

**MILTON NORTH CAROLINA TOWN HALL/TDH**  
**TUESDAY: February 09, 2021----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) would like to remind you 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:**

- **APPROVALS: Mayor Patricia Williams** called for approval of the **February 09, 2021**, Agenda. Commissioner Patricia Williams made an addition to the Agenda for February.
- **09, 2021. Add Dawn McPherson, NC DOT Engineer, Division 7 before the Mayors Report. Dawn McPherson** will be talking about the Crosswalk at High Street Baptist Church and answer any questions you may ask. It was motioned to approve the Agenda with the amendments for **February 09, 2021**, by Commissioner Lisa Brandon. Second by Commissioner Valerie Sottile. All members were in favor. **Mayor Patricia Williams** asked for the approval of the **January 12, 2021**, Minutes. Commissioner Cathia Stewart motioned to approve the **January 12, 2021**, Minutes as they stand and second by Commissioner Lisa Brandon. All members were in favor of the Minutes by stating (I).

**Mayor Patricia Williams** stated we had a meeting at High Street Baptist Church on Thursday February 04, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. with North Carolina DOT and a representative from Senator Berger's office along with Deacons from High Street Baptist Church. It was a discussion about having a Crosswalk put in at High Street Baptist Church with flashing lights and it was explained exactly where it would go, what it would look like and we have now with us Dawn McPherson from the NC DOT Division 7 Traffic Engineer and all of you were given a map showing the exact pictures of the sidewalk that will be placed, the curbing and crosswalk where that will be going. Are there any questions from the Commissioners that you may have concerning the map, concerning the crosswalk that you may want to ask Dawn McPherson? Mayor Patricia Williams stated to Dawn McPherson that it seems like everyone is fine with the map and illustrations on the map. Later in the meeting there will be a Resolution presented and voted on supporting the Crosswalk as it is shown on the map. Town and Community there are maps here at Town Hall for you to review or pick one up. Mayor Patricia Williams thanked Dawn McPherson for being here. Dawn McPherson stated that they are excited about this project and excited about getting the Resolution from the Town of Milton so we can forward that over to Senator Berger's Office

for funding. Once that funding is obtained and move on to the March Funding Meeting and then off to our board, we will start the Design process on that and once the design is completed, we will start the construction and move forward with the Project. We are not going to put this project out for bid to keep the cost down and we will use the State Forces to build this Project. It will be a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon similar to what is on the crosswalk at the corner of Palmer's Alley and Board Street with the same coloration, same power, same everything. Having Pedestrian connectivity along Academy Street, NC 57, enhances the crossing for the church and a good thing for public, community and for High Street Baptist Church. Once we get the funding and design, we hope to get construction sometime late summer, or fall, it depends on when they get the design to us. If there are any questions throughout this whole process you can forward any questions to Patricia and she will contact me, we have a great relationship we have worked many times in the town. **Mayor Patricia Williams** stated this has been an ongoing project for quite a few years talking about having a crosswalk here at High Street Baptist Church and everyone is quite excited that it will be happening. I am pleased and thankful that Senator Berger's Office has hopefully found contingency monies that will pay for this project. It is not going to cost the Town of Milton anything. We thank your office and the Deacons of the High Street Baptist Church that have been to many meetings and given input, so we appreciate all that they have done. It is a safety feature for the parishioners of High Street Baptist Church, but also the community. There will be a sidewalk coming down from Community Circle and it will go down along Academy to the Crosswalk and will open that area for pedestrians, and for the walking tours of Milton. High Street Baptist Church is on that walking tour. For visitors it will be a great safety feature for everyone. So, we certainly appreciate all the hard work your department has done. Commissioner Cathia Stewart ask to say something. She stated that she wanted to thank Mr. Jeremiah Jeffries for being an inspiration in helping us also and all the other people.

#### **MAYORS REPORT: Mayor Patricia Williams**

- **Milton Post Office Update:** A Civil Engineer has been hired by USPS and has been in contact with the Milton Planning Board and the Milton Water Supervisor on hooking up water/sewer to the Milton Post Office. Things are moving forward with Milton getting a Post Office and is still scheduled for sometime this summer. A definite date has not been put into place due to possible situations that may arise during this pandemic.
- **A Tax-Exempt Donation:** Can be sent to the Town of Milton designated to be applied to the General Fund or the Water/ Sewer Fund Accounts We thank anyone who sends in a donation. We appreciate that. You just have to put it on your check that you would like for it to be applied or designated to the General Fund or the Water/Sewer Fund.
- **COVID 19 Update: Caswell County** now has 780 confirmed cases down from 1048 reported last month; **Milton Zip Code** has 135 confirmed cases up from **98** reported in January with (1) death in our zip code.
- **1800 Maderno Vaccinations** have been given in Caswell County at the Caswell County Park and Recreation Department and the North Village Pharmacy. You can call the Caswell Health Department at 336 -694-4129 to put your name on a list to be contacted when you qualify for a vaccine.

