

**Town of Cape Carteret
Board of Commissioners Minutes
7:00 PM October 21, 2013**

CALL TO ORDER

The Cape Carteret Board of Commissioners meeting came to order at 7:00 pm in the Debbie E. Stanley Board of Commissioners Room. Please turn off all cell phones. In attendance tonight is Cape Carteret Boy Scout Troop #446.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Ward Johnson is a fourth grader at White Oak Elementary. Her teacher is Sue Sawyers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE will be led by Ms. Ward Johnson

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Patricia Floyd of Star Hill North II

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Fowler

Commissioners King, Seegers, Saunders and Hunt

Attorney Curtis, Carteret News Times, 13 citizens

Absent: Commissioner Patterson (excused)

ANY CHANGES TO THE AGENDA? **Yes**, add under New Items, Building Inspector's vehicle repair. The attorney asked that the 104 Neptune contract be placed under the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Hunt motioned to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Commissioner King. ***Vote approved 4-0***

CONSENT AGENDA

All minutes of August 12, 19 and September 16, 2013

Records Retention Amendment

ADD: 104 Neptune contract remedying the irregularity.

Commissioner Seegers motioned to approve each consent item, seconded by Commissioner Hunt. ***Vote approved 4-0***

The Mayor explained to the Boy Scout Troop what the purpose is of the Consent Agenda.

Any Board or Committee Updates?

Commissioner King: The Yaupon pipe project should begin this week. Commissioner Hunt mentioned there is work going on at the end of his street and he is concerned about the big truck needing to turn around. Mr. King said there will be detour signs and the police will be notified.

Commissioner Saunders: She received a phone call from Seashore lightening about the letter they received from the town about the flags that draw people to their business. They were told they have to remove the flags and they can only be out for a certain amount of time. She is struggling with this issue, because we are in the middle of a municipal initiative to bring

businesses in, to encourage businesses to grow, and to have more people come and do business in our town, yet we have an ordinance that in affect prevents businesses from attracting customers. The flags are not unattractive. They don't get in the way of anybody. They are in large cities, and small cities. She requested that this section of the sign ordinance be sent back to the planning board for review. Commissioner Hunt said we should have them look at the entire sign ordinance. We have nineteen pages of very restrictive ordinances. The board agreed to have the planning board start with the flag section first.

Commissioner Hunt: The police officers have all qualified at the range. Mr. Hunt attended the range training and found it to be an excellent training class.

Mayor: Tomorrow the Dept. of Commerce will be holding Stake Holder interviews for the Municipal Initiative program. The program is trying to develop a 50 year business plan for our town. He invited the commissioners to drop by and hear what the stake holders have to say. The public is welcomed to attend.

CITIZENS TO SPEAK: none

OLD ITEMS

Public Information date- Bayshore Four-way stop signs: This will be held at the Work Session in December.

Boat ramp stickers: Commissioner Seegers motioned to table this item until next month when Commissioner Patterson is present to discuss the item, seconded by Commissioner Saunders.

Vote approved 4-0

NEW ITEMS

Irrigation Bid: Three bids were submitted: Lawn Rangers of Swansboro for \$450, Rain Makers of Emerald Isle for \$850 and J & S Landscaping and Design for \$1375. The bid is for the replacement of three sprinkler heads, 120 feet of 1 ½" pipe and 40 feet of 1" pipe.

Commissioner Seegers motioned to approve Lawn Rangers of Swansboro with a bid of \$450, seconded by Commissioner Saunders. ***Vote Approved 4-0***

Allies for Cherry Point's Tomorrow (ACT) funding request: The mayor said many of the towns in Carteret County are donating to this project, so they can operate full-time in order to make sure that the Cherry Point Base is a vital operation in the future. They are a tremendous economic generator for our area. Commissioner Seegers asks that Mrs. Saunders recues herself. She did.

Commissioner King motioned to approve the funding of \$800 to ACT, seconded by Commissioner Hunt.

Discussion: **Commissioner King** said he dislikes this type of funding. Lobbyists are worse than politicians are, but sometime it is necessary. Judging whom is asking, and that they do a lot for the area, and it is only \$800 he will support it.

Commissioner Hunt said back in 2007 he joined the military task force. They had a big budget and they spent a lot of money but not one dollar came back to ones they were supposed to be

helping. This group has a great goal and it would be wonderful if it works out, but he was curious if an assessment tool is available, so we can see how well they did in reaching their goals, and how it ended helping us. The \$800 has not been budgeted.

The **Mayor** said in the past they have asked for help and we have denied them. There is a sense of urgency in this request. This is only a one-time request. If it does not work out there is no obligation to continue supporting them. The mayor suggested that we support them.

Commissioner Seegers asked if they would continue asking each year. The mayor did not know.

He asked the attorney about an article stating that Cherry Point would no longer have a BRAC.

The attorney said he remembers the article.

Vote approved 2-1-1 (No, Seegers, and Recues Saunders)

Christmas Lights: **Commissioner Saunders** said we talked about this last week. The three committee members did some investigating. They looked at how many poles we had along Hwy 24 and Taylor Notion. There are 47 poles, but only ten have the ability to hold the Christmas lights. We have ten lighted decorations and 62 banners. The Christmas decorations run between \$400-500 per decoration. We need to replace the ten that we have. If we want more than ten decorated lights we have to get the electric company involved. Down on Taylor Notion Road we have 16 poles that have transformers on them.

Commissioner Seegers said our 2013 bill for the ten lights was \$450. A drop would be needed on each pole and that is at a cost of \$250 per drop. We are looking at \$6750 just for the drops, plus an additional \$1800 in electrical usage for a 30 day period. Transformers are even more expensive, around \$1250 a piece. To do all the poles with everything would cost \$45-60,000. It was suggested that we urge the businesses to put up lights. Also, we should phase this over the next several years. The current decorations are in bad shape according to Buddy. Mr. Seegers said the wooden poles have the transformers, but the metal poles do not. We can't use any on the south side of Hwy 24, because they are all concrete poles.

Commissioner Saunders motioned to replace the ten old lights, to use the older lights on Taylor Notion, to place the banners in between, and revisit the issue after the season and to include this in a budget amendment of \$4000, seconded by Commissioner Seegers.

Vote: 2-2 The Mayor voted to approve the motion. Final Vote approved 3-2 (No, King and Hunt)

Building Inspectors vehicle: Commissioner King said when Brandon took the vehicle in to get his tires, and was told that he needed upper and lower ball joints, rear axle bearing, and another set of ball joints. The cost is about \$1700. We will take it to Mikron for another estimate. The vehicle is a 2004 Explorer with 130,000 miles. No major money has been put in the vehicle.

Commissioner King motioned to allocate \$1700 to repair the car, seconded by Commissioner Seegers.

Discussion: Brandon can use the old police car until we can get another bid. Commissioner King withdrew his motion, seconded by Commissioner Seegers.

CITIZENS GENERAL COMMENTS: none

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Halloween will be on Thursday, October 31st from 6-8:30 PM

CLOSED SESSION: 7:48 PM

To consult with the attorney about the terms of a contract as permitted by GS 143-318.11(a)(5) On a motion by Commissioner Hunt, seconded by Commissioner Saunders the board entered into closed session. ***Vote approved 4-0***

OPEN SESSION: 8: 50 PM

On a motion by Commissioner Hunt, seconded by Commissioner Seegers the board returned to open session. ***Vote approved 4-0***

ACTION: NONE

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM on a motion by Commissioner Saunders, seconded by Commissioner Hunt. ***Vote approved 4-0***

These are the minutes of October 21, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen M. Zornes, CMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk