

**TOWN OF VASS
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
February 12, 2018**

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Callahan at 6:04 p.m. Commissioners in attendance were: Kellis, Kosem and Mosley. Mayor Callahan arrived at 6:06 p.m. Commissioner Blackwell was not present. Also, in attendance was Kathy Liles, Zoning & Planning Consultant.

A. Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Callahan made a motion to approve agenda and consent agenda. All were in favor.

B. Consent Agenda

Items approved by above motion were:

1. Minutes of January 8, 2018 Regular Board Meeting
2. Financial Report for January 31, 2018
3. Budget Amendment
4. Police Report – Chief Blakeley (Chief Blakeley placed his monthly report at each councilmember’s seat for review)

C. Public Comments

There were no public comments

D. Wes Caddell: Camellia Crossing sidewalks and community center
Clearing of trees and brush behind Union Place on Maple Lawn

- Clearing of trees and brush behind Union Place on Maple Lawn: Maple Lawn was conveyed to the town by plat. Mr. Caddell’s attorney has prepared the deed. The town will have to accept the conveyance. With regards to clearing of the trees and brush, Wes Caddell stated they could clean up the Sweet Gums. Commissioner Mosely stated the whole area needed to be cleared. The area is overgrown and affecting the fences homeowners have put up in their backyards. Mr. Caddell asked if the town wanted the area mowed down or completely cleaned, or to have a selection of trees left. Commissioner Mosely said the whole area needs to be cleaned and is an eyesore. He said Commissioner Blackwell was getting trees donated, and that mulch and seasonal flowers could be planted in the area. Wes Caddell, said he could use a machine with a cutter head. The machine throws trash that might cause trash to get in the backyards. Michael Miller, in his capacity as a citizen in the neighborhood stated he did not have a problem as long as his fence was not damaged. Wes Caddell asked if the town still wanted the area as open space. Mayor Callahan said that the town did want the space. Angela Vacek asked if he would be cutting when children will be home. Wes Caddell said it would only take an hour or two. Mike Miller said the best time to cut would be between noon and 3:00. Commissioner Mosley said he would help notify residents ahead of time.

- Camellia Crossing sidewalks and community center: Mr. Caddell asked if the area designated for the community center could be relocated to Phase II. The area would be re-platted with three lots on one side and two on the other side. Kathy Liles said this is a timing issue, and asked Wes Caddell if he would be okay with giving a time certain date to make sure it happens in Phase II by that date. Wes Caddell said they are building the community center; they have already begun the engineering phase and expect to begin in the few months. Commissioner Callahan asked if the community center would be further off the road in Phase II as opposed to Phase I. Mr. Caddell said it would be.
- Commissioner Mosely asked if the three houses on Cameron Avenue were part of the Camellia Crossing project. Mr. Caddell responded that he would like to reopen the discussion regarding the development agreement that was agreed to in November for some type of participation from the town. The improvements that have been made are for the greater good of the town. He understands the lift station is sized for others to use. Water improvements to increase fire flow were not something that was anticipated. The Cameron Avenue project will probably be connected before Camellia Crossing. Commissioner Callahan does not understand why this issue has come up again. His understanding was fire flow issues were resolved when Union Place was developed. He would like to know from Randy Gould if the town has sufficient fire flow, and if there will continue to be questions every time a new development comes to town.
- Mayor Callahan and Commissioner Callahan were under the impression from the County that the town had sufficient fire flow when Crain's Creek was developed. Commissioner Callahan said he was told by the county once the interconnection valve was made at the school fire flow would not be a problem. Would like to know from the county (Randy Gould) if the citizens currently have enough fire flow.
- Kathy Liles talked about a recent request from Moore County Public Utilities to meet with Vass over procedural issues regarding when water and sewer will be used. She requested they include the Fire Marshals in the meeting. The town will need to make sure we've adopted any codes we are trying to enforce. She stressed the need to make sure Vass is not caught in a situation where the town requires one thing, and the county requires something else; or they want us to require things that we don't have the authority to require. The meeting should take place within the next couple of weeks.

Sidewalks: Mr. Caddell said a path on the single side of the road was initially proposed. Sidewalks will not go anywhere. There are no other neighborhood sidewalks in town. Based on this rationale, he is asking not to have sidewalks in Camellia Crossing. Kathy Liles said subdivision regulations require sidewalks. If sidewalks are placed everywhere they would have to be maintained. In the past the Board felt sidewalks were not critical to have. In this latest project, the biggest issue is moving people around and connecting the Phases. Mr. Caddell said they could add walking trails or some type of gravel roadway to establish connectivity between the two phases. He has built 450 or so lots in Moore County; and none of them have sidewalks.

