

**TOWN OF VASS
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
October 14, 2019**

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Callahan at 6:05 p.m. Commissioners in attendance were Blackwell, Kosem, Mosley, Callahan, and Kellis. Kathy Liles was also present.

A. Approval of Agenda

Mayor Callahan asked for a motion to approve the agenda and consent agenda with the addition of item R. Commissioner Mosley made a motion to approve. All were in favor.

B. Consent Agenda

Items approved by above motion were:

1. Minutes of August 12, 2019 Regular Board Meeting
2. Minutes of August 12, 2019 Closed Session
3. Minutes of August 21, 2019 Special Closed Meeting
4. Minutes of September 23, 2019 Special Closed Meeting
5. Minutes of September 30, 2019 Special Closed Meeting
6. Financial Reports for August and September 2019

C. Police Report

Chief Beck requested a closed session to discuss his report.

D. Public Comments

Ms. Wallace asked the board to consider bringing back town newsletter and Mayor's comments. She requested the board use microphones or speak louder during the meetings and stated she was concerned about males walking in the town all hours of the day and night. She said she does not feel safe.

Timothy Blakeley stated he was not sure of point of issue. He said serving as Chief of Police was an honor and he respected the decision of the town to go in a different direction. He has lost a part of himself by not working in Vass. He loves the town, the people and enjoyed the relationships he had. He did not intentionally offend anyone and made a public apology. Mr. Blakeley asked to have his dismissal changed to a demotion and respectfully asked the board to consider his request. He would gladly do whatever Chief Beck asked of him. In March, 2020 he will be 59 years old and not many people would be willing to hire him. The last four days he slept in his car doing security work. He said his future was in the hands of the Board of Commissioners. He has not cashed his final paychecks. He has been away from his wife and it is a nightmare. He assured the board he would show his gratitude and be grateful to serve. He said he feels like a failure and asked the Board to consider his as a police officer.

James Moore apologized for offending anyone on the board online. He stated there is no place for gaming in Vass. Gaming is an all cash business. The machines in Vass now are all cash businesses. They are illegal and not following procedures. Any of these businesses that have been opened have been robbed. He said there is no fee high enough for the town to charge that will be worth the loss of

life or anything else. The games are predominantly played by older people on Social Security or disability and the money generated is not being spent on anything other than the gaming.

Old Business:

E. Camellia Crossing Final Plat - Wes Caddell presented the final plat for phase II. Commissioner Callahan helped explain the plat and recused himself from voting. Commissioner Kellis made a motion to approve the plat as submitted. All were in favor.

Mr. Caddell asked the board if he could further subdivide the lot where the pool is located. The said the open space would transfer to the POA. He feels it would be more beneficial to have the pool in a segregated area and advantageous for the POA. Commissioner Blackwell made a motion to allow Mr. Caddell to further subdivide the lot. All were in favor

New Business:

F. COLA for Timothy Brewer. Mr. Brewer was inadvertently omitted from receiving a COLA increase effective July 1, 2019. On August 12th in closed session the Board of Commissioners discussed giving Mr. Brewer a 2% COLA retroactive to July 1, 2019. Commissioner Kellis made a motion to give Mr. Brewer a 2% COLA retroactive to July 1, 2019. All were in favor.

6:35 pm Commissioner Blackwell made a motion to go into the Public Hearing to hear the rezoning request from VTG Canine Sports Medicine.

After a short break Mayor Callahan called the second half of the regular Board of Commissioners meeting to order at 6:55 pm.

G. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 18-I-3039 – Mayor Callahan asked for a motion adopting CDBG-I Grant Project Ordinance appropriating \$495,000 for housing rehabilitation (sewer connections), appropriation of \$55,000 for administration costs and approval of CDBG Signatory form and Certification Resolution authorizing persons to act as signatories for CDBG-I funds requisitions for the Water System Improvements project for the Town of Vass. Commissioner Callahan made the motion. All were in favor.

H. Mabel Walden told the Board Tiffany Meany Co-Troop Leader of Girl Scout Troop 435 requested permission to build a Little Library to be placed on town property. Since this request was previously made, Commissioner Kellis made a motion to allow. All were in favor.

I. Commissioner Blackwell made a motion to continue the review the estimate from DiMaio Construction LLC to construct a wall in the Police Department. All were in favor.

J. The Board reviewed proposed revisions / increases to the Town of Vass Fee Schedule (Exhibit A). Commissioner Kellis made a motion to approve. All were in favor.

K. Commissioner Blackwell presented proposals (Exhibit B) to clear debris and grading at Sandy Ramey Keith Park and Memorial Garden. Commissioner Callahan made a motion to approve the quote from Danny Carlyle. All were in favor.

L. Commissioner Blackwell talked about showing the Grinch movie on November 30th in the town hall or possibly at Vass Lakeview.

M. Chief Beck spoke about holding police department interviews to replace officer Flynn's position. Commissioner Callahan made a motion to hold interviews. All were in favor.

N. Commissioner Blackwell proposed the town purchasing Christmas trees to be sold to local businesses and placed down Seaboard Street and possibly the town hall. He suggested holding a tree decorating contest and mentioned that he had been approached about the town doing more at Christmas. He said he could gather more information about cost. The entire board was in favor of him his proposal and him gathering additional information.

O. Commissioner Blackwell proposal the creation of a special events committee and asked if the committee should be by appointment or voluntary. All were in favor of an events committee. Mayor Callahan said a committee would be good and can be by appointment then volunteers could be designated. The board agreed a minimum of five people should be on the board. Commissioner Kellis stated residents need a place to voice their ideas. Rhonda Kosem volunteered to be on the committee.

Discussion Topics:

P. Commissioner Blackwell was approached with the idea of the town placing a gazebo in the triangular shaped lot between Seaboard, Short and Bank Streets. Discussion was held on whether a gazebo would look good in this location or the park. He agreed to do further research.

Q. Proposed upcoming events:

Mabel Walden reminded the board the dates for the Christmas Parade – December 21st / Rain date December 22nd.

Mabel Walden mention Jean Skipper has an acquaintance from Cameron that would like to see Vass and Cameron events marketed together. The board asked to have them present their idea at the next meeting.

Commissioner Blackwell asked the board to consider a Nerf Gun War to be held by Sandhills Knockerball. The affair would be held as a charity event with proceeds split between the town and the charity (Richie's Heart). Other options were discussed on how to hold the event i.e.; charging a flat fee and giving Sandhills Knockerball a percentage.

Commissioner Blackwell would like to hold a 5K. Ideas for dates were discussed. He reviewed an email he received from a sponsor explaining costs and outlining how sponsors could potential cover the entire cost.

R. Commissioner Kellis reminded everyone the Blue Vass Festival would be held on November 10th from 1 – 7 in the Vass Lakeview Gym. Half of the proceeds raised would go to area veterans with the other half donated to the town park.

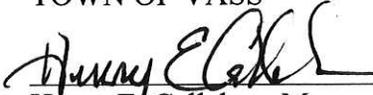
Commissioner Kosem made a motion to go into Closed Session at 7:50 pm pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) personnel matters. All were in favor.

The regular meeting resumed at 8:35 p.m.

Adjournment

Mayor Callahan asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Callahan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

TOWN OF VASS


Henry E. Callahan, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Mabel A. Walden, Town Clerk