

**TOWN OF VASS
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
March 19, 2018**

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Callahan at 6:00 p.m. Commissioners in attendance were: Callahan, Kellis, Kosem. Commissioners Blackwell and Mosley arrived late.

A. Approval of Agenda

Mayor Callahan stated the format of agenda would change slightly and there would not be any additions to the agenda. Commissioner Callahan made a motion to approve agenda and consent agenda. Commissioners Callahan, Kellis, Kosem were in favor. Commissioners Blackwell and Mosely were not present at this time.

B. Consent Agenda

Items approved by above motion were:

1. Minutes of February 12, 2018 Regular Board Meeting
2. Financial Report for February 28, 2018
3. Budget Amendment

C. Police Report

Mayor Callahan called on Chief Blakeley to present his monthly report.

Chief Blakeley introduced Chief Deputy Frank Rodriguez from the Moore County Sheriff's Office to speak. The Chief Deputy was invited to field any questions the Board of Commissioner might have about the relationship between the Vass Police Department and the Moore County Sheriff's Office. Chief Deputy Rodriguez reaffirmed the "Great Relationship" the Sheriff's Department has with the Vass Police Department and every municipality across the county. The Sheriff's office works closely with Chief Blakeley and his team. Regardless of whether or not an officer is on duty they are here to support the Vass Police Department and serve the citizens of Vass and all citizens of Moore County. He discussed the make-up of the Sheriff's Department. He and Chief Blakeley work closely, and communicate via email and verbal correspondence. When the sheriff's department partners with a municipality they take a subservient role to the municipality. The municipality remains primary on investigations and they assist with resources. He could not say enough about his working relationship with Chief Blakeley and his team.

Commissioner Kellis told Chief Deputy Rodriguez he asked a couple of Sheriff's deputies if they knew what Vass officer was on duty one night and the reply was "you are kidding" (this conversation was previously discussed in the February 12, 2018 Board of Commissioners regular meeting). In his opinion the officers he spoke with expressed animosity towards the Vass Police Department. He apologized if he took the deputies comments as a misconception. His understanding is that Officer Miller was on duty the night in question. Chief Deputy Rodriguez he does not know the relationship Commissioner Kellis has, however he knows the relationship he has. He said he would hold the deputy accountable for any misconception Commissioner Kellis may have, and assure him they are here to provide service. Even if there is a Vass officer on scene, when they hear the call they come out. He will engage with the leadership and follow-up. The Sheriff's Department has the same relationship with all municipalities throughout the county. Deputies will step in when necessary and

take care of any issues. He stated he will take care of the situation if his deputies are not living up to the expectations Vass has.

Commissioner Kellis said his expectation was that the Vass Police Department was providing 24 hour coverage. Mayor Callahan commented he did not know where commissioner Callahan got that from. Commissioner Kellis said it was from the previous chief when the fourth officer was hired. He said the auxiliary officers are not completely utilized. Mayor Callahan asked to move on so as to not tie up any more of Chief Deputy Rodriguez's time.

Chief Deputy Rodriguez state the Sheriff's Office handles after hours calls, then hands them over to Chief Blakeley when he comes on duty.

Chief Blakeley summarized his monthly report and responded to several issues brought up during the February 12, 2018 Board of Commissioners meeting. During his report Chief Blakeley read a letter addressed to him from Jay Johnson, Branch Manager of First Bank regarding response time after the recent bank robbery. Commissioner Kellis said he was told that same information when he spoke to Mr. Johnson after the February board meeting. Mayor Callahan stated at the beginning of each term board members are appointed responsibilities for each department and questions should be directed to the commissioner. If anyone has a question about the police he asks for professional courtesy from everyone. If concerns are brought to a board member they should not launch their own investigation, spread rumor or take hearsay as fact. Matters should be brought up to the board and handled professionally. Chief Blakeley continued his response to the comments made by Commissioner Kellis and Angela Vacek on February 12, 2018.