- Mayor Callahan asked about the upkeep. Kathy Liles said upkeep is a big issue, and there are places where a town will want sidewalks. We have to consider where the sidewalks are taking people and what they are being used for. Short cul-de-sac roads with sidewalks on one side are a waste of money. When and where the town wants to have sidewalks is a discussion that needs to be held in the future and would require updating the subdivision regulations. In this case, there are other options for moving people around.

- Commissioner Callahan stated the focus should be on getting sidewalks from the community or developments to the downtown area. Commissioner Kellis spoke about the town adding a walking trail down Seaboard Street heading south.
- Commissioner Kellis asked if the community center would include a basketball area. Wes Caddell stated that would be something that could be added. Commissioner Mosley asked if the omission of sidewalks would affect the sales price of the houses. Wes Caddell stated it should not be a problem.
- Kathy Liles suggested revisiting the drawing with the lot changes, Mr. Caddell's ideas for the community center and the placement of where sidewalks would or would not go. Commissioner Kosem stated he did not have a problem with no sidewalks in the cul-de-sac.
- Discussion was held on the location of the walking trails and connection between Phase I and Phase II. Wes Caddell stated a basketball area could be added if that has become an issue for the town.
- Commissioner Mosely talked about establishment of community rules in the development, and the issues that have arisen in Union Place with regards to basketball goals and fencing. Wes Caddell asked if the covenants and restrictions had not taken care of the issues in that community. Commissioner Kosem asked if Union Place was supposed to have a Homeowners Association. Wes Caddell, stated they could have one, but they don't have to have one. Generally, in a lot of places that are municipally controlled with open space, there is no requirement to have a POA. The Meadows at Farm Life Community in the county had shared ownership of open space, which necessitated the function of a POA, they own streets, pay for street lights, street maintenance, and the common area. Since the town of Vass does all those items, we didn't have to have a POA at Union Place. POA's can be oppressing, which is why they shy away from them. A mechanism is in place to create one if the homeowners want one. They do not like to force it on the homeowners. Camellia Crossing will have a POA because Vass is not on the pool and does not do that type of stuff. The homeowners will pay \$450 per year.
- Chief Timothy Blakeley stated he has looked at the Deed Restrictions for Bynum Place. He would like to revisit them with the Board and homeowners at some point in time. He would like to discuss things that might be beneficial to them, and have the board adopt an ordinance that could be enforced. By working with Kathy Liles and the homeowners he feels something could be worked out without having neighbors going against each other,
- Wes Caddell stated Covenants and Restrictions have a mechanism built in that a majority of property owners can change them if they recognize a deficiency. They can add an addendum to help control unforeseen issues like basketball goals.

Mayor Callahan asked for a motion to approve relocation of the clubhouse after the new map has been reviewed by Kathy Liles, Mabel Walden will have permission to approve the map.

Commissioner Kosem made a motion to approve. All were in favor.

Old Business:

E. Department of Transportation – Transportation Alternative Program Projects

The board of commissioners agreed the NCDOT - TAP Project will not apply to the Town of Vass at this time, and the matter was closed to further discussion.

New Business:

F. Proposal from Mosca Design to replace 10 town banners was reviewed. Commissioner Kosem stated he and Andy Layton rode through town and determined 10 banners are in need of replacing at this time. Mayor Callahan asked for a motion to purchase new banners. Commissioner Callahan made the motion, all were in favor. Mayor Callahan asked the town clerk to find out if Mosca Design sold a wind slip device to hold banners in place during heavy winds. If a device is made, the town clerk was authorized to add the purchase to the order. Commissioner Kosem asked to have new town signs added to the upcoming fiscal budget review.

G. Budget Amendment - Amendment 11 – Police Safety Vest Grant

Budget Amendment 11 was for the approval for the receipt of federal grant funds received December 7, 2017 for the purchase of safety vests through the North Carolina League of Municipalities.

Commissioner Mosley made a motion to approve Amendment 11. All were in favor.

H. Ballfield rental requests:

Tyrone Ross requested to use the town ballfield for softball practice under the same terms and conditions as in 2017. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights between 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., and on Saturday's from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Tron Ross was present, and stated they would clean and maintain the field. Commissioner Kellis made a motion to allow the use of the ballfield. All were in favor.

