

# Town Of Oakboro

Board of Commissioners  
Minutes  
Monday December 5, 2011  
6:15 Briefing  
7:00 PM Meetings

The Board of Commissioners met in a regular meeting that would be followed by an organizational meeting, and had a briefing beginning at 6:15 PM in the Oakboro Town Hall. Present were Commissioners Ernest Broadway, Georgia Harvey, Roy Helms, Ted Parker and Terry Whitley. Ross Holshouser was also present. Mayor Joyce H. Little presided.

During the briefing period, no information pertaining to the matters at hand were discussed.

Mayor Little called the meeting to order. Commissioner Parker gave the devotion.

*Commissioner Helms made a motion to accept the agenda. Commissioner Harvey seconded and the motion passed.*

*Commissioner Whitley made a motion to approve the minutes from the November Meetings. Commissioner Helms seconded and the motion passed.*

*Commissioner Parker made the motion to pay the accounts payable in the amount of \$148,711.96. Commissioner Harvey seconded and the motion passed.*

Citizen Keith Drye was next to address the board. His concern was from the last meeting at which he had requested that the board settle an issue he had regarding a drainage ditch in his yard. Commissioner Parker made a motion to fix the ditch with a 20 ft pipe. Mayor Little stated that a vote had already been made to fix the ditch and the motion was quashed. Commissioner Whitley stated that 20 ft. would create more of a problem and stated that it needed to be fixed right. Mr. Drye said he had been told that the Town Administrator was considering installing a short segment of pipe and was afraid that would not be enough. In his opinion this was an traffic hazard, that school buses have changed their route because of it and that Commissioner Whitley had said that it was an ugly ditch as it is right now. Mr. Drye said that 8 to 10 ft would be fine if he can still mow and Commissioner Whitley said that 20 ft. would take it too far down to the water line. Mayor Little stated that it was decided at the last meeting that the board was to look at the issue, get back with Ross regarding it, and that's what they were doing. Mr. Drye asked if he could be told when it would be fixed because he did not want to have to come before the new Board at their January meeting. Mayor Little told him they could not give him a time right now, but to come back to next meeting if it's not fixed. Mr. Drye thanked the Board for what they were doing and their consideration.

Open forum began with citizen Bob Harvey thanking the Commissioners who are ending their terms and stated that he knows they put a lot into it. He also wanted to advise the new board to pay close attention and understand the magnitude of the Water and Sewer collections system. The system is a big responsibility and should be treated as so. Also stated that perception is key, he had noticed lights in Christmas decorations that were out , and that some of the recent work he had seen done around town, his home included, attention was not paid to detail, in his opinion, and that creates a negative perception in the public's eye. He wished them luck.

Citizen Howard Feis was the next to address the Board during open forum. He too thanked the board for the work that they do and are going to do. He then reminded them that the Fountain in the Memorial Park needs to be shut off to avoid freezing.

Town Administrator Ross Holshouser then took the floor and informed the Board that the Planning and Zoning Board had changed their meeting times to 6 pm, for all meetings beginning in January. He also thanked the employees for their efforts in getting the Town decorated for the Christmas Festivities. He took the opportunity to thank Mayor Scott Efirm of Locust who was in attendance as well for their part in the decorations too because they had loaned the town the use of their bucket truck and an employee to drive it.

There were no updates for the budget or finance department, and none for the cemetery.

Chief Lowder gave his update for the Police Department highlighting that the firearms from the grant they had received had been ordered. He also presented Detective Green with the award he had received, the highest the State gives, for Advanced Law Enforcement Training.

There were no updates for the Parks department. Commissioner Helms only had advice to the Commissioner who would be taking over as streets commissioner to keep a check on pot holes around town. Commissioner Whitley began his update of the Water and Sewer department is in fact a very important part of the Town's responsibility. He stated that the past 6 years had been a challenge and that they had began working on the I/I project that got surpassed by other urgent needs. It's time to begin working on this again and that an updated contract needs to be signed to continue working on this. Mr. Branch informed the board where the town had been regarding this project, stating that the American Recovery Act didn't get passed for the town, then a SRF, revolving fund had been attempted to acquire funding, but was ultimately awarded a SRL, the Loan requires this contract with the Town engineer to be executed.

*Commissioner Whitley made a motion to approve the joint contract with Steve Chambers Engineering in order to move forward with the I/I (inflow and infiltration) project. Commissioner Parker seconded and the motion passed.*

Commissioner Whitley then asked Mr. Branch to bring them up to date on the McCoy's Creek Pump station and Force Main Project. He stated that the project with the Force Main had been approved as closed, and there would be a meeting on December 6 at 9 am to close out MC Coy's Creek Pump Station. Commissioner Whitley also stated that the supposed issue with Town of Stanfield and City of Locust and sewer issues between us that had recently been addressed in the paper, was not an issue, and pointed out that the Town Administrator and Mayor respectively were in attendance and could corroborate this as a non-issue.

Mayor Little took the opportunity to congratulate Nick Griffin on achieving his Grade 4 operator status. The Commissioners made their final comments with the current Board. They were as follows. Commissioner Harvey thanked everyone for coming, and a special thanks to the commissioners that were ending their terms tonight.

Commissioner Parker and Broadway echoed Commissioner Harvey's comments too.

Commissioner Whitley said that it had been gratifying to see the Town from the inside and how important the details are. He's enjoyed being on the Board, and proud that the Town chose the two commissioners to replace them that they did. He also stated that Larry Branch had worked with him over the past 10 years and thanked him for hanging in there with him through this whole time.

Commissioner Helms wished God's blessing on the commissioners continuing on and to the ones that would be coming on new.

Mayor Little thanked everyone who helped get ready for the Christmas Festivities. She thanked the Mayor of Locust for being there and Commissioner Harvey for attending the COG meeting with her. She also reminded the Board that there was a Business after Hours on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>. She then gave outgoing Commissioners Helms and Whitley plaques in appreciation for their service.

Chief Lowder then gave Mayor Little a plaque thanking her for her 14 years of service over the past 18 years.

Mayor Little then thanked Larry Branch, the Police Department, each of the employees, the outgoing board members, and to the new people, wished God's blessing and to the Town.

She then declared their meeting adjourned.

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Joyce H. Little, Mayor

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Whitney Mackey, Clerk