

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF STEDMAN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
June 4, 2020-----7PM
REGULAR MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Martin L. Jones, Commissioner Jeremy George, Commissioner Billy Horne, Commissioner Paul Pirro and Commissioner Jordan Stewart

***Note – This meeting was open to the public via Zoom access.**

STAFF PRESENT

Town Clerk Christy Horne, Administrative Assistant Rebecca Johnson, Attorney Tim Smith and Deputy Brubaker from Cumberland County Sheriff's Department

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Jones led the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Commissioner Stewart made a motion to add item 8d) consider opening park shelters and gazebo under New Business to the June 4, 2020 Agenda. Commissioner Pirro seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously by the Board.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Horne made a motion to approve the May 7, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes which was seconded by Commissioner Stewart and carried unanimously by the Board.

PUBLIC FORUM – None

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS –

- a) Consider Autryville Water Supply – Commissioner George has had an inquiry from someone in Autryville about accessing water from Stedman in the future. Mayor Jones stated the Mayor of Autryville contacted him about the possibility of tapping into the sewer in the future. The Town of Autryville is looking to get grant funding to upgrade their infrastructure. Commissioner George stated that Stedman might need to upgrade their lift stations in advance of this so that there would be enough flow to accommodate Autryville.

- b) Consider 2020-2021 Budget Items – The Town Clerk presented copies of the 2020-2021 budget worksheet to the Mayor and Board. She stated she has tried to be as conservative as possible with revenues and expenses in light of current economic conditions and uncertainties going forward. She prepared figures for salary increases at 2% and 3% levels. Speaking as an employee she would like to see the staff get an increase, but as the finance officer for the Town also advises moving forward with caution at this time. Commissioner Horne spoke in favor of raises for all the staff. He stated they all work hard and deserve an increase. There was further conversation among the Mayor, Commissioners and the Town clerk concerning the revenues and expenses of the current year and Fiscal Year 2020-2021. Commissioner Pirro made a motion to give all employees a 3% increase which was seconded by Commissioner George and passed unanimously by the Board. The Town Clerk will make the required changes to the 2020-2021 FY budget and set the public hearing for June 25, 2020.

- c) Consider 2020-2021 Cumberland County Sheriff's Office Contract – The revised contract for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year was received late yesterday via email. There have been issues during the last 6 months with the assigned deputies not working the contract hours of 6pm through 3am. Also, there is an issue with the assigned deputies not communicating with our Chief of Police. The language in the new contract has been changed by CCSO to say the hours of 6 to 3 is **intended** to be 6 to 3. Commissioner George made a motion to table further discussion on the CCSO contract which was seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed unanimously by the Board. The Town Clerk will email a copy of the current 2019-2020 contract as well as the new 2020-2021 contract to the Attorney. Further discussion on the new contract has been tabled until the June 25, 2020 meeting to give the Mayor, Commissioners and Attorney time to evaluate the contract and communicate revisions with the CCSO.

- d) Consider Reopening the Shelters and Gazebo in Ernest Freeman Park – Commissioner Stewart would like to open the park benches, shelters and gazebo to the public while keeping the basketball court and playground equipment closed to the public. The Mayor and Commissioners discussed opening public access to the park while keeping the playground equipment and basketball court closed per the Governor's Phase II order. Commissioner Stewart made a motion to open public access to the park except for the mandated closed areas. Commissioner Pirro seconded this motion and the motion was passed unanimously by the Board.

STAFF REPORTS/BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

- a. Town Clerks Report – A monthly Budget versus Actual report was provided to the Mayor and Commissioners. The Town Hall building reopened to the public on 6/1/2020. The Town fireworks scheduled for 6/28/20 has been cancelled. There is no notice posted on the site, but Rebecca called and asked. Friday, July 3 will be a holiday and Town Hall will be closed. Executive Order 124 prohibiting cutoffs, penalties and late fees for water and sewer customers has been extended through July 29, 2020.

- b. Chief of Police Report – Chief King was unable to attend the meeting as he was in training. He did however leave a report with the service calls for the month of May for the Mayor and Board. Deputy Brubaker who has been the night duty officer since March came by to meet the Mayor and Commissioners.

- c. Stedman Fire Department – None

- d. Planners Report – None

- e. Code Enforcement Report – None

- f. Mayor and Board of Commissioners – Commissioner George brought up the possibility of the Town sending a letter of support concerning PWC assuming ownership of the 3 Cape Fear River locks and dams located in Bladen County. He said this could be discussed at a later meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner George and seconded by Commissioner Pirro to adjourn the June 4, 2020 meeting at 8:32pm.