

**MILTON NORTH CAROLINA TOWN HALL/TDH**  
**TUESDAY: December 08, 2020----7:00 PM. Minutes**  
**Town Hall Hours: Tuesdays 9:00 am.-5:00 pm.**  
**Thursdays- 4:00 pm.-7:00 pm. Payments Only**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**Mayor Patricia Williams** called meeting to order at 7:00 pm

This meeting is being recorded and I (Mayor Patricia Williams) like to remind you to for **Public Comments** please call Town Hall at 336-234-0030 by 2:00 p.m. on the Tuesday the day of the Town Meeting and leave your name, address, and your reason for Public Comments.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

- **Mayor Patricia Williams** asked everyone to please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance

**PRESENT:** Mayor Patricia Williams, Commissioner Lisa Brandon, Shirley Wilson, Town Clerk, **Zoom:** Commissioner Cathia Stewart, Commissioner Valerie Sottile, Commissioner John Wallace Jr., Sharon Williams, Finance Officer

**ABSENT:**

**Introduction of guest Speaker by Mayor Patricia Williams: Beryl Aldeberan**, Caswell County Food Insecurities Resource Coordinator. Shirley Wilson and I (Mayor Patricia Williams) got the privilege of meeting and walking around town with **Beryl Aldeberan** today and she is going to discuss a food pantry in Milton. After she has talked about it, I will allow comments, questions, and discussion from the Commissioners. For anyone else just write those comments down to present during public comments.

**Beryl Aldeberan** thanked Mayor Patricia Williams for the invite and stated she enjoyed her meeting with her and Mrs. Shirley Wilson in the Town Hall. This is a new position for me and Caswell County. We are trying to get all the producers, distributors in the county to become a Coalition to build a program that will help serve all the residents of Caswell County addressing the food insecurities issues that a lot of people are experiencing especially during **COVID**. When I met with Mrs. Shirley the first time, I discovered that you all did not have a grocery store, dollar store, nothing close to you, so where in the world do you buy groceries? People with no transportation, those that cannot get out of the house how do you get groceries? I found this to be a daring situation for the town and township at this moment. It seems to have been a severe issue for a while. After discussing with **Mrs. Shirley Wilson** and **Mayor Patricia Williams** different ideas and ways to do that we decided to create a formal pantry in Milton that would be food coming from **Second Harvest** and to get more food out to more people in the town and township of Milton that **Mrs. Shirley** is currently being able to serve. We are in the process of doing that and **Mrs. Shirley** has the paperwork and there is a lot of conversations between Second Harvest and us. We have a temporary plan to get through Christmas, and maybe another month until we have all paperwork finalized along with **Second Harvest** completing their process so there can become a new pantry in Milton. Hopefully in the near future this will be a long-standing, ongoing pantry to help the citizens in your neighborhood. A lot of research that has to be done. We want to bring this service to Milton.

**Mayor Patricia Williams** asked each Commissioners for questions or comments beginning with Commissioner Cathia Stewart. Commissioner Cathia Stewart thanked Beryl Aldeberan for all her help with trying to start a pantry for Milton and stated it is a great idea. Commissioner Lisa Brandon had no questions at this time. Commissioner John Wallace had no questions. Commissioner Valerie Sottile asked if there was a particular building you are looking at. Beryl Aldeberan stated that she and Mayor Patricia Williams and Mrs. Shirley Wilson walked around town looking at three buildings. The HUB is a different kind of bear than the food Pantry would be. Right now, we are interested in specifically getting as many people as we can fed in Milton and surrounding areas in the month of December. The Distribution Hub we are currently researching, and a lot of the Pantries are involved in that. Thanksgiving and December the holidays everyone has been slammed. We do not have another meeting until January 2021. We are looking at a building to put up a Food Distribution Hub which will be a place where all the Pantries in Caswell County will be able to house the overflow of foods. Food is now being brought to the Food Lion in Yanceyville N.C. and the Pantries pick up the food. A lot of Pantries have capacity issues the buildings are full, and they do not have space for anything else. We are looking for a larger building to host refrigeration, freezers, and space for all the Pantries. Also, so the food can be stored at the proper temperatures. Commissioner Valerie Sottile stated she would like to continue to help Shirley Wilson, the Mayor and other Commissioners distribute the food. Beryl Aldeberan stated that everyone here in Milton has been so outgoing and willing to help with distribution, she really thinks we are going to make great things happen and appreciates everyone.

#### **APPROVALS:**

- **Mayor Patricia Williams** called for approval of the **December 08, 2020**, Agenda.
- Commissioner Cathia Stewart asked that the EDC meeting be put on January's Agenda and the November EDC Report
- **Mayor Patricia Williams add under New Business: Street light in front of Town Hall Museum**
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- **Mayor Patricia Williams add Handrail and ramp to be built in front of Town Hall/ TDH**

It was motioned to approve the Agenda with the amendments for **December 08, 2020**, Agenda by Commissioner Lisa Brandon. Second by Commissioner Cathia Stewart. All members were in favor. **Mayor Patricia Williams** asked for the approval of the **November 10, 2020**, Minutes. Commissioner Valerie Sottile motioned to approve the **November 10, 2020**, Minutes as they stand and second by Commissioner Lisa Brandon. All members were in favor of the Minutes by stating (I).

