

**Town of Pilot Mountain  
Board of Commissioners Meeting  
Monday, January 11, 2021  
Regular Meeting via Zoom 7:00 PM**

**Members Present:** Mayor Evan Cockerham, Commissioner Rachel Gilley, Commissioner Donna Kiger, Commissioner Scott Needham and Commissioner Dwight Atkins

**Staff Present:** Town Manager, Michael Boaz, Town Attorney, Ed Woltz and Town Clerk, Holly Utt

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**Call to order 7:00 PM**

Mayor Cockerham called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM. He asked that everyone take the necessary precautions to avoid the spread of the Covid-19 virus. Mayor Cockerham reminded everyone that there are free masks available at Town Hall. He also mentioned that people were troubled by what had happened at our nation's capitol last week. He commended the Board for putting politics aside and working together for the community.

**Adoption of Agenda**

Mr. Boaz stated that he had updated the agenda to show the Mt. Airy Water Interconnect as two separate items, one for the City of Mt. Airy and one for Surry County.

Commissioner Needham made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended and it was unanimous.

**Public Comment**

No comments

**Consent Agenda**

- December 7, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Atkins pointed out grammatical errors in the minutes presented regarding the Armfield Civic Center. Commissioner Atkins made a motion to correct the minutes and approve the consent agenda and it was unanimous.

**ABC Board Report**

December 2020 sales were \$255,094, an increase of 35.5% over December 2019 sales of \$164,549. On behalf of Billy Pell, Mr. Boaz commended the employees of the ABC Store for their hard work.

**New Business**

**Mt. Airy Interconnect Bid Acceptance**

Mr. Boaz stated that the bids for the Interconnect Project were received in November. Smith Rowe Construction came in with the lowest bid of \$4,491,041.65. McGill has reviewed the bid and recommended that the Board tentatively award the contract to them, contingent on approval from the DEQ and additional loan funding needed for the project. Commissioner Needham made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-1 and it was unanimous.

### **Mt. Airy Water Agreement Amendment**

Mr. Boaz explained that there would be two changes, the estimated payment amount would increase from \$32,500 to \$56,584 and the daily limit of water would increase from 1 million gallons of water per day to 2 million to avoid penalties. This would ensure that the town has enough capacity without a penalty going forward. Commissioner Needham made a motion to approve the amended water agreement with Mt. Airy and it was unanimous.

### **County Water Agreement Amendment**

Mr. Boaz explained that this amendment would reflect the payment of 1/3 of the debt that is estimated to be \$56,584. Commissioner Collins made a motion to approve the water agreement with Surry County and it was unanimous.

### **Mt. Airy Interconnect Additional Funding Acceptance**

Mr. Boaz presented a resolution that would authorize the town to accept the new loan amount if it was awarded by State. A request has been submitted to the State for an additional loan of \$1,445,000. The 0% interest loan will be paid back over a period of 20 years with the town, the City of Mt. Airy and Surry County paying 1/3 each. Commissioner Atkins made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-2 and it was unanimous.

## **Administrative Reports**

### **Town Manager's Report**

- The Asset Inventory Assessment (AIA) study should be completed in late January. Mr. Boaz asked that the Board move the January work session to a date in February for Withers Ravenel to present that study.
- The kick-off meeting for the Downtown Associate Community Program will be held via Zoom on February 2<sup>nd</sup>
- The audit report for FY 2019-2020 has been completed and uploaded to the website
- The Facebook page for the Comprehensive Plan will be up on the website this week

Commissioner Atkins asked about street repairs. Mr. Boaz stated that the Public Works department will be filling in some of the potholes with cold patch. The LGF funding meeting should be held in March and DOT will be ready to progress with the project after that.

### **Mayor and Commissioners Comments**

**Commissioner Atkins:** Concurred as to what Mayor Cockerham said at the beginning of the meeting. Our democracy is stressed and he hopes that stability and critical thinking will hallmark the leadership going forward.

**Commissioner Kiger:** Stated that she was proud to serve on a Board that had differing political views but they all work towards a common goal, doing what is best for the town. She commended Chief Jackson for doing a great job with his new role and the Police Department as a whole.

**Commissioner Needham:** Commended the PMPD for speaking with business owners and updating contacts. He added to Mayor Cockerham's statement regarding Covid-19, he asked that everyone be kind and understanding of each other during this time. 2020 was a rough year and hopefully this year

will be better for everyone. He also thanked Mr. Boaz for reaching out to Mt. Airy over the interconnect project and all the work that his team puts in on the budget.

**Commissioner Collins:** Stated that she was proud to be a part of the Board and community that has different political views and are still able to work together for the town and citizens. She also commended the businesses for following CDC guidelines.

**Mayor Cockerham:** Reminded everyone that if you are age 75 or older and are in a high risk group, please sign up for the Covid-19 vaccine at the Surry County Health Department. He acknowledged Law Enforcement Appreciation Day and thanked the PMPD for the work that they do and the great community policing. Mayor Cockerham thanked everyone for contributing to his birthday fundraiser for Surry Medical Ministries. A total of \$1,600 was raised for the non-profit which provides medical services for low income or uninsured in Surry County. He thanked Christy Craig and Mark Brown for going to the Pilot Mountain State Park Visitors Center regarding a kiosk with information for the town. He thanked Matt Windsor for being receptive to the idea and for doing such a great job maintaining the park.

**Other Business**

No other business to discuss.

**Adjourn or Recess**

Commissioner Kiger made a motion to adjourn and it was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

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Holly Utt  
Town Clerk

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Evan Cockerham  
Mayor