

**TOWN OF HONEA PATH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WATKINS BUILDING
June 16, 2020
6:00 P.M.**

Mayor Christopher W. Burton – Q&A session 5:30 to 6:00 pm

Mayor Christopher Burton called the Council meeting to order at 6 pm. The Mayor asked Perrett to pray. All stood for the pledge to the flag. Members present: Mayor Christopher Burton, Beverly Crawford, Clerk/Treasurer, Council members: Andrew Sullivan, David Fields, Jean Perrett, Rebecca Robinson, Dot Evans and Jim Taylor.

Taylor made a motion to go into executive session for contractual issues. Seconded by Sullivan and the motion passed.

Sullivan made a motion to go out of executive session. Seconded by Taylor and the motion passed.

Mayor Christopher Burton discussed the current situation with the Covid-19 crisis and everything the Town of Honea Path was doing to help our citizens and employees. Mayor Burton provided an update on the activities of the Police and Fire/EMS departments for the prior month. HPPD will be hosting a day camp for children June 22-26. Also, 2 tractors are being repaired and is causing a delay in picking up limbs and leaves. Mayor Christopher Burton recommended that the council considered another option to curbside pickup of junk on the side of the road. The town could drop off trailers or trucks for the resident to place the junk in. Also, the town would designate a site for junk to be placed. The town council will consider this at a later date. Mayor Christopher Burton discussed the July 4th celebration that is being worked on by the town planning committee.

Taylor made a motion to approve the 2Nd Reading on \$400,000 tax anticipation note and Fields seconded the following motion:

RESOLVED, that the Town of Honea Path desires to issue up to \$400,000 of tax anticipation notes to cover potential deficits that may arise as a result of cash flow timing issues. The total amount of borrowing will be repaid in early January 2021, when property tax revenues come in.

The above motion passed.

The SC Revenue Fiscal Affairs Office has approved a millage rate increase up to 3.5 mills based on the CPI rate for 2019 and the population rate increase for Honea Path for 2019. Taylor made a motion to have a budget meeting on June 30, 2020 at 6 pm to discuss the proposed FY2020-21 budget. Robinson seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Mayor Christopher Burton gave an update on the new website being designed by Cyber Solutions. Several council members passed on complaints by citizens on high grass and other debris. A new Fire Marshall/code enforcement officer is being hired in the Fire/EMS Department and will address these issues.

The Honea Path Planning Committee is planning the 4th of July celebration activities. The Honea Path Planning Committee is recommending that the Town consider beer sales during festival events in a designated area. Robinson made a motion to discuss beer sales during festival events. Seconded by Taylor and the motion passed. Taylor stated the Town may have liability issues with beer sales during festival events. Sullivan state it would make a difference where the event is held. If the event is held on Main Street, who owns the sidewalk. Attorney King stated that the Town needs to look at the issue very carefully before making a final decision. The Town needs to talk with the Police and Fire chiefs and get their recommendations. Robinson made a motion to receive proposals and recommendations to further discuss beer sales during festival events. Seconded by Taylor and the motion passed.

Chief Smith informed town council of the accident involving the 2008 BLS town ambulance. He will keep the mayor and town council informed on the reimbursement from insurance. The town employee was not at fault in the accident.

An update was provided on the EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant. The EPA Assessment Grant is a \$300,000 grant from EPA to determine the level of asbestos and lead paint abatement services needed. The proposal and bid from NEO Corporation was discussed at length. There are two different proposals. One proposal would totally remove the debris field, piles 4, 6, 10 and 11 from the site to various landfills. The Town, with assistance from Gail Jeter with Cardno and S & ME Engineering, have prepared bid documents for required EPA Assessment testing of the Chiquola Mills brown field site. The lowest bid to move the above debris fields was NEO Corporation. Gail Jeter with Cardno, town consultant for the above project, stated that the Town must rebid the above project due to the many changes to the bid specifications and it being an EPA grant. This will delay the project for several weeks, according to Gail Jeter.

The Mayor and council discussed the possible need to issue a Tax anticipation note for \$400,000 to meet cash flow needs due to the Covid-19 crisis and its impact on tax revenue. After much discussion, Taylor made a motion to issue a Tax anticipation note for \$400,000 to meet cash flow needs due to the Covid-19 crisis and its impact on tax revenue and this will constitute the 2nd and final reading. The motion was seconded by Sullivan. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.

An update was provided on the on the Still Branch Project. The low bid of \$229,915 was awarded to Covalen Corporation for \$229,915 for 58 sewer grinder pumps. The SC RIA grant is for \$247,610 and the local match from Honea Path is \$192,000. It is estimated that HP will have to spend approximately \$90,000 of town cash funds and approximately \$102,000 of in-kind match. HP in-kind match will be labor to install lines for the 58 sewer grinder pumps. The estimated completed close out will be June 1, 2021.

Mayor Christopher Burton asked that we go over the budget. The budget information was presented for FY2019-20 and FY2020-21 in detail. The monthly summary for the various operating budgets and the water/sewer flows was presented. The detail revenues and expenditures for the Fire/EMS department was discussed and updated. The income from the

Fire/EMS budget is coming in better, since the Town met with Ambulance Pro. Ambulance Pro Consulting has improved the requests from the Town regarding financial reports and cash flow.

This will continue until such time as the Town is able to better understand the Covid-19 crisis on our revenues and expenditures. The Town of Honea Path has adopted a continuing resolution to keep the same budgeted items, as adopted in FY2019-20, for FY2020-21, until such time as the Town council adopts the new FY20-21 budget. If the Covid-19 crisis continues past October or November 2020, Honea Path is at great risk of significant revenue losses and deficits.

Normally, the Town of Honea Path, has 60 – 70 cutoffs on water and sewer. Last month the numbers were 110-130. It is estimated that this month it will be 130. The receivables are beginning to increase each month that we are in this Covid-19 crisis.

The new credit/debit card system is working well. The Town did implement the 2.75% fee for credit/debit card customers on June 1, 2020.

Taylor made a motion to go into executive session for contractual issues. Seconded by Fields and the motion passed.

Fields made a motion to go out of executive session. Seconded by Taylor and the motion passed.

Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Fields seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Christopher Burton
Mayor

Beverly K. Crawford
Clerk/Treasurer