

**Town of Macclesfield  
Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Town of Macclesfield Town Hall  
May 9, 2022  
2:00pm  
MINUTES**

Members Present

Emily Turner, Mayor  
Paula Lewis, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Charles Lewis, Commissioner  
Joyce Braxton, Commissioner  
Jean Wooten-Jiles, Commissioner

Staff Present

Benji Lassiter, Operations Manager, remote  
Christie Cobb, Town Clerk

Others Present

Pam Hurdle  
Clee Atkinson, Sheriff  
Stacy Harrell, Pinetops Chief of Police  
Bobbie Brown, Pinetops Sgt.  
Steve Crisp, Cintas  
Steve Belcher, Cintas  
Will Burge, IT Locality  
Cpt. Jeremy Jones  
Deputy Harrell

Mayor Turner called the meeting to order at 2:06. She introduced the Board, Staff, and Guests.

Invocation was led by Commissioner Wooten-Jiles.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Turner.

Motion to approve agenda and previous minutes was made by Commissioner P. Lewis, second by Commissioner Braxton. Vote 4-0 passed.

Steve Crisp and Steve Belcher, who are representatives of Cintas-Medical Supplies, presented the option of leasing an AED for the Town Hall. The device would be owned and maintained by Cintas regularly. Fee \$120 monthly.

Sheriff Clee Atkinson and Chief Stacy Harell as well as 3 accompanying officers answered questions by the Board about the need to increase police presence in the town. The Board is concerned about public safety, misuse of the park, and speeding in the town. Deputies who had experience working with our Town explained that the town is fairly quiet after the grocery store and Kwik Stop closes (around 10:00). The police were hired in Macclesfield until 2001. The Sheriff's Dept will coordinate officers coming to Macclesfield for \$30 per hour. Pinetops Police Dept. assists the Sheriff's office to be a first reactive response when possible on calls. The officers recommended creating an ordinance and signs for the park that states its use is from Sunrise to Sunset, enforced by the Sheriff's Dept. They stated that "empty" cars are not effective. There is an issue with manpower in the Sheriff's dept. The Sheriff stated that if Macclesfield decides to employ officers for service to Macclesfield, the cost will be only the hourly rate. Gas, car, and training will be provided by the Sheriff's department. The Board was encouraged to contact NCHP, Governor, Public Safety Secretary, Eddie Buffalo to request presence in Edgecombe County.

Chief Harrell and Will Burge discussed the use of cameras in Pinetops and the need for Fiber Optic Cable. They also discussed the use of License Plate cameras in the Sheriff's Department and street cameras in the Town of Pinetops.

The Sheriff's office will contact NC Highway Patrol and both departments will spend more time in Macclesfield and collect stats for a 2-3 week period and come back to discuss the stats with the Town.

The officers reminded the Town to call and schedule extra police coverage for events.

No citizens attended to present concerns.

Mayor Turner discussed the power outage and the WWTP plant outage over the weekend and publicly thanked the Board and staff for the management of the outage. The generator is tested every Monday, but during an outage, the generator still must be started manually at times.

Commissioner Braxton discussed concerns with clogged drains after the rain. Benji will discuss checking the drains with the staff to make sure all drains are clear of debris.

Commissioner Lewis was concerned about the safety of the WWTP plant. B. Lassiter will make sure the gate is locked at all times and appropriate signs be placed at the entrances.

Mayor Turner would like to know if the WWTP plant could be toured. B. Lassiter explained that if someone requested, he would set up a time and take them on a 1-1 tour.

Clerk Cobb is still working on a call or email alert system by working with Mr. Will Burge on the Website and obtaining more customer information.

The Board viewed the sign proposed for the Community Building. The board would like the address added to the sign. P. Lewis made a motion to have the sign made with the address. Second by Commissioner Wooten. Vote 4-0 passed. The board reviewed the bids provided for lawn service for the Cemetery. Clerk Cobb will call a vendor to make sure they read and understand the terms of the contract. Commissioner P. Lewis made a motion to accept the bid for Typhoon Power Washing, pending the phone call. Second by Commissioner Wooten. Vote 3 for and 1 abstain until the next meeting. Discussion of the Locality Contract was tabled until Monday, May 16. Will Burge will be invited to the meeting Monday May 16 to discuss the contract.

The audit proposal and letter of engagement were reviewed and discussed. Commissioner P. Lewis made a motion to accept the contract and move forward with the audits for 2020-21 and 2021-22. Second by Commissioner Wooten. Vote 4-0 passed. Mayor signed and P. Hurdle will send the documents to the auditor.

Pam Hurdle explained the findings of the NCRWA rate study. The recommendation by the study makes an increase in costs mandatory. Water would increase rates from \$25.00 to \$41.25 and sewer from \$20.10-\$33.17. Board members were very concerned with the amount of increase on the customers. They have requested that Alicia from NCRWA come to the meeting Monday, May 16 to discuss options in this matter.

Cell phone reimbursement is currently \$50/ month for four staff members, Mayor and Public Works employees. Amount of reimbursement and other options will be studied. This matter will be discussed on May 16.

The NCLM letter had been read by all and there were no questions at this time.

The purchasing policy will be discussed on May 16.

Commissioner Wooten made a motion to reimburse Mayor Turner for the cost of the refrigerator. Second by Commissioner C. Lewis. Vote 4-0. passed.

The Mayor reviewed the mailing she had prepared with the Board. Commissioner P. Lewis moved that the letter be mailed separately from the utility bill. Second by Commissioner C. Lewis. Vote 4-0 passed.

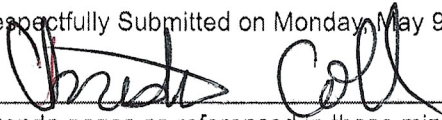
The recommended budget was presented and reviewed in detail.

The Mayor requested the opportunity to share with citizens the opportunity to purchase Veteran flags to honor family members and friends for Veteran's Day. Motion was made by Commissioner Braxton to allow the mayor to share the idea with the citizens for Veteran's Day 2022. Second by Commissioner P. Lewis. Vote 4-0 passed.

The Board went into closed session.

Meeting recessed until May 16 at 2:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted on Monday, May 9, 2022

  
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Christie Cobb, Town Clerk  
Agenda pages as referenced in these minutes follow and are a part of the official record.

\_\_\_\_\_, Mayor