



**LUCAMA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, MARCH 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 March 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, Judy Mason (hereinafter "Comm. Mason")
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 February 6, 2023, meeting and monthly financial report.

MOTION: Comm. Johnson made motion to approve the February 6, 2023, meeting minutes and financial report; seconded by Comm. Mason. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

4. Welcoming of Guests and Public Comments

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

Kim Joyner, of 101 Pine Street, was interested in knowing when their street was going to be repaired. Mayor Johnson replied that the Town is still waiting for the sewer grant and placement of the sewer lines. Work on the road will be completed once that work is done, to prevent tearing up newly repaved roads. The time frame

could be long when dealing with the State and regulations. A recent grant took four years to complete.

Mrs. Joyner also questioned the spray-painted markings on the pavement and water meter boxes. Mayor Johnson replied that it shows where the services are for those properties.

5. Request for Board Approval

Clerk Owens presented the Board with Budget Amendment #5. The amendment brings accounts in line in the various funds where adjustments were needed. Some changes are revenue receipts that need to be recorded. For expenditures, room is being made where work was done on the Bank and Community Building, as well as other areas. The area of departmental supplies with the Electric Fund, due to the expenses of supplies and tools being ordered to properly run the Towns' power lines, the budget needed to be amended. Increases are made in salaries with the use of ARPA funds. Increases in contract services and departmental supplies were needed in the Water and Sewer Fund. This amendment is used to do a basic clean-up in the budget, which is what the Local Government Commission expects and requires.

MOTION: Comm. Johnson made motion to accept and approve Budget Amendment #5; seconded by Comm. Best. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Admin. Newsome mentioned that the Town was offered a grant through the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan in the amount of \$1,405,000 of which \$500,000 is principal forgiveness for the construction of 2021 Water Line Replacement and Elevated Storage Tank, known and referred to as Project WIF-2034. A resolution is needed to accept the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan (DWSRF) offer in the amount mentioned. The loan would be \$905,000. Waterlines will be replaced on Spring St. down through Rouse and Little Rock Church Road to Main St.

MOTION: Comm. Mason made motion to accept the resolution for the DWSRF Loan in the amount of \$1,405,000 with \$500,000 principal forgiveness; seconded by Comm. Johnson. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Admin. Newsome presented three sidewalk proposals: Anderson Landscape Design and Concrete, Crocker Contractors, Inc., and Fulford and Jones Asphalt. The quotes are comparable in the scope of work. Anderson Landscape came in with the lowest bid of \$85,000. Attorney DuSablon reminded the Board that it is required that the Board approve the lowest responsive bidder.

Discussion was rendered about the number of days needed for the concrete to set and dry to be driven across at the home entrances. Handicap pads will be installed at the crosswalks.

MOTION: Comm. Mason made a motion to accept the bid from Anderson's Landscape Design and Concrete in the amount of \$85,000; seconded by Comm. Best. Motion passed as follows: Yay – Comm. Mason, Comm. Best, Comm. Lamm, Comm. Pate; Nay – Comm. Johnson.

Admin. Newsome mentioned that in setting up the committee for the new park there was a vacancy. Mrs. Gladys Martinez was appointed and brought before the Board to be added to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

MOTION: Comm. Best made a motion to approve the addition of Ms. Martinez to the Parks and Recreation Committee; seconded by Comm. Pate. Motion passed as follows: Yay – Comm. Best, Comm. Pate, Comm. Lamm, Comm. Mason; Nay – Comm. Johnson.

6. Departmental Reports

Comm. Mason reported that the Fire Department had several First Responder calls. The department wasn't busy with unauthorized burns and such, it was a good month. There were 21 calls total.

Comm. Mason did not have a report for the electric department. Admin. Newsome reported that the department is doing well. With the recent windstorm over the weekend, there were no power outages. The crew is working very hard.

Comm. Best mentioned a concern about the most recent train derailments in the news. He wondered if there was a plan of action in place if something of the same were to happen in Town, or if there was something lacking that was needed at the fire station to react more quickly to protect citizens in Town. Comm. Johnson, acting Fire Chief with the Crossroads Fire Department, said that an incident of that sort would be taken care of by Emergency Management and the Department. There are also three departments surrounding which would help. Comm. Pate questioned whether the railroad was required to report what chemicals were being shipped through the area. Mayor Johnson said that it was much like the tractor trailers traveling down the highway. They are not required to report what is being shipped. Comm. Johnson agreed that it is something to think about. Much discussion was rendered regarding previous accidents with the railroad and derailments.

For the water and sewer report, Comm. Johnson mentioned that Lamar, with Crocker Contractors, found 3 more leaks where rainwater/ground water is entering the sewer system. He is currently working to correct the findings.

Comm. Pate felt that the Town Ordinance regarding old cars, campers, vehicles with no tags be enforced. He is concerned with the junk and old parts left lying around properties. He mentioned that one property to consider was 210 Spring St. He also mentioned that there are others around. Comm. Mason concurred that there are two on Main St. Comm. Johnson mentioned the mobile home on Oak St. that is falling apart and needs to be removed. Clerk Owens mentioned that the owners of the properties would have to be contacted. Comm. Pate agreed and suggested that a warning be served, followed by a fine if not adhered to. Mayor Johnson and Admin. Newsome will follow up.

Comm. Mason asked if there were ordinances in the Town regarding the cluttered porches of properties, i.e., old washing machines, couches, etc. Clerk Owens mentioned that there were ordinances that cover such and said that it would need to be studied to find the procedures, etc.

A discussion between Gladys Martinez and Deputy Martinez took place regarding a black car speeding down Boulder Drive at night with no lights on. Mrs. Martinez also mentioned that there are transfer trucks parking in the neighborhood, tearing up the town streets and requested if there was an ordinance against trucks parking in Town. Comm. Pate mentioned that there are signs in his neighborhood saying that no trucks are allowed. Mayor Johnson mentioned that the ordinance would be studied to ascertain what was allowed regarding transfer trucks parking in neighborhoods.

Comm. Pate gave information that the Sheriff's Department reported calls for the month. There were 205 total calls, 178 were self-initiated and 27 calls for service. The report also showed 16 traffic stops and 85 security checks.

Comm. Best mentioned that the park needed to be cleaned and before the upcoming Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 8th. The event will be from 11 am – 3 pm. He mentioned a meeting taking place on Tuesday at 4:30 to plan the event and anyone interested in helping is invited to attend. He mentioned the porta-johns and handwashing station being ordered. He also stated that there are picnic tables that need to be cleaned or painted and was concerned with the two grills. Both grills are broken and can't be used. They need to be replaced or removed.

Comm. Lamm reported that the door count for the Library in February was 158, reference questions 62, computer usage was 43, there were 295 materials checked out and five library cards issued. There were 20 patrons served in the Love Bug Valentine themed program. During the month of March there will be a

story time “Leg Up Leprechauns” on the 16th at 10:30 am and then an activity later that day at 3:30. In addition to the St. Patrick themed program and books, there will be various handouts and activity sheets in observance of Women’s History Month.

Comm. Lamm mentioned that everything is going well at the Community Building. She questioned if the roof had been completed. Admin. Newsome mentioned that the roof replacement was complete and looked good. Comm. Lamm mentioned that upgrades being made to the property help it to look much nicer and those using the facility are appreciative.

7. Updates

Admin. Newsome mentioned that the Town is currently working on a grant for the new community park. There will be a meeting on the 7th at 4:30.

Admin. Newsome also mentioned that she had applied for a grant with Lowes for the bank building. No more information will be available until June regarding being awarded. There will be an engineer coming March 22nd at 10 am to inspect the bank building to insure it is structurally sound.

Admin. Newsome mentioned that she had been working with Wilson County Library Board and the Town’s Board to have the name changed for the Lucama Library. Comm. Lamm has put a lot of time and effort, besides being employed by the Wilson County Library, and Admin. Newsome feels the name should be changed to the Peggy B. Lamm Library. The Wilson County Library Board, Town Board, and previous Wilson County Manager, Denise Stinagle, have all voted and agreed to the change. It would be an honor for Comm. Lamm, especially with her years of service as an employee, years of service as a volunteer, and years of service as a commissioner being responsible for the library, she deserves recognition. Admin. Newsome would like to see a dedication held in Comm. Lamm’s honor. The dedication will be held on Friday, March 31st at 2 pm.

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. Mason. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

9. Re-opening of Open Session

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

Regarding full-time employees, the personnel policy is to read that an employee will be on probation for six months upon being hired. At the end of the six months the employee will be considered permanent. At such a time a raise of 3.5 percent will be given going towards the employee's 401K.

MOTION: Comm. Best made motion to accept the personnel policy change regarding probation, permanent and 3.5 percent raise given to 401K; seconded by Comm. Mason. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Much discussion was rendered regarding Gabriel's Way Subdivision where the previous owner of the property paid for six streetlights and is unwilling to continue doing so, as he has no ownership. The properties have all been purchased by various others.

The Board spoke of adopting an urban lighting rate of \$2.41 per 38 residents, sending a letter to make them aware of the charge.

MOTION: Comm. Mason made motion to adopt an urban lighting rate of \$2.41 per month, per resident in the Gabriel's Way Subdivision; seconded by Comm. Lamm. Motion passed as follows: Yay – Comm. Mason, Comm. Lamm, Comm. Best, Comm. Pate. Nay – Comm. Johnson.

Mayor Johnson reported to the Board that Admin. Newsome had received information that Kevin O'Donnell, with Nova Energy Consultants, is stepping down due to health concerns. Lewis Davis with Utech out of Asheboro will be taking his place. The Board would like to have Mr. Davis come in to meet him.

10. Adjournment

Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:00 pm, March 6, 2023, upon motion of Board.

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

Respectfully Submitted: Dena Owens, Town Clerk