#### **MAYOR REPORT:**

- **Mayor Patricia Williams: The Milton Post Office Update: The United States Postal Services** has answered all the states questions and concerns about the Milton Post Office and have given approval to move ahead putting in a Post Office. USPS along with the Property Owner has signed and executed a ground lease for the new Milton Post Office.
- USPS has Design and Construction Department will now create a construction timeline. As soon as that is created I (Mayor Patricia Williams) will notify everyone hopefully in the next three weeks. Milton Post Office is going to happen.

- **The Flagpole** location down by Dan River Milton entrance is not maintained by the Town. This issue was brought up in our last meeting. **The Preservation Beautification Committee maintains the American Flag and the Flagpole.**
- **COVID 19 Update:** Caswell County now has 434 confirmed cases; Milton Zip Code has sixty confirmed cases with (1) death. reported last month fifty-five confirmed cases. **We are increasing.** Please be diligent in practicing wearing a face covering, social distancing, and washing your hands. Remember Cold and Flu Season has arrived. If you have any symptoms go and get tested to rule out COVID-19. There are **2 free Testing Sights:** open for anyone to go to be tested. You do not have to be a Caswell County resident. Pelham Community Center, and the Caswell County Health Department. Appointments are not necessary, but you do need to call to hear the days and times. **Days and Times may change due to increased numbers.**
- **Mayor Patricia Williams:** I received this today a message from the Caswell County Health Department and the Caswell County Government. Today the COVID-19 Caswell County Alert System was updated, and **Caswell County is now considered a RED County** with critical community spread. This means you should limit mixing between households, minimize the amount of people in your social circle, avoid settings where people congregate, consider ordering take out from restaurants, instead of dining in. Individuals who are high risk for developing serious illnesses should consider staying at home as much as possible, reduce your public interactions to mainly essential activities (going to work, school, caring for family members, buying food, getting health care, or picking up medications). We must work together to fight the spread of this virus. This is the time to be vigilant in our personal actions, wear a mask, wait 6 ft. apart, wash your hands frequently. More information can be found on the North Carolina DHHS website COVID-19 dashboard. This came out from Jennifer Eastwood, Caswell County Public Health Director.
- **Governor Cooper just announced today a modified stay at home order going into effect on Friday (December 11, 2020).** This modified stay at home order means everyone should be at home between the hours of **10pm and 5 am. A mask mandate has been put in place and will remain in place for everyone. Go to the website to find out more information.**
- **CARES ACT Monies:** Will be available to help Milton residents who have an outstanding Water Bill, Electrical Bill or Rent due to the economic impact from COVID-19. This one-time financial help is coming from the Caswell Fund Application and information will be at the Milton Town Hall for anyone to get. (Tuesdays 9:00am-5:00pm and Thursdays 4:00pm-7:00 pm.) Please take advantage of this help for yourself or someone you know with outstanding bills, and you live in Caswell County. Applications are due by December 29, 2020. Only a limited amount of money. Please do not put it off.
- **Milton looks so festive with the decorations and lights for the season. Thanks to everyone who participated in the light up Caswell County on Friday November 27, 2020.**

## STAFF REPORTS:

**Sharon Williams** documentation through the end of November 2020. Sharon Williams stated at the General Fund our Revenue in November is at **18%** at the end of November target was **42%**. We received the bulk of Revenue in December 2020 and January 2021 and maybe some in February 2021. Our Expenses are at **31%**. Overall Revenue for the year is almost \$14,000.00. Expenses for the year is \$19,000+ almost \$20,000.00 plus an additional \$20,000.00 in Expenses for the fire hydrants. Transferred money account once money starts coming in. Water Fund Revenue is at 49% Expenses year to date is at 36%. Revenue comes in at \$60,000.00 and we paid out \$47,500.00. We are doing well with collecting the monies from customers in arrears. Bank Accounts: General Fund Bank Account: \$6,800.00 Water Fund at the end of November was at \$16,700. As of last week, it was down to \$15,000.00 Our North Carolina Capital Management Trust is down to **\$78,400.00. We have spent \$20,000.00 out of that account** due to transfers for fire hydrants. Mayor Patricia Williams discussed replenishing the Reserve Account as soon as possible. What percentage is a question. Do we wait until the new year? Discussion

## OLD BUSINESS:

**Commissioner Valerie Sottile and Commissioner Lisa Brandon: Discussion of Amending the Ordinance Regulating Alcoholic Beverages in the Town of Milton. Commissioner Lisa Brandon** stated they had a meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2020 and looked at Hillsboro's Ordinance Regulating Alcoholic Beverages. You must get a permit if you want to use the sidewalks at a certain time. Permit for sitting out front on the sidewalks. We must take under consideration the town, the customers, and the store owners. Mayor Patricia Williams stated when she gets questions, comments, or concerns from anyone about the Alcohol Beverage Ordinance she will pass those along to **Commissioner Valerie Sottile and Commissioner Lisa Brandon**. We will put this topic back on the Agenda when **Commissioner Valerie Sottile and Commissioner Lisa Brandon** are ready.

