

**TOWN OF VASS  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
September 10, 2018**

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Callahan at 6:00 p.m. Commissioners in attendance were: Blackwell, Kosem, Mosley, Callahan, and Kellis. Planner Kathy Liles and Attorney Kevin Hornik were also present.

Mayor Callahan called for a moment of silence in Memory of the events that occurred on September 11, 2001.

**A. Approval of Agenda**

Mayor Callahan asked for a motion to approve the agenda and consent agenda. Commissioner Kosem requested to add Item J – Lincoln Avenue road repairs, and Commissioner Kellis asked to add Item K – Union Church Road mailboxes. Commissioner Kellis made a motion to approve. All were in favor.

**B. Consent Agenda**

Items approved by above motion were:

1. Minutes of August 13, 2018 Regular Board Meeting
2. Budget Transfers for August 2018
3. Financial Report for August 2018

**C. Police Report**

Chief Blakeley was not present. He gave his report via speakerphone. The following topics were covered:

- First Bank robberies January 2018 and August 2018.
- Both robberies are being actively investigated by the FBI and the Vass Police Department.
- Other incidents – The car wash change machine was broken into and change stolen. Edwards Hardware Store had a window broken and items and cash robbed. Paco's was broken into, and not reported. Chief Blakeley and Officer Flynn spoke to the owner to obtain a police report. All three of these incidents are being investigated.
- Morning school traffic on Main Street continues to be monitored.
- Chief Blakeley read email correspondence between he and Ms. Angela Vacek regarding vehicles passing school busses and the Vass Lakeview PTA.
- Disparaging comments Ms. Vacek has made about the police department and threatening comments Ms. Vacek made in writing.
- Through investigation with Moore County Schools Police the chief has ascertained there have not been any reports filed by bus drivers relating to school bus passing in front of Ms. Vacek's home.

- Chief Blakely further commented on Ms. Vacek's email stating he needed to be cautious. He encouraged the board of commissioners to look at her statement in the emails and to pay attention to the tone of the email and punctuation used.
- Officer Ballard: discussed a recent visit she made to Ms. Vacek's home in response to a 911 call regarding vehicle's passing school buses. She felt Ms. Vacek was hostile. She informed Ms. Vacek her report was incomplete. She stated Ms. Vacek has committed a crime by falsifying information to run for Mayor. Her witness statement has no credibility. Officer Ballard discussed comments Ms. Vacek made in emails stating the Vass Police is following her and targeting business owners by writing ordinance tickets on businesses and residences out of revenge.
- Mayor Callahan stated anyone that attacks any employee of this town using social media is a coward. It is the boards duty to defend them until they have documented feasible evidence of the contrary. He has had many people, including Jay from First Bank tell him the police department the town has now is much more professional than any other he has worked with.
- Commissioner Mosely stated the police department should not have to stand before the board of commissioners for one complaint by one citizen. The complaint should be documented, and the department should be able to move on to their other duties. The board should stand behind the police force. If Ms. Vacek wants to meet with the board she is welcome to do so.
- Commissioner Callahan stated he did not feel the police department would let passing school busses slide. The bus issue has been brought up before, and the officers can not stop people without evidence.
- Chief Blakeley introduced Renee Decker, former neighbor of Ms. Vacek's in Cameron. Ms. Decker stated Ms. Vacek made the same complaints when she lived there. She feels Ms. Vacek is a bully and went on to describe her interactions with Ms. Vacek.
- Mayor Callahan's feels the board and anyone that has interactions with Ms. Vacek must be unified to stand up against her and tell her actions are not right. In his opinion, and proven by the Board of Elections last summer, there is no integrity or ethics involved in anything she does or how she pursues it. To protect the election process and citizens of Vass Mayor Callahan directed Mabel Walden to draft a letter to Maureen Kruger to pursue the case gathered against Ms. Vacek by the State Board of Elections. Mayor Callahan would like each board member to sign the letter.
- Chief Blakeley read additional email correspondence from Ms. Vacek in which she stated he should be cautious. His question is "is she talking about the problem or is she creating danger for him"?
- Commissioner Kellis suggested Ms. Vacek may have a misconception about general statutes with regards to stopped school busses.

#### **D. Public Comments**

Frank Quis: Commissioner Quis addressed the board and community on behalf of the Moore County Board of Commissioners. He asked the board of commissioners for their endorsement and support of the 1/4% sales tax that will be on the November 6<sup>th</sup> ballot. The sales tax will benefit capital funding for schools.

Commissioner Callahan asked Mr. Quis for county help with the Phase II Vass Sewer project and the \$180,000 cost to the Town of Vass.

Commissioner Callahan discussed item H at this time:

Sewer Phase II update – Commissioner Callahan gave an update on the Phase II Vass Sewer project meeting he attended in Raleigh. The meeting covered the planning and design of the project. Discussion was held regarding:

- CBDG Funding Public Hearing scheduled for September 24<sup>th</sup>
- Questions are still up in the air about the \$180,000 portion to be paid by the town and Commissioner Callahan's concern that if the town could not come up with the required funds the project would be dropped. Mr. Quis suggested the Vass Board of Commissioner schedule a meeting with Randy Gould. Mabel Walden will schedule a meeting with the Town Council, Mr. Gould and County Commissioners.
- Discussion was held regarding overall county sales taxes and Moore County ranking 19 out of the 100 counties in the state. Property taxes will go up in 2019. Commissioner Quis stated the 1/4% sales tax would offset new taxes.