I. Set Date for Upcoming Fiscal Year Budget Discussion:

Mayor Callahan would like to add a discussion on how other towns have initiated a barter system as a means to improve downtown districts. He would like to approach the county about signing over the old water plant to the town which could potentially be used for a viable business.

The board agreed to meet March 10, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. to discuss 2018/2019 proposed budget.

J. Alma Street Subdivision Water and Sewer: Addressed in line item D

K. Bathroom Quotes:

Commissioner Kellis asked for an updated on quotes for the bathroom remodel project in the park. Mabel Walden stated she would contact contractors for quotes. Commissioner Callahan asked if the bathrooms were locked. Commissioner Kellis is hoping something

could be put in place to make the bathrooms easier to maintain. With the camera system installed he would like to see some type of locking mechanism put in place, walls that could be hosed down, new mirrors, lighting, stalls etc. Leah Baggs is helping with the PARTF Grant process. The town needs to show they are making improvements. Commissioner Kellis asked Chief Blakeley if the camera system has been a big asset to the police department, he responded that it has been.

L. 24 Hour Police Coverage

- Commissioner Kellis stated at the last town board meeting a statement was made that the extra officer was for code enforcement. His understanding was an extra officer was hired to ensure the town had 24-hour coverage. Mayor Callahan said the officer was for code enforcement and 24-hour coverage.
- Commissioner Kellis stated about three Friday's ago. he heard a loud vehicle. He drove out to the rescue squad to have a listen. He could hear the sound out by Union Church Road. He then drove out there and saw a blue Volkswagen Rabbit type of vehicle with a big muffler making a racket coming into town. He went over to Cypress Church Road and could smell clutch and tire. He turned around and met the car again as it was heading back out. He saw two Sheriff's Deputies at the Dollar General. He asked them if they heard the sound and gave them a description of the car. They asked which direction the car went in and he told them. He asked the Deputies who was on duty for Vass and their response was "you are kidding". Commissioner Kellis asked them a few questions because he has had businesses approach him. The response was Vass does not have 24-hour police coverage and the town is covered by the Sheriff's Department at night. Mayor Callahan asked what time this occurred; Commissioner Kellis stated it was a little after 10:00. Angela Vacek said she heard it too, and the time was 10:15.
- Commissioner Kellis said the reason he was asking the question is that his understanding is that the Sheriff's Department covers from about 10:00 p.m. until 7:00 a.m. He asked Chief Blakeley if that was correct. Chief Blakeley stated that was not correct. Commissioner Kellis stated that was what he was led to believe, and that there are only two Sheriff's Deputies on this end of the county to cover the northeastern corner down to West End; and back to the southeast corner of the county.
- Mayor Callahan asked Chief Blakeley to comment on this matter. Chief Blakeley said he was not there, did not know what the deputies were doing or what they were involved about. He said he had communications run statistics and asked Officer Miller to confirm them. About two tenths of one percent the sheriff's department actually answers a call in Vass. He just sent an email to communications telling them if they get an afterhours at two - three o'clock in the morning, a shoplifter or that kind of thing and the sheriff's department responds (the sheriff's department is in with 911 communications), if there is no suspect on scene or anything like that to tell them the next officer on duty will take the report from them. He had the same agreement ten to twelve years ago with Lane Carter. He has an excellent working relationship with Neil Godfrey and Frank Rodriguez, Chief Deputy. He and Frank spoke the other day, and Frank said anything Vass needs they will help with. He does not know why the deputy would say anything like that because it was absolutely inaccurate. He does not know how many years the deputy has with the sheriff's office, maybe he was talking about something in the past. What the deputy said was completely false. The way the shifts currently run, evening officers generally work 12-12. They have run the numbers and found they get more calls in the afternoon than in the evening than any other time. The evening officers work 12 -

12 and opposite of each other. The early officer comes in to work throughout the day until around 4:00 p.m. There will be times if something comes up, if a child gets sick; for example, Chief Blakeley came in early on this date, and left around 1:00 to get some rest, and was back by 3:00 to get ready for this meeting. Meanwhile he had spent the previous 48 hours home sick. He stated there is no lacking by any officer in the department, stepping up to work whatever hours are required.

