

Town of Macclesfield
Regular Session Board Meeting
December 11, 2023, 5:00 pm

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 pm by Mayor Emily Turner. Members in attendance were Mayor Turner, Commissioner Joyce Braxton, Commissioner Charles Lewis, Commissioner Paula Lewis, Commissioner Jean Wooten-Jiles, Mayor Elect Michael Speight, Commissioner Elect Jason Taylor, Public Works Supervisor Benjy Lassiter, Town Clerk Gracieann Etheridge, Town Administrator Jennifer Stanley. Town residents in attendance were Mr. Lee Speight, Mrs. Suzanne Speight and daughters, and Ms. Shelby Wooten. Fire Chief Ethan Strickland was in attendance as well. Commissioner Charles Lewis offered the invocation and all in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Mrs. Stanley asked for the board to add to the agenda Mr. Ethan Strickland under old business. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition. Commissioner P Lewis seconded the motion and with none opposed, the motion carried. Commissioner P Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 13th regular session and closed session meetings. Commissioner Braxton seconded the motion and with none opposed, the motion carried.

Mayor Turner asked for the oaths to be administered by Mrs. Stanley. Commissioner Elect Jason Taylor was sworn in with Mr. Trey Lewis standing with him. Commissioner Joyce Braxton was sworn in with Mrs. Stanley standing with her. Finally, Mayor Elect Michael Speight was sworn in with his wife, Mrs. Suzanne Speight standing with him. Mayor Turner congratulated all and she and Commissioner C Lewis stepped down and Mayor Speight, Commissioner Taylor, and Commissioner Braxton joined the rest of the board to continue the meeting.

Mr. Sanjee Kumar was going to speak but decided instead to have the board contact him to set up a more one-on-one meeting to discuss the grocery store bill.

Ms. Shelby Wooten stated that her streetlight had been staying lit all day and wanted to know if someone could check it and if it was costing her any more with it staying on. Mr. Lassiter stated that he would check the light and the security lights are at a flat rate charge. When asked how to get a light checked or repaired, Mr. Lassiter stated that the customer only needs to call the office and put in a work order.

The next concern was the new bike lanes. The lanes were done on Friday, and they were put on the wrong side of the road on Edgecombe Street. Mr. Lassiter has tried to contact the contractor and will try again tomorrow to determine why the lane was put on the wrong side of the road. When asked why the lanes were being done, it was explained that a walk audit had been done and the committee suggested putting in bike lanes to make walking and cycling safer for the residents of the town. Mr. Lassiter explained that the quote received was approximately \$9,000. There have been questions regarding the legality of parking over the bike lanes – businesses and mail carriers loading their vehicles for the day. Mrs. Stanley stated that she would check on the legal issues and Mr. Lassiter will further investigate the cause of the misplacement of the lane.

Mr. Rich Moore was not in attendance to give an update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project.

Mr. Lassiter stated that the BBQ Shelter was completed and was a sturdy structure. Mr. C Lewis asked what the cost would be to add sides as protection from the wind. Mr. Lassiter stated that he would check the cost, but Mrs. Stanley stated that it would have to wait until the next budget.

Mr. Lassiter reported that Xylem had finished cutting the trees back from the primary power lines. When asked what was going to be done about the limbs across from the fire department, Mr. Lassiter reported that Xylem left them at the town's request. Mr. Lassiter had consulted with Mrs. Stanley and she told him to have them leave them because of the cost that would be incurred for the extra days it would take for them to remove. This decision was made because the project had already gone over the \$20,000 that had been allotted. Commissioner Taylor made a motion that Mr. Lassiter get a quote from Xylem for removing the limbs in question as well as a comparison of how long it would take the public works employees to complete the task. Commissioner Braxton seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion carried.

When asked about the quote for the Edgecombe Street repairs, Mr. Lassiter stated that Hardy Construction was supposed to come today to look at the spots but did not show up. He will call them again.

Mr. Lassiter explained that the curbs throughout town were on the list to do and they were working on them in between other items. It was stated that Brick Mill area curbs are in bad shape.

The board recognized Fire Chief Mr. Ethan Strickland and he approached the podium to answer any questions the board may have regarding the fire tax. He explained that the fire department answers roughly 300 calls annually with a handful being in town. Most of those are medical calls. The county gives the fire department a monthly check as citizens pay their taxes. Inside the town limits, there is no fire tax being charged. Commissioner Taylor stated that he has done some investigation and would only like to see another option to the 12% fire tax that would benefit the fire department as well as the town residents. When asked if the resolution could be amended, Mr. Strickland stated that Commissioner Taylor could contact Ms. Teresa Lewis and she would be better able to answer his questions. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles stated that she feels like the board would be back-tracking – the resolution was passed at the last meeting, and it is already at the county for processing. She understands the concerns and agrees to revisit the issue. Mrs. Stanley suggested that if revisited, it could be done during a workshop.

Mrs. Stanley explained that the two Mosca proposals were for replacing the Christmas decorations. It had been suggested previously that the decorations needed to be replaced. During the month of December, Mosca gives a 33% discount and works with municipalities to accommodate their budget periods. The first quote was to replace one half of the ornaments we have now (30), and the second would be to replace all of them. This is something that will need to wait until the next budget cycle as well but would give the board an idea of the cost.

The next discussion was about the town's bucket truck. The brakes will need to be replaced, there is a cylinder that is leaking (exact location has not been determined), it also needs tires. Mr. Lassiter stated that it would take a large amount to repair the truck. The Dodge truck

that Mr. Wooten drives is also on it's last leg. It leaks and/or burns oil to the extent that 1-2 quarts of oil are added weekly. Mr. Lassiter and Mrs. Stanley have discussed the possibility of purchasing a service body truck with a bucket lift to replace the two vehicles. It would allow storage space for more tools and materials as well as provide the bucket needed occasionally without the cost of two separate trucks. An inquiry was made as to the vac truck that is located at the wastewater plant. Mr. Lassiter stated that when he was hired it was not working and to his knowledge it would start, but that is all. The question was raised if the town could sell the vac truck, bucket truck, and Dodge truck to help towards the cost of purchasing the necessary vehicles. After some discussion, Commissioner P Lewis made a motion to start actively looking for the multi-purpose truck and a leaf vac. Commissioner Braxton seconded the motion and with none opposed the motion carried. When asked if there was anything we could do since there is a decent amount of funds in our savings to take care of some of the needs mentioned, Mrs. Stanley explained that in order to do that, there would need to be an dire need – truck going down, etc. There would need to be a budget amendment passed to move funds from the savings to general fund. It was also explained that the funds would not be able to be moved or the budget amendment passed until there was a quote approved declaring the exact amount needed.

The Railroad Street well does not have a fence around the well house. It was budgeted to have a fence installed. It would need to be approximately 500 feet of fence with three strings of barbed wire across the top and a 15-foot roll gate. There has been one quote submitted thus far. It was asked that Mr. Lassiter obtain a total of three quotes and bring them back to the board. Commissioner Braxton will check with Mr. Keith Wade to see if he would be interested in bidding.

Mrs. Stanley reminded the board that they received the balance sheet in their packets and reported that there was \$3,011.51 earned in interest over the past month.

Mr. Lassiter explained that there was one water complaint last month and it was taken care of after the routine flushing. There was also one outage – the pole at Flora Street and Green Street caught fire. There were only 6 homes affected.

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles asked about purchasing mats for the Community Building – inside and outside the entry doors to help with debris getting tracked in and a non-slip mat in the kitchen at the sink. Staff will check into the cost of these mats. She also inquired if the deposit refunds were made in only cash or only check. Mrs. Stanley explained that if the deposit and rental are paid in one check, the renter receives the deposit refund in a check. If the deposit is a separate check or cash, the deposit is placed in the safe with the renter's name on it. After inspection, if no deductions are needed, they will receive their original check or the cash back. Any deductions are taken from the cash and the balance refunded to the renter or the deposit check is deposited, and they receive a check for the balance left after the deductions.

Commissioner Wooten-Jiles stated that she saw there are more chairs in the Community Building and asked if another chair rack would be purchased. Mrs. Stanley stated that she would check pricing on the chair rack but if one is purchased and there is room for it in the utility room, it would need to come out of next year's budget.

Mayor Speight reminded everyone of the January 8th meeting @ 5:00 pm, Meter reading on December 14th, and the office closures for the Christmas and New Year holidays. With

nothing further, Commissioner P Lewis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Wooten-Jiles seconded the motion and with none opposed, the meeting was adjourned at 6:16pm.

On January 8, 2024, Commissioner Wooten-Jiles asked for a correction in the minutes on page 2, in the paragraph discussing the fire tax and Fire Chief Ethan Strickland. In the next to last sentence, she would like it to read that “she has no problem revisiting the subject but stating that the item had already been voted on the resolution approved and sent to the county.