

TOWN OF WEBSTER

Minutes for November 1, 2017 Board Meeting



The Board of Commissioners for the Town of Webster met for their regular monthly meeting at the Webster Town Hall, 1411 Webster Road. Mayor Tracy Rodes called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tracy Rodes, Mayor; Commissioners Billi Jo Bryson, Allan Grant, Leigh Anne Young, and Rick Fulton.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Danell Moses.

OTHERS PRESENT: Joyce Pope, Town Clerk; Louise Stephens, Webster property owner; Haley Smith, The Sylva Herald.

GENERAL MEETING

Swearing in of Rick Fulton as Webster Town Commissioner

Rick Fulton was sworn in as a Webster Town Commissioner, taking the position vacated by retired commissioner Larry Phillips. Commissioner Fulton was welcomed to the board.

Approval of Agenda

The board reviewed the agenda.

MOTION: Commissioner Grant moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Young seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes from October 4, 2017 meeting

The Board reviewed the minutes from the October 4 meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Grant made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Young seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes from Closed Session October 4, 2017

The board reviewed the minutes from the October 4 closed session.

MOTION: Commissioner Young motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Grant seconded. Motion carried.

Informal Comments by Public

Louise Stephens expressed appreciation for the cleanup done at the intersection of Webster Road and Buchanan Loop. Ms. Stephens mentioned the rhododendrons across the road need trimming as well.

CONSENT AGENDA

Financial Report

Finance Clerk Joyce Pope presented the financial report.

Deposits	\$ 1,886.28
Expenses	\$ 2,473.09
Checking account balance Entegra	\$ 71,171.52
Entegra CD 12	\$ 25,137.13
Entegra CD 48	37,572.09
Ending Town fund balance	\$150,263.68

MOTION: Commissioner Grant moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Fulton seconded. Motion carried.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Rodes presented the following updates:

- Requested commissioners complete the SW Commission's region-wide broadband assessment survey that was forwarded via email to each of them.
- The Mayor met with Justin Woodard, the town landscaper, to go over a clean up project at the Veteran's Monument. The decorative, white pebbles, and mulch have become mixed, and are spilling onto the sidewalk in front of the site. After discussing removing what is there and replacing it with large pavers, the Mayor decided not to do an expensive project at this time, but to just remove some of the pebbles and to add mulch over the whole area to tidy it up. Woodard will complete this work before November 1st, and do a leaf clean up of sidewalks before Halloween. Rodes said the board should also consider additional brush clean up along the side of Webster road in the area between the softball field and North River Road.
- The outdoor wreath in honor of Veterans' Day has been ordered from Ray's Florist and Joyce Pope will pick it up.
- Halloween event went well, and we had excellent law enforcement coverage. This year, one officer was present at the big curve to slow, and direct vehicular traffic. Also, four different neighbors came (without being asked) to volunteer to hand out candy. Two of them were invited to set up a station in the Town parking lot to participate, which worked well. We probably have room to invite 4-5 residents to set up stations there with us for future Halloween events.
- The auditor requested clarification on whether last year's sidewalk repair should be treated as an expense or as a capital improvement. If the repairs increase the total useful life of the asset, it would be considered a capital improvement and a depreciation schedule would be created for that asset, rather than being considered simply an expense. Commissioner Fulton suggested it would probably be an expense. Mayor Rodes said she is awaiting a recommendation from the auditor and will go with her recommendation.
- There was a dog bite incident on Buchanan Loop. The Mayor has requested further information from the resident reporting the incident.
- A Sky-Fi cell tower is to be added in the near future on Jackson County's Parks and Recreation's property near the softball field. It should provide service to residents whose property is within sight of the tower. Haley commented that it will look more like a box, rather than a tower.
- Rodes shared that Jim Allman, a longtime Webster resident, had passed away on October 30th. A memorial service is to be held at Appalachian Funeral Services at 2pm on Friday, November 3rd. In lieu of flowers, his family is asking for donations to Lovedale Church's cemetery fund in memory of Jim. Rodes will be out of town, but Commissioners Grant and Bryson plan to attend.
- The Mayor has priced some shelving options, but would welcome any donation of one or two bookcases or library carts for storage of the large binders that hold Webster's public records in the office of Town Hall. The wish list includes one for the office, and a smaller one to hold the Commissioners' and Planning Board members' binders in the conference room. Commissioner Fulton said he would check the WCU warehouse to see what is available for sale.
- There is a large box of old paper records in the Town Hall office. Mayor Rodes advised that the documents need to be reviewed and sorted, and invited board participation.

Council Members' Reports - none

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1) **WCU Student Project Ideas.** WCU students could possibly assist with several projects. Project ideas were: work on Town's website, planning a pocket park, and developing resident questionnaires. Mayor Rodes put before the board a student project consisting of the creation of a questionnaire on future land use plans that could be presented to residents for input at our We Love Webster Event. The board set the We Love Webster event for Wednesday, March 14, 2018. The board will discuss this event in more detail at the next board meeting. The board will also discuss student project ideas in more detail at the next board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) **Potential projects for Jackson County Grant.** In order to apply for the \$5,000 Jackson County Grant, the Town would need to have a specific project with details, timelines and financial estimates. In addition, Jackson County prefers a grant-matching arrangement. Applications are accepted in November with funds being awarded in January. Commissioner Young said that the pavilion would be a good candidate for this grant, but there are too many contingencies in obtaining use of that property. Young brought up for discussion the small slice of land owned by the Town near JC Recreation's softball field. A pocket park could potentially be situated there with a trail and art space in a nature theme. Use of that space would not interfere with potential future plans for the ballpark area. Mayor Rodes said that Webster does not have ownership of that land being discussed. Most project opportunities discussed require ownership of the land. The board had previously discussed the addition of a drinking water fountain to be located near the Veterans' Monument or in front of Town Hall. This type of project would be the easiest to get estimates for, and would be used by many members of the County, not just Webster residents. Commissioner Young will research some options for these project ideas.
- 2) **Petition against Broadband Preemption.** The N.C. League of Municipalities requested that officials sign a petition urging the FCC to more thoroughly consider the perspective of local governments in considering rulemaking that could preempt local authority in regards to broadband providers. The potential regulations seem to be aimed at preventing local authorities from owning their own broadband and negotiating their own broadband contracts. The Mayor signed the online petition as requested by the NCLM.
- 3) **Minutes and Document Storage.** Mayor Rodes showed the board several shelving options with prices for town documents and reference materials. Further discussion will take place about purchasing document shelving storage after Commissioner Fulton checks on the items available from WCU.

The Mayor mentioned she will be traveling for the next week, so any Town issues will need to be directed to the Vice-Mayor. If the Vice-Mayor is not available, Commissioner Young may be contacted.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Grant moved to adjourn. Commissioner Young seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Reminders - Next Meeting is Wednesday, December 6, 2017 at 5:15 p.m.

Tracy Rodes, Webster Mayor

Joyce Pope, Webster Town Clerk