- Commissioner Kellis said he was not trying to make an issue and wanted to give Chief Blakeley an opportunity to respond to the responses he had received.
- Chief Blakeley stated he would have appreciated it if the matter had been brought to him right then and there. He would have liked to have been contacted that night, so he could have talked to the deputies. He stated he can be reached 24/7. He would like to know who the deputies were and find out exactly what the issue was. He said he can assure the board that he and Frank Rodriguez could have sat down with the deputies and asked them what the deal is with Vass. He said he is not getting this response from anywhere else.
- Mayor Callahan said he has caught attitude from some of the deputies and does not know what the deal is and that it seems as though they relish on the idea of throwing off on any other agency, not just Vass. He agrees that if the matter had been addressed by Frank it would have been handled differently.
- The Chief reiterated if he had been called that night, he could have called communications and asked what deputies were working in the area, gone to Frank Rodriguez and found out what was going on. Officer Miller said that even though he gets off at midnight, he is still on call until the next day. For example, over the weekend, the sheriff's department responded to a call at Circle K for a food allergy, he arrived from his house four minutes after the deputy and finished the call and went back home. It's not like they don't have to respond to anything, because they are still on call, he may show up a few minutes after they do since he lives in town.
- Mayor Callahan said his biggest question is why the sheriff's deputy didn't handle the matter about the car that Commissioner Kellis described. Chief Blakeley said he knows who the car belongs to. He spoke to the owner the other day and was told he knew he had to put a new clutch in his car. Angela Vacek said she had three calls to 911 on that night, and a recording on her cell phone where they said, "Vass isn't working tonight, are you kidding". She said she has their names and the calls recorded three different times.
- Commissioner Mosely said what was said is not an issue. We have our chief here and the board has access to the chief. We should not have to worry about what 911 or Moore County is saying, because we can just call our chief. We have 100% confidence in him.
- Mayor Callahan said the deputies were not doing their job by letting someone get on the highway and not doing anything about it. We have a great department, and they can't be every where at every time.
- Commissioner Callahan asked how many auxiliary officers we have. Chief Blakeley said the number is fluctuating but there are 10 on the books. He said that is another issue and a can of worm's liability wise. He is not sure what is going to happen with that. Commissioner Callahan said he thought some of the auxiliary officers handled nights.

He thought that was how chief Beck handled them, but he wasn't sure. Chief Blakely said that was not what was going on.

- Chief Blakeley asked Angela Vacek if she could supply him with the recordings, times and dates. She said she could. They agreed to meet at the police department on February 13th at 9:00 a.m.
- Mayor Callahan said this situation upsets him and takes offense to it. Commissioner Kellis said it upset him as well and that's why he wanted to get to the bottom of the matter.
- Chief Blakeley said he sent communications a list of different types of calls they were called out on, and someone is talking about something, and they had no idea what they were talking about.

Commissioner Kellis asked if an officer responded to the bank robbery quickly. Chief Blakeley said from the time the call came through 911 he and officer Flynn responded in about 30 seconds. Commissioner Kellis said that was about 44 and a half minutes faster than he heard. He said rumors are out there, and they are not good. Chief Blakeley said he could prove the response time. Commissioner Kellis told the chief his word was good enough for him. Chief Blakeley said he is exasperated by the rumors because the department has received accolades from the bank employees about how well they did, and particularly bragged about officer Flynn.

Adjournment

Mayor Callahan asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Kellis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

TOWN OF VASS


Henry E. Callahan, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Mabel A. Walden, Town Clerk

Town of Vass

Budget Ordinance Amendment #13

BE IT ORDAINED by the Governing Board of the Town of Vass, North Carolina, that the following amendment be made to the annual budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018:

Section 1. To amend the General Fund, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

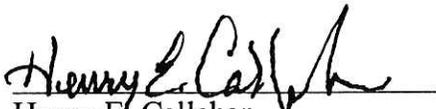
	<u>Increase</u>
10-5400-7050 Street Banners & Decorations	1,300

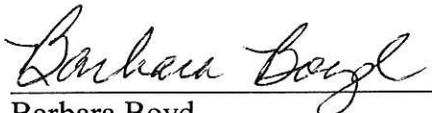
This will result in an increase of \$1,300 in the expenditures of General Fund for FY 2017-2018. To balance the general fund budget, the following revenues will be increased.

10-4805-0000 Fund Balance Appropriation	1,300
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Section 2. This Budget Ordinance Amendment will recognize expenses related to purchase street banners.

Reported to and Approved by Board of Commissioners on February 12, 2018


Henry E. Callahan
Mayor


Barbara Boyd
Finance Officer