



**LUCAMA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2023
LUCAMA TOWN HALL
BOARD ROOM**

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Mayor, Jeff Johnson, (hereinafter “Mayor Johnson”) called to order the regular meeting of the Town of Lucama Board of Commissioners (hereinafter “Board”) at 6 pm on February 6, 2023.

2. Roll Call

Mayor Johnson conducted roll call – by use of sign-in. The following were present:

Commissioner, Michael Best (hereinafter “Comm. Best”)
Commissioner, David Johnson (hereinafter “Comm. Johnson”)
Commissioner, Peggy Lamm (hereinafter “Comm. Lamm”)
Commissioner, Keely Pate (hereinafter “Comm. Pate”) via phone conference
Town Administrator, Darlene Newsome (hereinafter “Admin. Newsome”)
Town Clerk, Dena Owens (hereinafter “Clerk Owens”)
Town Attorney, Gabe DuSablou (hereinafter “Attorney Dusablou”)

3. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting

Mayor Johnson gave the Board opportunity to review the proposed minutes from the January 9, 2023, meeting and monthly financial report.

MOTION: Comm. Best made motion to approve the January 9, 2023, meeting minutes and financial report; seconded by Comm. Pate. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

4. Welcoming of Guests and Public Comments

Mayor Johnson welcomed guest and opened the floor for public comments.

Gladys Martinez, of 106 Boulder Drive, voiced her concerns regarding her utility bill and the electric meter at her residence. She questioned how her meter could be read when “you can’t see it.” She continued to mention that it is the highest in the last six months and that she was not home much during the month of December. She shared pictures with the Board of her meter. Admin. Newsome

mentioned that there was a spray that the men use if the reading is not visible. She asked that her meter be re-read. Thom Goff, Public Works Director, spoke with Ms. Martinez. He mentioned that the covers on the meters get damage from the sun and it is difficult to read them. However, on sunny days, by use of polarized sunglasses the reading can be seen very well. Thom continued to mention that the covers damaged by the sun are being changed out. He agrees that it is important that customer be able to see and read their meter. He asked to meet Ms. Martinez with her bill at her meter. That gives him opportunity to show her the reading with what has been charged on her account. He did mention that even though people may not be home, the heating unit will continue to run and will cause the kilowatt usage. Ms. Martinez mentioned that she currently does not have any means to heat, that her unit is out. Thom again mentioned that he would like to meet her at her meter to explain more information.

Kim Joyner, of 101 Pine Street, mentioned that she needed help or requested the Board give information on who to speak with regarding a nuisance in her neighborhood. There is a home in her neighborhood that puts their dog outside. She mentioned that he could be heard for hours barking nonstop. She asked who she could call to help in the matter, whether animal control or someone else. Mayor Johnson mentioned that animal control would be the one to handle the issue. Deputy Martinez was present at the meeting and he agreed that she would call the Sheriff's Department and they would respond. If the noise were to continue and they be called again, that a citation would be given.

5. Request for Board Approval

Clerk Owens presented the Fiscal Accountability Agreement between the Town of Lucama Board of Commissioners and the Local Government Commission. The agreement gives requirements to be met. It is to be signed by all the governing Board and must be returned by February 28th. Required is an in-person or virtual visit with someone from the LGC, six hours of education for the manager, records maintained of said education and fiscal training by newly elected or appointed Board members by the LGC. It is also required that a budget to actual report be sent in to the LGC on a time schedule, February 15th. Mr. Overton has already met the February 15th deadline. A nine to tenth month budget to actual report is due in May and the Fiscal Year 24 draft budget is required to be sent to the LGC by May 16th. If the Board fails to comply with the said agreement it will require that the Town contract with outside entities to fulfil the duties.

MOTION: Comm. Johnson made motion to accept and approval the FAA between the Board and LGC; seconded by Comm. Best. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Comm. Best presented a slate of citizens to take part in the Parks and Recreation Committee to work towards grant funding for a new park. The Committee chosen is Ann Little, Josh Easley, Jodi Teague and himself.

MOTION: Comm. Johnson made motion to accept the committee chosen for the Parks and Recreation; seconded by Comm. Lamm. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

6. Departmental Reports

Comm. Mason was not present for the Fire Department report.