**Mayor Patricia Williams** discussed the Water Leak Relief Policy and the Water Relief Application. **Mayor Patricia Williams** discussed the approved applications from last meeting. So glad the citizens can use the help. At the last meeting we discussed putting a money limit on the **One-time** Water Leak Relief Policy of \$1000.00 not on the gallons, because the gallons will change. On the policy **#3 was changed and #5 was changed.**

Water Leak Relief Application: Sharon Williams asked about paragraph 5.

**Specific address not the property owner.**

**Cap is too high. (\$1000.00)** Commissioner Lisa Brandon is fine, Commissioner Cathia Stewart fine, Commissioner John Wallace did not agree with the \$1000.00 cap and said it should be \$500.00. Commissioner Valerie Sottile thinks a thousand is too much and should be \$750.00. One of the applications was approved but was extremely high (Mayor Patricia Williams explained the situation) Trouble getting hold of the property owner. **(Discussion) Commissioner John Wallace** stated he thinks we should have documentation on each property owner associated with the renter of each property in the Town's Records. Research Project: Going down to Yanceyville to the Property Tax Office to find out property owner and place information in Town Records. Start the process by calling the tax office or by email. Commissioner Valerie

Sottile will help Commissioner John Wallace collect information.

**Mayor Patricia Williams** asked for a money amount for the one Time Water Leak Policy. This was taken through a roll call vote Commissioner Lisa Brandon voted yes for \$750.00, Commissioner Valerie Sottile voted yes, Commissioner John Wallace Jr. voted yes Commissioner Cathia Stewart voted \$1000.00. It was motioned by Commissioners Valerie Sottile to CAP the money amount at \$750.00. Commissioner John Wallace second the motion. All in favor except Cathia Stewart. The max will be \$750.00

**NEW BUSINESS: Mayor Patricia Williams:** Discussed needing a streetlight in front of **Town Hall** (Discussion for Duke Energy to put a LED light.)

**Shirley Wilson** stated she thinks that the light across the street will be sufficient.

**Sharon Williams** thinks that is a great idea to place a streetlight across the street.

**Mayor Patricia Williams** asked all Commissioners if they agreed to placing a streetlight across the street. All Commissioners agreed.

**Mayor Patricia Williams** asked for a motion to place a streetlight across the street for lighting entering and leaving the Town Hall. It was motioned by Commissioner Lisa Brandon that a light be placed on the pole across the street. Second by Commissioner John Wallace.

**Mayor Patricia Williams** discussed having a handrail at the steps or ramp built in front of Town Hall/TDH for safe and easy entrance and departure. We already have approval from North Carolina Preservation, TDH Board, Milton Town Board, we have the plan for the ramp and the Bid for the ramp, back before COVID. We are seeing a need for a ramp on a regular basis. (Explained) We need to get approval for a handrail and a Bid. (Discussion) Town had voted to pay half of the ramp installation amount. **Mayor Patricia Williams** stated we could **solicit donations. A fundraiser by TDH in the Spring was postponed. All donations are deductible.** The ramp will accommodate walkers, wheelchairs, canes, and people that need balance. We can look into meeting with the TDH President to see if there are any monies available to get this ramp put in place. Any other discussions.

## **COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORT/NA**

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- ✚ **Samantha McGraw** got on a Goggle Meet link. My husband works with a company with a refrigerator truck to help with the food bank.
- ✚ **Moving money for the fire hydrants, is frowned upon.**
- ✚ Sidewalk alcohol permits for my own home
- ✚ Fire Department knows who rents
- ✚ Donation for the ramp-Husband will help build the ramp
- ✚ Public records (Ordinances) held in two locations-General Statue 132 all records are Public Knowledge. I am allowed to have those in a timely manner.
- ✚ Town Ordinances on paper and on the computer in their entirety. I can provide a flash drive and paper if I need to.

✚ **Michael McGraw**, I got word that there is a key to the flagpole. Please get me the key and I will make sure the flag is half-staff when it should be raised or lowered. I will maintain the flag. December 7, 2020, The Milton Flag was at full staff and should have been at half-staff. I am a Military person. What happened to opening the Town meetings with the Pledge of Allegiance? What happened to maintaining Military Bearings? No one in the town of Milton is doing their job myself included. I only have 3 minutes in the town meeting to do what I can do. I will bear that responsibility.



**CLOSE OF MEETING: Mayor Patricia Williams** asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Commissioner Lisa Brandon** motioned to adjourn the meeting and second by **Commissioner Cathia Stewart**. All members were in favor. Time: **8:55 pm**

Minutes Humbly Submitted by: Shirley Wilson