

Minutes
Of the
Spring Hope Board of Commissioners Meeting
January 14, 2008
7:00 pm

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

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

Mayor Gwaltney called the meeting to order and the invocation was given by Commissioner Clark.

Commissioner Clark made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 10, 2007. Commissioner Hawley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Kevin Varnell with Stocks Engineering went over the upgrades regarding the Wastewater Treatment Plant. John Holpe, Town Manager stated that the town was having problems at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. He stated that we have until June to submit intent to apply for a grant and a July deadline to apply for the \$500,000 grant to upgrade the plant. The USDA has a matching program where we could get a \$350,000 grant to use as our match and the \$150,000 local loan. Commissioner Best made a motion to authorize Kevin Varnell with Stocks Engineering to prepare the engineering report and to apply for a grant to upgrade our Wastewater Treatment Plant. Commissioner Hawley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Chief Tim Denton gave an end of the year report for the Police Department.

Commissioner Hawley made a motion to go into a closed session to discuss entering into a legal contract with Division of Water Quality. Commissioner Best seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

After some discussion, Commissioner Best made a motion to end the closed session and go back to the regular session. Commissioner Hawley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The town manager presented and discussed the proposed renewal contract for legal services between the town and Fields and Cooper. Commissioner Best made a motion to approve the contract for legal services from January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008. Commissioner Hawley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

A budget adjustment for the New Town Hall was tabled until the project is finished before we make an adjustment.

Commissioner Best made a motion to approve a budget amendment to move funds from the General Fund to the Powell Bill Fund with General Fund to be paid back from October 2008 Powell Bill allocation. Commissioner Hawley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

There was a discussion of the New Town Hall Dedication Ceremony. After some discussion; it was decided to come back in the February meeting to decide on the date and time.

John Holpe, Town Manager stated that the Safe Routes to Schools Planning Grant application has been submitted. Also, The Clean Water Management Grant contract for sewer rehab is being drafted.

John Holpe, Town Manager stated that he will be attending a Department of Transportation meeting February 12th at Rocky Mount concerning the draft review of their Master Improvement Plan. Commissioner Best made a motion to draft a Resolution to support South Pine Street, Webb's Mill Road to Big Woods Road, and outer loop around American Rockwool. Commissioner Hawley seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Hawley made a motion to authorize the town attorney to draft a renewal contract for John Holpe, Town Manager for approval at the February meeting. Commissioner Best seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

John Holpe, Town Manager stated that he had talked to a representative from the Wildlife Department about the buzzard situation at the water tank on West Branch Street.

He stated that someone was coming to look at the situation.

Commissioner Clark asked the town manager if the board was going to have a retreat this year concerning the budget. The town manager stated that he thought that we would have one in April.

Commissioner Newkirk stated that a bulletin board was back up at the post office. He stated when you go in the post office, if there is something that is not suitable to be up there you may remove it. Mayor Gwaltney stated that he had a complaint that someone was throwing out cigarette butts on the shoulder at the corner of Hopkins and McLean Street while waiting for school to turn out. The town manager stated that he would go out there and check on it and hand out letters to the parents that were waiting to pick up students at the school.

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