



**Town of Princeville**  
Special Call Meeting Minutes  
January 4, 2024, at 1:00 PM  
201 South Main Street, Tarboro, NC 27886

**Board Present:** Mayor Bobbie Jones, Commissioner Vananza Brown, Commissioner Alvin Jones, Commissioner Lee V Staton

**Staff Present:** Town Manager Glenda Knight, Town Clerk Alexis Carter, Town Attorney Ryan King

**Guests Present:** Senator Kandie Smith, Eric Evans-Edgecombe County Manager, Natalie Bess- Edgecombe Deputy County Manager

- I. **Call to Order and Roll Call (Mute phones please. Presider, please state the date for recording purposes)**
- II. **Invocation:** Commissioner Alvin Jones
- III. **Public Comments: (Limited to 2 minutes)** None
- IV. **Announcements**
  - a. 139<sup>th</sup> Founders' Celebration
- V. **Presentation**
  - a. **United States Army Corps of Engineers**

**Christine Brayman**, project manager, stated that they have briefed the assistant secretary of the army but are still in the process of getting permission on what else they will be able to do. She expressed that the main concern of the office of the assistant secretary of the army is understanding and receiving information about what has happened in the community since their 2015 report and post Matthew, which she was not able to answer with specificity. Some of those questions were "What is the current population after Matthew?", "How many structures have been elevated and bought out by NCCORR?", "How does the Comprehensive Vision Plan fit in with what is going on within the community and how AmeriCorps joins in?". Ms. Brayman stated that they have talked to the officials with NCCORR and going to talk to officials with NC Emergency Management next week and going to talk to officials with NC DOT. She stated that they were here for an information gathering mission to take back to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works so they can make an informed decision. She stated that their analysis and project is old and dated and they need to find out what has happened since 2016, what the vision is and what their focus should be.

**Mayor Jones** stated that we are citizens that love our town and do not want to have a negative impact on surrounding areas but we also do not want to have to leave again due to flood waters.

**Commissioner Staton** inquired about a preventative measure of possibility having the river pumped and Project Manager, Christine Brayman, stated that she

is not aware of that being done in other areas and that is not a Army Corps of Engineer action.

**Commissioner Alvin Jones** asked that once Ms. Brayman has the information she needs how long does she anticipate meeting with the Assistant Secretary of the Army to share this information. Ms. Brayman stated that she honestly did not know and mentioned a previous project with Surf City which took them a year to get permission.

**Senator Kandie Smith** stated that she is a part of the committee that oversees what happens to NCORR and if she does not have contact from the board then it is harder to fight for their behalf. Senator Smith stated that when have money appropriated for something we want to go ahead and use that money instead of waiting, because the longer you wait the harder it is to do the project. Mayor Jones stated that at the last meeting with Army Corps of Engineers he was told that money is not an issue.

**Eric Evans Edgecombe County Manager** asked Army Corps of Engineers to consider if there are some interim approaches that used even if they are not able to reach a perfect solution.

**The AmeriCorp Team** stated leading up to the meeting and trying to get another study they came up with two other ideas. First being a reservoir upstream to help capture water, however, they do not have a location for that solution. Second a smaller diversion channel that would come through Princeville, underdeveloped areas primarily, to move some of the water during the highest flows. They have not done any analysis on those two options. When asked how soon could a diversion channel be implemented the AmeriCorp Team stated that it would have to be modeled first and then develop a plan. The study could take about three years and then design and construction would follow. They stated that they don't have all the answers for a timeline following after the study. The AmeriCorp Team consistently asked and stated they want to know what the community wants and the constant response was not to flood and the worry of not having a solution implemented after all this time. They stated they can do the reservoir study and the diversion channel at the same time so that it takes three years instead of six.

**Dr. Knight** expressed concern about the time and investment from the last feasibility study that was conducted from 2000-2016. She inquired about why the recommendations that were presented in that study have not been implemented.

**Christine Brayman**, project manager, stated that they were told there would be a study phase, design phase and construction phase. She also stated that for the last two years they have been modeling to try to get a solution. So far their modeling has not been successful in the outcome due to flooding other structures nearby which is not acceptable to their nonfederal partners. She stated if they started a study today, which they do not have the authority to do so, best case scenario it would be seven years before any construction. They do not have the authority right now to move forward. Ms. Brayman stated they are trying to get with the Assistant Secretary of the Army to get approval to do something in the interim without completing the entire project. Ms. Brayman explained that in totality they have abandoned the 2015 study and that neither the State nor Army Corps of Engineers supports the effect that will be had on surrounding areas.

**Citizens of Princeville** overwhelming and continuously throughout the meeting expressed concerns with the delay of progress and disappointment with the lack of solutions being offered by the Army Corps of Engineers.

**Colonel Brad Morgan** stated that as it relates to the length of the study technology has approved greatly in the last 15 years which has constantly changed their ability and outcomes with modeling.

**Ms. Brayman** stated that there is no project they can build to protect Princeville from a similar Hurricane Floyd again. She also stated that the reason there has not been anything done in the interim is because the language and rules and surrounding the money received under the Disaster Relief Act of 2019 says that you must build the whole and complete project and not separate elements. Ms. Brayman stated that as they continued to model to find solutions that each model showed an increasingly worse impact than the previous model on surrounding areas leading to their lack of ability to get approval. That the model showed impacts from upstream of Princeville and as far downstream as Greenville, NC.

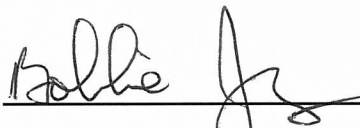
**Ms. Brayman** answered a question in regard to asking for money and stated that they have asked for investigation and study money versus construction money so they can go back and look at the change in price. From that request they had a meeting a month ago with the Assistant Secretary of the Army office who wanted more information about what the citizens of Princeville wanted moving forward since Hurricane Matthews. The Assistant Secretary of the Army's office did not make a decision and instead sent them back to gather more information.

**Colonel Brad Morgan** stated that next steps will be additional information gathering to understand what has changed within the landscape and other activities and entities within Princeville. The Army Corps of Engineers are also still waiting on approval to reconfigure the study they have on the books as there are still usable portions available.

**VI. Board Comments**

- a. **Mayor Jones** introduced the new Town Clerk, Alexis Carter, to the town and stated they are excited to have her aboard.

**VII. Adjournment: Commissioner Jones motioned to adjourn meeting. Commissioner Lee Staton seconded. Vote carried 4-0.**

  
Bobbie Jones, Mayor                      3/6/24  
Date

  
Alexis Carter, Town Clerk                      3-6-24  
Date