Public Works Director, Thom Goff, reported for the entire Public Works Department. He mentioned that the Town currently has a full crew, other than a qualified water employee, one is currently working on certification. Since the crew has been in Town, they have lightened up the Town by repairing street lights, cutting trees, working on the pump stations with only one station with a pump missing (currently being repaired by Pearson Pump), working to clean out the sewer stations. During the rainy days, the crew has repaired all the equipment. Everything is currently running. There are two backhoes running, the leaf machine is operable, the little tractor is running. With the new tree bucket truck, the electric crew has been cutting trees away from the power lines. They are working to make the Town prettier by putting all the same streetlights together. They installed a new light at Anthony Street and continue to place new lights in areas that the Fire Department requests. The crew has attacked the metering system, replacing covers, etc. The two younger employees are learning the water system. He praised the crew that the Town has and mentioned that there have been no contractors hired the last few months because the crew has taken care of repairs. Men in his crew can do electrical, concrete and other types of skills. If something is broken, in example, a septic tank cover broken by Town trucks running over it, they make the repair using their crew's skills. He mentioned that the crew worked hard on the Christmas lights – making sure all lights were burning and working correctly. All crew members are learning to pay attention, to everything. When reading meters, they are verifying the meter readings but also the meter serial numbers and the ERT numbers. The crew is working hard to ensure that meters are read correctly. Important and good things are happening in Town, and he feels the Board will see a difference.

Comm. Lamm mentioned that she sees the men working, not standing around. Comm. Johnson thanked and commended the crew on all the things that had been accomplished.

Comm. Pate spoke with Director Goff regarding a misread on his mother's electric meter. He mentioned it took a bit of time to get everything worked out. Thom

mentioned that there are various variables with the misreads. It could be from the field or with the data entry. He mentioned that they are working hard to ensure the reads are correct.

For the water and sewer report, Comm. Johnson mentioned again the pump being replaced at the lift station and mentioned that several water leaks had been found.

Comm. Pate gave information that the Sheriff's Department reported calls for the month. There were 223 total calls, 195 were self-initiated and 28 calls for service. There were 97 security checks. The report also showed 25 traffic stops.

Comm. Best mentioned that the Town would begin having events in April. He mentioned the survey for the new park asking for participation. You can find them in the office and at the Community Building. Gladys Martinez has been handing the surveys out in her neighborhood. Information about the survey will be placed on the Town's Facebook page as well as the digital marquis.

Comm. Best mentioned that there is a Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 8th at the Park and Community Building. He mentioned needing volunteer help if anyone was interested. He also mentioned that in May a food truck rodeo would be planned with Main Street closed. A date has not been decided.

Comm. Lamm reported that the door count for the Library in January was 201, reference questions 61, computer usage was 29, there was 267 materials checked out and five library cards issued. There were 18 patrons served in the winter themed program. During the month of February there will be a story time on the 16th at 10:30 am and then an activity later that day at 3:30. In addition to the Valentine themed program and books, there will be various handouts and activity sheets in observance of Black History Month.

Comm. Lamm thanked the Board for the new furniture at the Community Building. She also mentioned that work had been done on the locks in the restrooms and that the back door with the window was working out great.

7. Updates

Admin. Newsome mentioned that the roof had been replaced at the bank building and that no leaks had been found. The asbestos report was returned showing that there was no asbestos found in the building.

The Community Building roof replacement is set to begin on February 7th.

Quotes for the sidewalks have been received, but came in too late in the day to be reviewed and included in the agenda. They will be made available at next month's meeting.

8. Closed Session

Mayor Johnson requested that the Board go into closed session pursuant to NCGS §143-318.11 regarding personnel matters.

MOTION: Comm. Best made motion to move into closed session; seconded by Comm. Lamm. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

9. Re-opening of Open Session

MOTION: Comm. Best made motion to adjourn the closed session and move back to open session; seconded by Comm. Lamm. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

10. Adjournment

Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:50 pm, February 6, 2023, upon motion of Board.

MOTION: Motion was made to adjourn by Comm. Best; seconded by Comm. Johnson. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted: Dena Owens, Town Clerk