Beth Dent: Beth Dent and a group of citizens are planning a Christmas tree lighting to be held the day after Thanksgiving. The event will be held at Main Street Commons between 5 -7 p.m. Mrs. Dent asked if the holiday lights on Seaboard Street could be coordinated with the tree lighting ceremony. The board of commissioners thanked Mr. and Mrs. Dent for all they have done for the town and were all in support of the tree lighting.

Nancy Wood Anderson: Ms. Anderson has purchased the local Kona Ice franchise. She asked permitting questions and was advised to review the ordinance and come back to the town hall during business hours to discuss further.

#### **E. Old Business:**

Mayor Callahan asked for a motion to approve 2018/2019 FY Budget. Commissioner Mosley made a motion to approve. All were in favor.

Update and review of Planning Board recommendation to approve an Ordinance Regulating Pygmy Goats. Commissioner Kosem asked to include maximum weight of 80 – 85 lbs. and limit nuisance complaints to a total of three. Kathy Liles asked the board for clarification on which districts they would like to allow this ordinance in. Commissioner Kellis asked if the proposed ordinance would be the actual ordinance. Ms. Liles stated the document would be treated as a conditional use permit in the MU district with supplemental requirements to the current ordinance. An enforcement policy to include penalties will have to be established by the town. Attorney Hornik advised the board of commissioners a public hearing would be required before final decision. This matter will be added to the public hearing agenda on September 24, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

**F. New Business:**

The Board of Commissioners previously reviewed the proposed Moore County Comprehensive Transportation Plan Resolution. Commissioner Kellis made a motion to adopt the resolution. All were in favor.

Traffic: Commissioner Kellis asked if a traffic control light at the intersection of US 1 Hwy and Hwy 690 could be added to the comprehensive plan. Commissioner Kosem would like to see a left turn light added as well. Town Clerk, Mabel Walden said she would send an email to the DOT.

**G. Discussion Topics:**

Replacement of netting around baseball field. Commissioner Blackwell discussed the need for replacing baseball netting on Holly Street and US 1 Hwy. Commissioner Kellis made a motion to table this matter until the October meeting, and for the Town Clerk to do additional research for new or used netting. All were in favor.

Preliminary Plat review – The Village Phase II:

- Alan Cassavant was present to answer questions pertaining to The Village Phase II on Cameron Avenue.
- Commissioner Callahan prepared the survey for this project, therefore he recused himself.
- Kathy Liles reviewed the preliminary plat. Mr. Cassavant is adding two lots, one on the North and one on the south. Reserving a 60' strip for access to the rear of the property. Future major subdivision of the property will need to come in on one plat. Lots include existing utilities and jurisdictional wetland mapping has been done. Ms. Liles recommended preliminary plat approval, as well as moving to final plat.
- Commissioner Kosem made a motion to approve preliminary plat. All were in favor.
- Commissioner Blackwell made a motion to approve to final plat. All were in favor.

Phase II Sewer Update: Commissioner Callahan continued his update on the sewer update. USDA requires a percentage of funds from the town to award grant funding. \$180,000 requirement was calculated using Moore County's tap fee of \$1,800 for 100 homes.

- DEQ Grant options are still an option
- The board agreed to extend an offer to the County Commissioners to meet for a discussion to review the terms of the county agreement with the town to provide sewer service.
- Commissioner Mosley made a motion to give the Brough Law Firm permission to review the original agreement between the Town of Vass and Moore Water and Sewer Authority (MOWASA) to figure out what would be in the best interest of the town. All were in favor.

Lincoln Avenue: Commissioner Kosem asked Andy Layton to discuss draining problems with the culvert on Lincoln Avenue. Commissioner Callahan made a motion to have Ron Atkinson look at the culvert and report back to the board in October. All were in favor.

Poplar Street will need to be checked to see if the road needs to be cleared / paved to allow traffic to pass through.

Mailboxes on Union Church Road: Commissioner Kellis was asked to research the distance of the mailboxes for the Union Place houses on Union Church Road. Michael Miller left the room and returned with a printout of USPS mailbox regulations. Based on this information it appears the mailboxes in question meet Postal regulations.

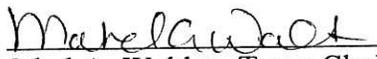
Disaster Plan: With hurricane Florence approaching the area Mayor Callahan expressed his concern for a disaster plan. In the event the town needed to operate during a disaster he thought it would be beneficial for the town to purchase two generators. One generator was purchased the morning of September 10, 2018. Mayor Callahan asked for a motion to approve the purchase of two generators and authorization to add a \$2,000 budget line item titled Emergency Preparedness. Commissioner Kellis made a motion to purchase two generators. One could be used for the town hall and the second used by the town maintenance department. All were in favor.

### **Adjournment**

Mayor Callahan asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Kosem made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

TOWN OF VASS

  
Henry E. Callahan, Mayor

ATTEST:   
Mabel A. Walden, Town Clerk