- Remember Cold and Flu Season has arrived. There are **Active Flu Cases here in Caswell County: Not too late to get a Flu Vaccine.** Please be diligent in practicing wearing a face covering, social distancing, and washing your hands. If you have any symptoms you need to 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. Those two sites are **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.**
- **The North Carolina Capital Management Trust: (Someone asked about that)** It is a Reserve Account also called a Savings Account. This was created to be used for emergency situations for the Town. **The Five Non-Working Fire Hydrants were replaced with funds from this account. (North Carolina Capital Management Trust)** It is added to when there are extra monies. Commissioner John Wallace and Finance Officer Sharon Williams have been wonderful in adding monies to that Reserve Account for emergencies as our five non-working fire hydrants proved.
- **On Friday February 5, 2021,** there was a Caswell County Zoom Meeting with the Elected Officials, a Representative from Senators Berger's Office and Representative Greg Meyer attended to discuss the Budgetary needs for Caswell County, The Town of Milton, and the Town of Yanceyville. During the meeting it was revealed that there were monies appropriated in the North Carolina Budget for the completion of the Thomas Daye House Union Tavern Museum. The specifics and amounts of the allocation were not discussed. Hopefully, the North Carolina Budget will get passed with the allocations still intact.
- **The Berkadia Bank Loan:** For the Water Tank was paid off January 27, 2021. Wonderful news for the Town of Milton. This puts us down to just the \$450,000.00 USDA Loan for the Water Sewer System. This will be paid continually for the next 40 years at a total of \$16,000.00 a year. This is a large amount for Milton to come up with at the end of every year.
- **(Someone asked about the Budget Officer) Appointment of the Budget Officer is required annually and we are following the North Carolina General Assembly Statue 150-99 in how we appoint and vote on that person.**

**STAFF REPORTS: Sharon Williams Presented the General Fund Target Group 58%** end of Revenue in General Fund was **51%** Expenditures are at **60% over the target.** The reason Expenditures are over is we paid the Auditor in full at 100% --Town Liability Insurance was at 95%-and FICA was at 100%.

**Water/ Sewer Fund** our Revenue is at **65%** above the target. Expenses year to date is at **45%**.

**Bank Accounts: General Fund Bank Account:** End of January 2021--**\$13,115.40** with the outstanding checks last week we were at **\$11565.00. Water Sewer Fund** at the end of January we were at **\$32,056.88.** Last week we were at **\$28,561.57.**

Our North Carolina Capital Management Trust is down to **\$78,407.81 until we Transfer money back for the fire hydrants as the money comes available.** Commissioner John Wallace asked a question about meeting the payment for USDA. Discussed

