

**TOWN OF SEAGROVE
MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 3, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Edmonds. Commissioners in attendance were: Pam Allen, Ruby Mullin, Barbara Luther, and Jason Auman. Jodi Sapper was absent.

A. Approval of Minutes and Treasurer's Report

The minutes from the March 3th Town Meeting were presented for review. After further review, Commissioner Mullin made a motion to accept the minutes with a second made by Commissioner Allen. The motion passed unanimously.

The Treasurer's Report for February was presented for review. After further review, a motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Luther with a second made by Commissioner Auman. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Police Report

The police report was presented by Chief Maness. He detailed the number of miles driven (1232), hours worked during February were 226, with 4 hours in court. There were 18 field interviews, 16 warrants served, 1 warrant drawn, 22 traffic citations, 4 written warnings, 43 verbal warnings, 5 Pedestrian/Motorist assists, 4 officer assist, 1 traffic accident, and 5 alarm calls. There were 13 miscellaneous calls, 2 incident reports, 38 miscellaneous reports, and 143 business checks. Chief Maness reported that Ed found a man at the park stealing timber from the Boy Scout camp area at the park. The Sheriff's department was called and he was arrested. On Friday February 13th, a white male was attacked with a bat in front of the fire department. The Sheriff's department responded to this call. A citation was issued at 139 Park Street for allowing a dog to run at large. Also there was an animal call at Fresh Cuts and three dog owners were issued citations. The Randolph County Animal Control handled these issues. On February 5th a 4 year old overdosed at 158 Boone Street, she was airlifted but is expected to be okay.

C. Committee Reports:

Commissioner Mullin had nothing to report.

Commission Auman reported that when the weather dries up the trees will be cut down.

Clerk Morse had nothing to report.

D. Old Business

No old business was presented.

E. New Business

Mayor Edmonds then introduced Bonnie Renfro and Kevin Franklin from the Randolph County Economic Development who presented that Annual Report for Randolph County, a copy of which was given to each council member. Mrs. Refro also passed out a packet of power point handouts that were shared at the last Strategic Infrastructure Planning Forum. Representatives from the Department of Commerce, USDA Rural Development and Deener's Water Infrastructure Fund made a presentation about the kinds of funding available for Water/Sewer and other types of infrastructure and for some of the other programs that they have available.

There was lots of good news in 2014 for Randolph County and the Town of Seagrove. The unemployment rate was at 5% at the end of the year and is currently sitting at 4.8%. They have developed new marketing initiatives which include two new videos on their website. One is a Quality of Life video which features pottery. The second video is about Education and Workforce Development which features pre-school through community college.

853 new jobs were announced for 2014. The capital investment is at \$80,140,000, and 14 companies. The job number announcement is up 59%, while the capital investment is up 42%. 2014 was an outstanding year.

Over a \$1,221,692 in grants were also obtained last year to help renovate or repair vacant industrial buildings for new end users who promised to create jobs.

One of the new businesses to open in Seagrove is Pet Pro Resources located in the former Luck's Plant. They are producing an animal feed product from NC grown sweet potatoes. They have currently created 16 jobs so far and have promised 38. Many employees were former Lucks Plant employees.

The other business expansion is H & H Furniture who was awarded a grant to expand their business and create new jobs.

Kevin Franklin then gave an overview of existing business throughout the county. They were able to visit 158 businesses throughout the county. There is a total of 17,117 jobs in the county which is an increase of 713 jobs over 2013. As for Seagrove, H&H is the top employer for the Town and will be increasing their job force with the renovation of their building due to the grant that they won.

Another business that they visited last year was Carolina Bronze Sculpture. They have received an on-the-job training grant which will be helping in the growth of that business.

David Fernandez addressed the council with an idea to reuse one of the buildings he owns for a Coffee Shop Restaurant. He has developed a concept plan for the Old Bank building. Mr. Fernandez attended the last Water Board meeting to get information about extending infrastructure to do this project. The Water Board is excited about extending infrastructure for Seagrove. The current businesses are interested in helping the town fund the extension of the water and sewer lines. Mr. Fernandez is asking the board to look at allocating funds, along with private funds, to expand the infrastructure further into heart of Seagrove. He stated that the Water Board is willing to do their part to help this project go forward. The cost to run an 8" line across Hwy 705 to Jeremy McNeill's property is approximately \$46,000. Mrs. Renfro stated that there may be grants available to help with this project as well.

Jeremy McNeill stated that he has found out that the cost to run the sewer line to his property and add on to the grocery store is approximately \$101,000. He is also looking at purchasing an additional two acres and he is talking with other businesses to help defray the cost for the expansion.

Cathy Baden announced that the Seagrove Heritage Committee will be holding an event at the Seagrove Public Library on Saturday, March 7th from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. featuring pictures and artifacts about the Town. There will be several displays as well. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

At this time a motion was made by Commissioner Auman for the board to go into Executive Session, to consult with the Town Attorney to protect Attorney Client Privilege. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Allen. The motion carried unanimously. The board went into executive session at 8:20 pm.

At 9:00 a motion was made to return to open session by Commissioner Mullin with a second made by Mayor Pro-Tem Luther. The motion carried unanimously.

Commission Mullin asked about a check received from North Carolina Museum of Traditional Pottery that is supposed to be for the balance of Vendor Fees due for 2014. The Town Clerk does not show where they had paid the Vendor Fees prior to the Festival. He included a copy of the list of Vendors for the 2013 event, but we do not have the list of vendors for the 2014 Festival. It was decided that the Town will not accept this check until all records are turned in.

There being no other business to address, Mayor Pro-Tem Luther made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

TOWN OF SEAGROVE

ATTEST: Shawn Morse
Shawn Morse, Town Clerk

Roy Edmonds
Roy Edmonds, Mayor