Conversation was held about 24 hour police coverage. Chief Blakeley said the fourth officer was not hired for 24 hour coverage but instead hired so the police department could accept responsibility of code enforcement. Commissioner Kellis said one of the previous chiefs was talking about adding a fourth officer to include the chief long before the town talked about utilizing the police department for code enforcement. Commissioner Blackwell said former Police Chief Brian Beck was the chief that said hiring a fourth officer would be to provide 24 hour police coverage. Chief Blakeley said he spoke to Brian Beck and was told hiring the fourth police officer would allow the Police Department to accept code enforcement and he made no promise for 24 hour service prior to his leaving. He also said he considered eliminating the auxiliary program with the exception to hold certifications for former Chief Richard Bibey and some other officers with exceptional circumstances. Before Chief Beck left the department consisted of Chief Beck, Ben Haddock, Drew Schofield and Tim Blakeley as auxiliary officer. Prior to moving to a full time position Chief Blakeley stated he was working as if he was a full time officer which might be why there was an assumption the town had four officers. Chief Blakeley stated former Chief Beck wrote a letter to Mayor Callahan about the financial gain his service provided the town. Chief Blakeley moved to a full time position when Drew Schofield left, and Seth Patterson was then hired part time. He said each officer has different assignments they cover for code enforcement.

Chief Blakeley asked to have any future concerns and complaints directed to him. If a person is complaining, he can be called 24/7 and preferably while the person is there. The fastest way to get ahold of a Vass officer for a non-emergency is to call communications at 947-2911; they will then contact the officer on duty.

Chief Blakeley reviewed the recent traffic study done by NCDOT on Main Street. Commissioner Kellis said he has concerns with speed on Main Street at the intersection of Main and Alma. Chief Blakeley stated he and Mabel Walden had discussed this issue and more research is being done.

D. Public Comments

Angela Vacek was mentioned throughout Chief Blakeley's report. She responded to his comments. She brought copies of emails for the board to support her calls and complaints about speeding on Main Street and cars passing the school bus. She discussed voice recordings saved on her phone to communications about cars passing school busses and said she played the recordings for two councilmembers and the town attorney.

Commissioner Callahan asked which board members listened to her messages. Ms. Vacek said Commissioners Kellis, and Mosley, and the town attorney listened to the messages at the February meeting. It is important to note the town attorney was not present at the February meeting, Kathy Liles, Town Planner was the third person Ms. Vacek was referring to. Commissioner Kellis confirmed he listened to the recording, Commissioner Mosley said he did not hear it. Commissioner Mosley stated as the administration commissioner his phone number and email are available if anyone has any concerns with the police department or any other staff member.

Officer Ballard said she was outside the coffee shop on the morning Ms. Vacek called communications to complain about cars passing. She said she did not see a car pass the bus. When she got the call she followed up with dispatch and was told the caller got angry and hung up. Therefore, she did not contact Ms. Vacek. She then contacted the bus driver to get the information from her and Deputy Chief Rodriguez to ask for assistance with monitoring traffic the next morning.

Commissioner Callahan stated he believes Chief Blakeley and his officer's care about people passing stopped school busses. Our police chief thorough, does his job well. It is a waste of the chief's time and good officer's resources to have to deal with the matters mentioned.

Tron Ross and members of the Sting Rays softball team thanked the Board of Commissioners for allowing the team practice at the Vass Park baseball field. The team presented the commissioners with a plaque to show their appreciation.

Old Business:

E. There was no old business.

New Business:

F. Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)

Matthew Day from Triangle Area Rural Planning Organization (RPO) which is part of the Triangle J Council of Governments presented an informational overview of the proposed long range Moore County CTP Plan through 2040. The final plan will be presented for adoption sometime this summer. Mr. Day explained the county transportation committee will come up with a draft plan and once finalized the plan will be presented to all jurisdictions for adoption. The presentation included a list of all highway projects and maps. The plan looks at highways, bicycle, pedestrian, and train/rail routes. The CTP is developed cooperatively between DOT, RPO and local jurisdictions, emphasized the local land development plan and tries to achieve a balance between statewide and local goals. This plan is a concept, not a design plan for improvements. The plan is not fiscally constrained, which means the funds to pay for the improvements have not been received yet. The plan takes into consideration future growth in the area. Mr. Day reviewed a list of highway projects and maps. The highway map does not have many recommendations for the Vass area. Highway improvements on Hwy 690 and expressway improvements between Vass and Southern Pines on US 1 Hwy are

included on the map. Commissioner Kellis asked if the plan included a median crossing by Tractor Supply and Stars Charter School. Mr. Day replied they have not identified individual crossing at this time. For the pedestrian map, there are a few recommended sidewalks that were highlighted when they talked with Kathy Liles.

