

**Town of Pilot Mountain  
Board of Commissioners Meeting  
Monday, March 13, 2023  
7:00 PM**

**Members Present:** Mayor Evan Cockerham, Commissioner Scott Needham, Mayor Pro-Tem Donna Kiger, Commissioner Dwight Atkins and Commissioner Rachel Collins.

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

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**Call to order 7:00 PM**

Mayor Cockerham called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. After a moment of silence, Commissioner Needham led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Adoption of Agenda**

Mr. Boaz asked that they remove the landscaping bid from the agenda. Commissioner Needham made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended and it was unanimous.

**Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Needham asked that the minutes be changed and remove his name as Mayor Pro Tem in the minutes presented. Commissioner Kiger made a motion to approve the consent agenda with the corrections noted and it was unanimous.

**Public Comment**

Tim Johnson, 225 S Boyles St, was present to address the Board. He thanked the town for the prompt service on getting the parking situation straightened out on Marion Street. He also asked about the status of the garbage behind that same house. Mr. Cockerham stated that it was still on the list for Code Enforcement Officer, Mike Horn to take a look at.

Phyllis Atkins, 236 S Boyles St, was present to address the Board. She stated that she was concerned with the Armfield Center and the town's acquisition of the property. She is concerned about taxes and the inspection of the building. She noted the problems with the pool and in the last few days the elevator has been out of service. She understands that the town manager can get enough grants to keep this going to avoid a tax increase on the citizens. She asked how many grants had been applied for since October 31<sup>st</sup> and how many had been received. Mr. Boaz stated that he believed that they could continue the operations of the facility without a tax increase and the town could apply for grants to help with improvements to the facility. So far no tax money has been spent on the facility. She also asked about the mowing at the facility. Mr. Cockerham stated that in the past volunteers had assisted with grounds keeping at the center and they hope to continue that. Ms. Atkins asked how their financials looked, how much was coming in and going out. Mr. Cockerham stated that they were at a break-even point during Covid and things were going better at this point. She also asked, if there were to be a concert at the little league fields, she is concerned to damage to the fields. Mayor Cockerham stated that the production team will be covering the field to make sure there is no damage. She also asked the Board to keep the town and citizens informed of anything involving the Armfield Center.

Patty Wall, 253 S Boyles St, was present to address the Board. She thanked the Board for the work that the town did on W Marion Street. She's had several inquiries about where the money came from for the work to be done. They know the town did it because they saw the public works department working on it. Mr. Boaz stated that there was some labor cost from the town but any materials were paid for from Powell Bill funds. She also mentioned feral cats and rats because of the trash behind the house. Mr. Boaz stated that the feral cats would be an animal control issue and they would send Officer Horn out to check on the garbage. She also noted that the car graveyard that is an eyesore at the end of Main Street.

Sally Lucia, 1119 Brown Mountain Road, was present to address the Board. She stated that she owned a home at 204 Nelson Street. She uses it as a rental property. She has a problem with a neighbor's dog barking continuously throughout the day. She did call Officer Horn and he went over but there is no daytime ordinance against dogs barking. She asked the Board for some type of resolution to this problem. She asked what the steps would be for the Board to address this issue. Mayor Cockerham stated that the Board would look into what other towns are doing and address it at the next meeting.

### **New Business**

#### **Creation of Recreation and Parks Advisory Board**

Mr. Boaz stated that in order to apply for a Parks & Recreation Trust Fund Grant the Board would need to create a Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. The Board would have six members and six have been recommended by the Board. The terms are three year terms and they will be staggered. The purpose of this board would be to work with the parks and rec director and set policies and keep the Board updated. The following would be appointed:

3 year term: Dave Diamont and Nancy Deaton

2 year term: Ron Sutphin and Brandon Lowe

1 Year term: Adam Santucci and Melanie Bennett

Commissioner Needham made a motion to approve the ordinance creating the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board and the members appointed and it was unanimous.

#### **Lead & Copper Rule Updates**

Mr. Boaz explained that in response to the public health crisis of Flint, MI, the federal government has made changes to the lead and copper rules which requires periodic testing of lead and copper. The town has never had an issue with lead and copper. In addition to current testing, the biggest thing that will have to happen is testing of the private side of the meters. This will be a difficult process and it will need to be completed by September 2024. A company, 120Water, has been hired to assist the town with this project. No home built after 1986 has lead in it and testing has been done for copper/lead since 1991 so there is no need for the public to be alarmed. At this time, there are no funding sources for the initial study.

### **Administrative Reports**

#### **Town Manager & Staff Reports**

- We are currently purchasing water from Mount Airy since shortly after the meeting last month.
- The Work Session for this week has been cancelled.

### **Mayor and Commissioners Comments**

**Commissioner Needham:** He is excited about the Main Street Conference coming up. This is a good time to collaborate with other towns to see what they are doing. He's looking forward to the St. Patrick's Day Event.

**Commissioner Kiger:** She thanked the staff for addressing the issue on W Marion Street and getting that resolved in a timely manner. She is very happy with the streambank restoration and they have made a lot of progress.

**Commissioner Atkins:** He mentioned that the streambank restoration project looks great. He's had a couple of people ask about the house in the curve on Dodson Mill Road. Mr. Boaz stated that they were working through that issue with code enforcement. He also noted that there were some letters missing from the granite sign on Main Street. He also asked to address the fund balance at another meeting or retreat.

**Commissioner Collins:** Asked about the landscaping contract. Mr. Boaz stated that the quote that was received was too high and they were going to have to go back and look at other options.

**Mayor Cockerham:** The streambank restoration project was fully funded by state grants and it came in under budget. The extra funds will be used for sewer line work in that area. He thanked the staff for helping with the issue on W Marion Street and getting that fixed. The St. Patrick's Day event is coming up. He asked people to support their local businesses.

### **Closed Session**

Commissioner Needham made a motion to enter into closed session and it was unanimous.

Commissioner Atkins made a motion to come out of closed session and it was unanimous. There was nothing to report from the closed session.

### **Other Business**

No other business to discuss

### **Adjourn or Recess**

Commissioner Collins 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