

Minutes
of the
Spring Hope Board of Commissioners Meeting
December 8, 2008
7:00 pm

Members present: Mayor Buddy Gwaltney, Commissioners Marion Clark, Commissioners Stanley Hawley, and Bill Newkirk. Commissioners Clyde Best and Lee Bissett were absent.

Also present: John Holpe, Town Manager; Betsy Boykin, Town Clerk; Mark Edwards, Town Attorney; Ken Murchison, Spring Hope Enterprise; Amelia Harper, Nashville Graphic.

Mayor Gwaltney called the meeting to order and Commissioner Newkirk gave the invocation.

Commissioner Clark made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 10, 2008. Commissioner Hawley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Donna and Megan Bailey were present regarding a proposed project to resurface the two tennis courts at the Community Park. Megan wants to raise money as a school project to have the courts resurfaced; and she is asking the Board of Commissioners to allow her to do so. Megan had gotten a proposal from Weaver's Asphalt and Maintenance Company, Inc. for \$ 5,000.00. This price included crack filling, seal, coating and striping the tennis courts only. Gerrelene Walker, CPA stated that we need to have more than one proposal. Commissioner Hawley made a motion supporting this project but obtain other prices. Commissioner Newkirk seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Gerrelene Walker, CPA, discussed the audit report for fiscal year 07-08. She stated that the town was in good shape, but not great, financial shape. She stated that the fund balance had decreased since last year, mainly due to the two major projects the town has undertaken, the new town hall and the overhaul of the wastewater treatment plant. She cautioned to be very conservative about what is spent and for us to watch our pennies.

Commissioner Hawley made a motion to go into a Public Hearing regarding applying for a USDA-Rural Development grant and loan for improvements to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The total cost of the project is approximately \$970,000. The USDA grant & loan will be for half of this amount. Kevin Varnell, Town Engineer stated that the loan and grant will be used to completely rehabilitate the treatment plant and will need the increased sewer revenues to help pay for repairs. John Holpe, Town Manager stated that the town needed to raise the sewer rate by at least 15 cents per 1,000 gallons to qualify for the grant.

He also stated that he was proposing that we go up 50 cents per 1,000 gallons on both the water and sewer a month. There were no public comments. Commissioner Hawley made a motion to go out of the Public Hearing and back to the Regular Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Clark and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Hawley made a motion that the town apply for a USDA grant and loan in the amount of \$485,000. Commissioner Newkirk seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Clark made a motion to increase the water rates to 50 cents per 1,000 gallons and sewer rates to 50 cents per 1,000 per gallon effective January 1, 2009. Commissioner Hawley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Newkirk made a motion to accept \$2,000 from the Spring Hope Chamber of Commerce to the Town to purchase equipment for the Police Department. Commissioner Hawley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

John Holpe, Town Manager stated that he had contacted references concerning Bob Segal's, CPA, proposal and agreement pertaining to Expense Reduction and Revenue Enhancement Services. He has been told from those municipalities that they had gotten money back from his services. He stated that he had signed the agreement and sent it back to him.

John Holpe, Town Manager stated that Bob Swofford with Southside Pharmacy had requested from the planning board permission to sell outdoor furniture within the existing Pharmacy building in the area previously occupied by the Home Health Care supplies. Some of these items will be display outside of the building. The planning board was in agreement with his plans as long as the lot was maintained, remained attractive and a reasonable amount of items were placed on this lot.

Tim Denton, police chief gave an update on the Police Department. He wanted to thank the Spring Hope Chamber of Commerce for the donation for the equipment for the department. He stated that he got a call from Officer Santana in New York concerning the gun that was stolen from the residence of Ricky Tucker. The cost of shipping the gun back to the town would be \$ 55.51. He stated that the new police car had the equipment installed on it.

Commissioner Newkirk requested a list of names and addresses where all the breaking and entering was taking place every month. Commissioner Clark thanked the town for the meal that we had for Christmas. Commissioner Newkirk stated that he wanted to commend the people for making the town cleaner than he has ever seen it.

Commissioner Hawley requested that the Spaulding Auditorium would not be for rent the day after a singing event. The Board of Commissioners was in agreement to continue renting it the day after the event; but to have someone contracted to clean it instead of the auditorium committee having to clean it.

There being no further business, Commissioner Hawley made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Newkirk and it passed unanimously.