A public meeting has been scheduled for April 11, 2018 (10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.) for the Vass community to review the Comprehensive Transportation Plan.

Commissioner Kosem asked if the improvements were funded by the county. Mr. Day referred to the handout highlighted in green, yellow and red; and explained the projects in the green section are currently funded by the state, yellow has funding attached and subject to prioritization and the red list is the projects submitted to DOT for consideration. Most projects will be funded by the state. Commissioner Kosem asked how the projects are prioritized. Mr. Day said DOT uses a quantitative formula and points based scoring process.

Commissioner Kellis asked if a pedestrian trail and bridge over the railroad to Seaboard Street could be added to the red list. Mr. Day responded new projects cannot be added at this time and could possibly be added to the final map.

Soccer Team – Mr. Sanchez: Mr. Sanchez thanked the board for allowing the team to continue to use the field for thirty five dollars per week (amount was voted on in 2017). His team has brought people from Robbins, Sanford, Southern Pines and Aberdeen to the park. The Board of Commissioners asked Mr. Sanchez to attend the meeting to ask the soccer team to stop kicking their balls against the park fence, and to rotate the goals. Mr. Sanchez said they would do as the board asked.

Chief Blakeley asked if his officers could have an opportunity to speak:

Officer Miller: Thanked the board for the opportunity to work the town. He said he does his best to ensure all citizens of Vass have police coverage. He patrols every inch of town. Commissioner Callahan commented that he sees Officer Miller in the evening when Piggly Wiggly closes. He does not leave until the last employee leaves.

Brief discussion was held about officer patrols and speeding. Chief Blakeley touched on recent officer radar training and certification. He is researching four way stop signs on Union Church Road in front of Winder Way and Bynum Court. Other areas of concern are Seaboard Street and West Maple, and the Coffee Shop and Dollar General parking lots are also problems.

Officer Flynn did not have any comments.

Officer Ballard: stated she is happy working in Vass, with Chief Blakeley, her co-workers and working environment. While she is currently not radar certified, she cannot run radar however she can pace vehicles as a way to track speed. Officer Ballard understands there are rumors and gossip in town about the police department. The best way to get an officer in an emergency is to call 911. Rumors and gossip should be brought directly to the officer or Chief. They are doing their best.

G. Zoning Ordinance Amendment

Mabel Walden stated following documents were approved by the Planning Board on March 5, 2018:

- Amendment to Statement of Land Use Consistency with regards to indoor archery ranges

- Ordinance amending the Town of Vass Zoning Ordinance Article 18.3 with regard to indoor archery ranges.

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

H. Closed Session – Personnel Matters

Mayor Callahan asked to go into closed session at 7:17 p.m. for personnel matters. Commissioner Callahan made a motion.

Commissioner Blackwell made a motion to come out of the closed session at 7:45 p.m. All were in favor.

Adjournment

Mayor Callahan asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Kellis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 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 #12

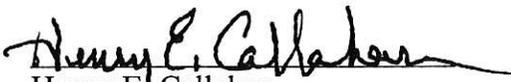
BE IT ORDAINED by the Governing Board of the Town of Vass, North Carolina, that the following amendment be made to the annual budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018:

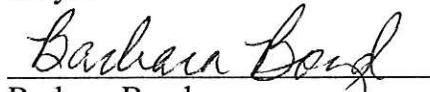
Section 1. To amend the General Fund, the expenditures are to be changed as follows:

		<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
10-5200-4000	Vehicle Gasoline		750
10-5200-4260	2012 Dodge Charger-Car #3	750	
10-5200-4000	Vehicle Gasoline		750
10-5200-4250	2016 Ford Explorer	750	
10-5200-4000	Vehicle Gasoline		350
10-5200-4240	2012 Dodge Charger-Car #1	350	

Section 2. This Budget Ordinance Amendment transfers funds within the Police Department budget to more accurately reflect the costs of the department at fiscal year ending June 30, 2018. It does not change the overall total of the General Fund Budget.

Reported and Approved by Board of Commissioners on March 19, 2018.


Henry E. Callahan
Mayor


Barbara Boyd
Finance Officer