**OLD BUSINESS: N/A**

**NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner John Wallace – Privatizing the Milton Water/Sewer**

## System

- The concept is to sell the entire Water/Sewer System to a third party.
- Things like this happens when a small Municipality will sell out to a larger one like a suburb of Charlotte for example. There are private companies interested in absorbing Municipal Water Funds, so I got some information from our Auditor Tony about this, the net amount of the water fund assets which are primary the **Tank, Delivery system, the Processing Operation on Doll Branch Road, the Book Value** taking the Depreciation out through **June 2020 is 2.4 Million** that would be a **starting point of asking someone to buy the system. The Debt on it through last June 2020 was \$416,000.00 and that runs into the early 50's. (2054) before this is eliminated.**
- **I** (Commissioner John Wallace Jr.) suggest that we get a committee together to investigate this and I have been in contact with one company, but they have a lengthy proposal solicitation sheet. (20 pages) a good deal of work. It also requires Mike Behler's help because there are a lot of technical questions about the water system. This would be selling the whole thing. (Tanks, Meters, Processing Systems etc.) There will be some money involved, we would have to pay Mike Behler, might have to take a field trip to meet with perspective purchasers. The person I have been talking to is in Wilmington.  
**Questions:**
- **Commissioner Lisa Brandon:** Will rates go up? N/A Where would the pool of customers come from? 50/60-mile radius
- **Commissioner Valerie Sottile:** Would the company be responsible for all the maintenance? (Yes) Are we breaking a contract with Suez? Long standing agreement (painting inside and out should- give notice by March 15<sup>th</sup>) Suez has not been faithful. If we sell our assets the town actually gets the money? **Yes, John spoke with USDA, and they stated they did not care who the town sold the assets to they would get their \$416000.00. Book Value.**
- **Discussed \$1100.00 monthly.**
- **Commissioner Cathia Stewart:** How would this affect our billing? Would we be billed from the Town of Milton? **The billing will be done by a private company.** Will that cut out some of our employees? **The company may make a job offer to the current employees. It would be their responsibility to read the meters and do the billing. Maintain the System, Getting the Water Tank Maintained. (Suez)**
- **Mayor Patricia Williams:** stated that Commissioner John Wallace has proposed an interesting concept. I think it is something to investigate seeing if the Town is interesting in pursuing this endeavor. Looking for someone to get with you to complete the application. Any volunteers: Lisa Brandon volunteered.
- **Mayor Patricia Williams asked Commissioner John Wallace** to give an update at the monthly meetings.
- **Mayor Patricia Williams – Resolution Honoring Mayor Walter Lea Thomas IV**  
**Mayor Patricia Williams read the Resolution so the people on Zoom could hear it.** It was motioned to adopt this Resolution for former Mayor Walter Lea Thomas IV by Commissioner Lisa Brandon. Second by Commissioner Cathia Stewart. A copy will be placed in the Town's Archives.
- **Mayor Patricia Williams—Resolution in support of Crosswalk located at High Street Baptist Church with flashing warning lights.**
- **Mayor Patricia Williams read the Resolution so the people on Zoom could hear it. It**

was motioned to adopt this Resolution in support of a **Crosswalk located at High Street Baptist Church with flashing warning lights** by Commissioner Cathia Stewart. Second by Commissioner Valerie Sottile. A copy will be placed in the Town's Archives.

#### **COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTS:**

- **Commissioner Cathia Stewart: EDC Reports for January 2021 and February 2021**
- **CEAD** - In two weeks, we expect to have the design RFQ to be released for CEAD!!! Working with Extension services and PCC Ag faculty to clarify educational space needs so interactions with architect will go smoothly.
- **Met with 4P** with regards to their need for space at the CEAD site sooner than current construction schedule. This need may also address an ongoing need identified for food pantries in Caswell to have storage space and refrigerated space long term. We are going to visit a site in Charlottesville with a similar function, confirm where on the CEAD site to best place such a facility, and confirm critical needs for such a space. More updates at the next meeting. Issue, of course will be funding.
- **Caswell Science Lab** - 99% complete, with minor punch list items left for completion. Equipment has been moved in, and science faculty are excited to be able to offer these classes in an appropriate setting. Looking for virtual ribbon cutting date soon in conjunction with Caswell Chamber.
- Working closely with Caswell County schools to adjust class offerings for CCP (College and Career Promise) high school students to match the modality of instruction they decide upon.
- Long Term Substance abuse space in Yanceyville - spoke with board member for Christian Reformation Church with regards to their treatment facilities. Instead, the facilities largely functioned as halfway houses for women leaving correctional facilities. Unfortunately, due to challenges with staffing and COVID, both houses were closed without a clear re-opening date. In the course of that conversation, however, other decision makers at TROSA were identified who may be more helpful in pulling together a planning document for the site, which can then be used to seek funding. Goal is to get them to agree to a planning session in March, along with local partners. Should have potential invite list next month.
- Cori Lindsay contacted Patricia Williams about the Webpage and information she wanted to place on the webpage.

**Commissioner Lisa Brandon: Remind everyone about Clean-Up for the Town of Milton-Early or Late Spring. Put trash bags out front and she and Ricky will pick up the trash. We will get a date and place in the water bills the month they decide to do this.**

**Commissioner Valerie Sottile: Happy to announce that the Milton Planning Board has completed the task of reviewing, revising, and finalizing the Milton Historic Preservation Commission Design Guidelines. If you would like a copy when needed accompanied with the Certificate of Appropriateness.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS: N/A**

**CLOSE OF MEETING: Mayor Patricia Williams** asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Commissioner John Wallace** motioned to adjourn the meeting and second by **Commissioner Valerie Sottile**. All members were in favor. Time: 8:00 pm