



TOWN OF PRINCEVILLE

**Board of Commissioners
September 28, 2015**

Minutes

Board Members Present; Mayor Bobbie Jones, Commissioners Gwen Knight, JoeRoam Myrick, Pamela Ramsome.

Board Members Absent: Commissioner Ann Howell

Staff Member Present: Town Manager Byron Ellis, Town Clerk Calvin Adkins, Town Attorney Benn Brewington

Board of Commissioners Call to Order by Mayor Jones

Invocation: Commissioner Myrick

Pledge of Allegiance

The board scheduled a workshop for October 22, 2015 at 5:30 PM.

Mayor Jones addressed the water & sewer rate increases. He said the increase was out of the Town's hands.

Public Comments

Calvin Sherrod, 909 King Ave., gave the board a petition signed by numerous citizens in his fight to lower the water bill. He said some of the citizens' water bills are higher than their power bills.

Katie Bellamy, 716 Newton Ave., asked what "is the function of the LGC" and Edgecombe County in their roles of taking over the town's water system.

Linda Joyner, 501, Mullins St. said the county should have informed the citizens before raising the water & sewer rates.

Ed Bridgers, 402 Otis Ave., said he was denied an opportunity to be placed on the agenda. He also talked about his ongoing desires for speed humps on Otis Avenue.

Adjustments to Agenda

Commissioner Knight made a motion to add Mr. Bridgers to the agenda; Commissioner Ransome seconded. **Motion passed (3-0)**

Commissioner Knight made a motion to remove closed session from the agenda; Commissioner Myrick seconded; **Motion passed (3-0)**

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Knight made a motion to accept the August 2015 minutes; Commissioner Myrick seconded; **Motion passed (3-0)**

Old Business: Mr. Bridgers presented a petition for speeds bumps on Otis Avenue. The Town Manager said he is in favor of two speed humps and additional speed signs. Commissioner Myrick said he would like to see at least three. Commissioner Knight made a motion to use the Power Bill funds to construct two speed humps on Otis Avenue. Seconded by Commissioner Ransome; **Motion passed (3-0).**

Public Hearing to consider amending the Town Code of Ordinance to allow doublewide manufactured homes as a conditional permitted use in R-1 Districts: Commissioner Knight made a motion to open the Public Hearing; Seconded by Commissioner Ransome; **Motion passed (3-0)**

Billy Trevathan asked the board to allow him to place a doublewide manufactured home on Chiqupan Road.

Commissioner Knight made a motion to close the public hearing; seconded by Commissioner Myrick; **Motion Passed (3-0)**

After some discussion, a public hearing was set for the October 26, 2015 meeting to consider establishing a new zoning district (Residential Agriculture 1 or, RA-1) Commissioner Knight made the motion; Commissioner Ransome seconded; **Motion passed (3-0)**

St. Luke's Cemetery Proposal: The board authorized the Town Manager to draft a cemetery ordinance for the town and present it at the next meeting. Commissioner Knight made the motion; Commissioner Myrick seconded; **Motion passed (3-0)**

Sheriff's Department Coverage of the Town: Mayor Jones read a letter expressing dissatisfaction with the level of service and the lack of visibility of the Sheriff's Department in Princeville. The letter suggested that the Law Enforcement contract with the Sheriff's Department be reduced by 50% annually (from \$250,000 to \$125,000). The Board discussed the matter and agreed with the proposed reduction.

Commissioner Knight made a motion to approve and send the letter; Commissioner Myrick seconded; **Motion passed (3-0)**

Mr. Bridgers said he was going to continue to come back until speed humps are placed on Otis Avenue. He said Myrick was supposed to ask for six humps. He also complained about the lack of police department and the escalating water & sewer bills.

Town Manager Report

The Town manager announced the Economic Development Summit on October 16-18. He also reported that two representative from the Historical Black Towns and Settlements Alliance would like to visit Princeville in December and have requested that the Town pay its share for them to come to Princeville. The HBTSA is also asking that each of the eight towns participate in the expenses necessary to apply for a grant to establish a National Historic Trail which would run from NC to Florida and continue on as far as Texas. Each member town would contribute \$5,000. Former Mayor Delia Perkins and Chair of the Princeville Historical Society told the board that the town can use \$5,000 of Historical Society funds.

Town Attorney Report: Did not have a report

Law Enforcement Report: Was not present

Princeville Volunteer Fire Department Report:

Fire Chief James Powell reported that the PVFD responded to 40 calls in 30 days. He said his chainsaws are in bad condition and asked the town to purchase a chainsaw for his department.

Senior Center Report

Senior Center Director Linda Worsley said the Senior Center is doing well and is operating at capacity.

General Concerns of the Board: Commissioner Knight apologized on the behalf of the Board for the water & sewer bills rate increase. She said she hopes the town can get its water & sewer department back.

Mayor Jones, Commissioner Ransome and Myrick thanked the audience for attending.

Adjournment: Commissioner Knight made a motion to adjourn; Commissioner Myrick seconded; **Motion passed (3-0)**