



TOWN OF WEBSTER
May 6, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes

The Webster Board of Commissioners met remotely on May 6, 2020 via Zoom for a regularly scheduled board meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Members/Staff Present: Mayor Tracy Rodes; Vice-Mayor Leigh Anne Young; Commissioners Allan Grant, Danell Moses, and Allen Davis; and Town Clerk Debbie Coffey; Attorney Will Morgan.

Members Absent: Commissioner Kelly Donaldson

Public Present/Public Comment: No requests were received from the public for access to the remote meeting and no public comments were received via phone or email.

GENERAL MEETING

Call to Order: General Meeting

Call to Order/Ethics Statement: Mayor Tracy Rodes called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m. and read the Ethics Statement. No board member expressed any conflict of interest.

Approval of Agenda:

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

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the April 1, 2020 Meeting were emailed prior to the meeting for review.

MOTION: Commissioner Young moved to approve the Minutes. Commissioner Davis seconded. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Financial Report:

March Financial statements were provided prior to the meeting. April transactions currently include income of \$1,746.23 and expenses of \$3,277.49. Current Account Balances as of today are:

\$ 46,795.69 - Checking
\$ 45,770.88 - Elite Plus Money Market
\$ 38,703.91 - 48 Month CD

MOTION: Commissioner Moses moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Young seconded. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mayor's Report:

- The Animal Control Ordinance is posted on the website for review and a Public Hearing will be held next month at 5:05 p.m.



- The 2020-2021 Budget Proposal is posted on the website for review and a Public Hearing will be held next month at 5:10 p.m.
- The UNC School of Government released information today on guidelines for holding public hearings which we will review and follow at the June 6 meeting. Public comment must be accepted for 24 hours after the close of a virtual public hearing. We will need to reconvene to approve the Draft Budget and Animal Ordinance after reviewing the comments from the extended 24 hour public comment period.
- Deadlines for compliance for NCGS 160D have been extended until August 1, 2021.
- Phase One opening for North Carolina will begin this Friday, May 8, with gatherings still limited to 10 people unless they are held outside. Face covers are recommended for use while in public. Phase Two to begin on March May 22 as long as a spike in cases is not realized during the initial opening. Emergency relief funding from the state will be available for counties, but is currently not available for municipalities. Lobbying efforts have begun to allow for municipalities to receive funding.
- NCDOT has fallen under the required cash floor and is out of money. All unfunded projects are on hold at this time, and new contracts cannot be approved until new legislation can be passed. The DMV has extended vehicle registration and driver licenses renewals set to expire between March 1 and August 31.
- Additional complaints have been received about speeding on North River Road. Mayor Rodes has had additional contact with the Jackson County Sheriff's Office about the problem.
- Updates will be needed to the virtual meetings policy and resolution to allow for virtual meetings to take place under circumstances other than declared states-of-emergency.

Council Members' and Clerk's Reports:

The clerk provided an update on the Entegra Bank buyout by Select Banking and Trust. Select Banking and Trust has provided new checks and deposit slips for all town accounts. Remaining expired check and deposit slips with the Entegra account information will be destroyed according to state disposition guidelines. The clerk recommends using Jon Welch of Workplace Solutions since he has a non-disclosure agreement with the town. Mr. Welch can provide a letter of disposition for audit purposes. It was the consensus of the board to allow Workplace Solutions to do this as long as the cost was under \$40.00.

NEW BUSINESS

Draft 2020-2021 Budget Proposal: The draft budget proposal has been adjusted to reflect an anticipated decrease of 25% reduction in sales and use tax collection. This is in line with what most area municipalities are anticipating due to the economic downturn caused by the pandemic. This budget is based on an increase in the ad valorem tax rate to .15 cents per \$100 of valuation. This is a .10 cents increase over the current .05 rate. Commissioner Young is working on the accompanying letter for the budget proposal.



The budget is posted on the website for review and the public can request hard copies from the clerk.

***MOTION:** Commissioner Moses moved to approve the draft budget proposal. Commissioner Grant seconded. Motion carried.*

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. County Grant Update:** The proposal from Catamount Electric has been signed for a total of \$1,686.00 and does include lights. Once the utility sighting is finished the trenching can begin.
- 2. Review NC GS 160D:** The deadline for compliance has been extended for eight months, August 1, 2021, which allows more time for the Planning Board and the Town's attorneys to review the Zoning Ordinance and update the language to be compliant with the state requirements.

ADJOURNMENT

***MOTION:** Commissioner Grant moved to adjourn. Commissioner Davis seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.*

Next Meeting:

Public Hearing for Animal Control Ordinance: Wed. June 3, 2020 at 5:05 p.m.

Public Hearing for the Webster Budget Proposal: Wed. June 3, 2020 at 5:10 p.m.

Regularly Scheduled Board of Commissioners Meeting: Wed. June 3, 2020 at 5:15 p.m.

Tracy Rodes, Mayor

Debbie Coffey, Town Clerk