



**Town of Princeville
Board of Commissioners
Special Call Meeting Minutes
Annual Retreat 2024
May 11, 2024, at 10:00 AM
214 South Main Street, Tarboro, NC 27886**

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

Staff Present: Interim Town Manager Ronald Jackson, Assistant Town Manager Alexis Carter, Town Clerk/Finance Clerk Stephani McBeth, Senior Center Director Mary Tate

- I. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Mayor Jones.
- II. **Invocation:** Mayor ProTem Myrick
- III. **Public Comments**
 - 1) **Calvin Adkins:** Mr. Adkins encouraged the board to do what is right and focus on the "New Princeville" which is the 53 acres. He also stated that two minutes is not enough time for people to talk to the board. He also asked for the board to get back to citizens after public comments.
 - 2) **Bob Hyatt (President and CEO of Carolinas Gateway Partnership):** Mr. Hyatt stated that he wants to try to help tell the story of Princeville through economic development. He spoke about putting up signage to tell the story of Princeville.
- IV. **Announcements**
 - 1) In the event of an emergency, please use any exit that is the safest.
- V. **Presentations**
 - 1) **FEMA UPDATES:** James "Bob" Barker (NCEM PA Section Manager) and Jenine Stevenson (NCEM PA Central Branch Team Lead) provide an overview regarding FEMA PA projects.
 - i. **Museum:** They stated that nothing is stopping the museum from moving forward with construction on repairs. They stated photos have been submitted and accepted by FEMA.
 - ii. **Town Hall and Parking Lot:** This is currently going through FEMA review. This is a capped project and if there are any additional funds the town will be responsible.

- iii. **Senior Center:** Pending insurance requirements submission for FEMA to move forward with closeout.
 - iv. **Park & Playground Equipment:** Completed and closed by FEMA November 30, 2023
 - v. **Drainage System:** Completed and closed by FEMA June 10, 2022.
- 2) **Edgecombe County:** Eric Evans (Edgecombe County Manager) and Mike Matthews (Assistant County Manager) presented information to the board regarding Edgecombe County.
- i. **Revaluation:** Edgecombe County recently did revaluation of homes. The window has now closed for citizens to appeal the value of their home. There have been 14 appeals that will come before Edgecombe County board members on May 20th. The average overall increase is currently 32%. Property owners can set up a payment plan regarding taxes.
 - ii. **Tax Rate:** The tax rate is currently 95 cents. The board desires to decrease the tax rate. Mr. Evans emphasized the importance of making sure there is enough revenue coming in for the County to function. Mr. Evans mentioned the struggle of staffing personnel and the high vacancy rate. He gave his staff a ten percent increase and increased starting salaries. He stated the goal is to be competitive. He also notified the board that he hired Kelvin Jones for the Parks & Recreation Director.
 - iii. **Getting off the list initiative:** Mr. Evans explained that the University of Wisconsin puts out a county ranking list every year and Edgecombe County is 99 out of 100. He stated they are going to build support structures to help the organizations that are doing the work do it better and be able to sustain over time. They have implemented a scholarship that has assisted almost 100 Edgecombe County residents. They are also working to do a better job at training staff. They have implemented the "Earn as you learn" program which will pay for training and allow staff up to 8 hours off from work. In this program the staff can pocket the rest of the funds to help with other expenses. They have also implemented the "Edgecombe Works Academy Program" where staff can take individual courses that are related and stack them to provide them with a set of skills. This program has a 96-hour completion requirement. Upon completion of the program the graduate is provided a certificate of completion. Mr. Evans also spoke about the high unemployment rate and the career navigation position that was created to work with citizens to gain employment.
 - iv. **District 6 Project:** Assistant County Manager Mike Matthews explained to the board the history of the District 6 project and where we currently are. He explained that the damage being done to the streets due to the project will be repaired. Any damage done has to be

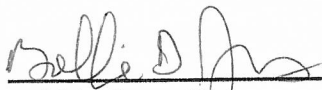
repaired to the standard it was prior to the construction. He also told the board that after the project they will be under a 1-year warranty to address any issues that may occur later down the line. He stated that the issue with the pipes and water infiltration existed before the project began and the purpose of the project is to address that issue. He also explained that there is no sewer meter, and we are billed by how much water comes through. Tarboro is in the process of trying to figure out how to meter that sewer. He also explained to the board that there is no minimum usage there is a flat rate of \$32.50 regardless of a drop of water or a bucket of water. From that point forward every 1,000 gallons cost and after 5,000 gallons it goes to another tier. He also explained that the county still bills trash pickup for the town of Princeville. He stated that \$20 of the utility bill is trash pickup.

- 3) **Wooten Company:** Derrick Smith from the Wooten Company presented to the board regarding the 5 projects that they are working on.
 - i. **District 6 Project:** He informed the board that the purpose of the project is to reduce stormwater inflow into the town's wastewater collection system that is treated by the Town of Tarboro. He informed the town that streets that fall outside of the project area will be the responsibility of the town to look at other funding for repair.
 - ii. **Floodgates Project:** The anticipated notice to proceed is May 28, 2024. Site 4 was removed from the project, but Mr. Jackson informed the board that funding has been found for site 4 to be included in the project.
 - iii. **Town Hall Parking Lot:** The design is complete and awaiting review comments from FEMA.
 - iv. **Farmers Market:** The \$540,000 project budget only included phase 1. Phase 1 only included parking lot and site improvements to support the development. The anticipated completion date is June 15, 2024. They also stated that the onsite mural that was remove will be reinstalled.
 - v. **53 Acres:** The lowest bidder is Barnhill Construction with a \$18 million bid. Barnhill is willing to hold bids 60 days beyond June 10, 2024. They are currently seeking additional funding to award the bid.
- 4) **NCLM Consultant:** Joe Durham spoke with the board regarding the responsibilities of the Town Manager and the relationship between the town manager and the board of commissioners. He reviewed information regarding things to look for in a town manager, the hiring process, and provided advice to the board.
- 5) **Princeville Fire Department:** Mr. Kermit Perkins, Princeville Fire Department Chief provided updates regarding Prineville Fire Department. He stated that there are currently 26 volunteers and 4 paid staff members. To date they have run 126 calls for the year with most of those calls being

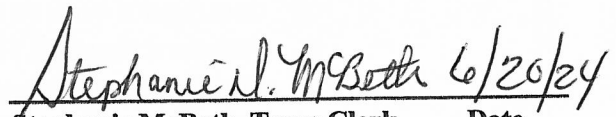
medical. They have applied for 4 grants and operate off close to \$163,000 a year. They currently have 11 men going through training and hopefully by the end of the year they will have 11 certified fire fighters. They currently have a number 6 rating in the city and a number 9 rating in the county. He stated that the need a tank and ladder truck which could run almost \$1.2 million. The majority of their funding comes from county taxes and the Town of Princeville. He asked for the Town of Princeville's continued financial support for the Fire Department.

- 6) **Proposed 2024-2025 Budget:** Mr. Jackson reviewed the current proposed budget and engaged in a question-and-answer session with the board. **Mayor ProTem Myrick motioned to approve the scope of work for the State of North Carolina Directed Grant Award, seconded by Commissioner Brown. Vote carried 3-0.**

- VI. **Adjournment: Mayor ProTem Myrick motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Brown. Vote carried 3-0.**


Bobbie Jones, Mayor

06/18/2024
Date


Stephanie McBeth, Town Clerk

6/20/24
Date