stated Moore County will send the tax bill to his mortgage company. Mr. Buies stated he drives tractor trailers for a living. He stated he parks his truck in the yard – he wanted to know if that would be a problem even though he parks his trailer down by the warehouse. Planning Director Liles stated it is not a problem, as long as it is not parked in the right of way or in the road and the trailer is not parked at the house.

Katherine Giquinto wanted to know if leaf and limb pickup is available once annexed. Manager Zell stated the Town starts on one side of Town and works its way around to the other side and then starts over again. Ms. Giquinto stated she has a trailer in her backyard to transport yard debris to the dump in – she wanted to know if she could keep that in her yard. Manager Zell stated absolutely – there is no problem with that.

Thelma Howard, NC Hwy 211 East, wanted to know how much she is going to have to pay by being annexed. Mayor Mofield stated her water fee will be cut in half once she is an in-town resident. Mayor Mofield stated Ms. Howard's property tax would be based on property value at \$0.43 per \$100 of valuation and the fire tax would disappear. Ms. Howard also wanted to know the fees for trash pickup. Public Works Director Rickie Monroe stated it is \$8.00 per month for trash pickup. Manager Zell stated the trash pickup bill is separate from the tax bill, it comes on the water bill. Manager Zell recognized Ms. Howard for being a part of the 1st CAP program. Mayor Mofield recognized Manager Zell for doing an annual CAP program for those who may be interested in participating more actively in the Town of Aberdeen. Ms. Howard asked if Moore County taxes would change at all from this annexation – Manager Zell stated Moore County sets their own tax rate so Aberdeen has no control of Moore County tax.

Wayne Buies stated he wanted to know what the Town could do for an animal control issue and rental properties looking overgrown and looking nasty. Planning Director Liles stated overgrown grass and junked vehicles would be handled by the Town's Code Enforcement Officer. Mayor Mofield stated there is a leash law and it is enforced as necessary. Mr. Buies stated feral cats are everywhere behind his house and his neighbor has pit bulls that run loose. Planning Director Liles stated the Town can contact Animal Control with Moore County to handle the situation.

Harold Harkess questioned if the Town had received grant money for the sewer interceptor for the Thrushwood area. Manager Zell stated the Town has applied for federal stimulus money but he is not going to hold his breath. Grant money has been received for the sewer interceptor for Chapel Greens.

Thelma Howard asked if zoning would change if annexation takes place. Planning Director Liles stated no current zoning will change.

Algene Johnson asked if the cemetery on her property could be excluded from annexation to avoid regulations. Planning Director Liles stated an advantage to being in the Town would be police protection to help with vandalism. Manager Zell stated zoning would not change whether the cemetery is in town or not.

Terry Marquez stated another advantage for the cemetery would be limbs and debris could be picked up by the Town and would save time from hauling. Mayor Mofield stated Terry Marquez was a previous Commissioner who served 4 years with the Town. Mayor Mofield also introduced Pam Zell to the public as Manager Zell's wife.

Katherine Giquinto wanted to know about the 77 houses near her area. Planning Director Liles stated the application has been withdrawn. Planning Director Liles stated there will be lots of opportunities to serve on various boards within the Town if anyone is interested.

Manager Zell stated he thinks all those in attendance would be very pleased with the service the Town employees provide to citizens. Commissioner Farrell stated if these annexations are approved, then new in-town residents could vote on who serves on the Town Board or even run for the Board.

With no further items for discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Farrell, to close the public hearing. Motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Farrell, to adjourn the Special Called Meeting. Motion unanimously carried.

Regina M. Rosy, Town Clerk

Minutes were completed in
Draft form on May 5, 2009

Elizabeth B. Mofield, Mayor

Minutes were approved
on May 11, 2009