

## **REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF JUNE 2, 2010**

Town Board Present: Mayor David Wilkes, Vice Mayor Amy Patterson, Commissioner Dennis DeWolf, Commissioner Larry Rogers, Commissioner John Dotson and Commissioner Gary Drake.

Also Present: Town Manager Jim Fatland, Planning & Development Director Joe Cooley, Recreation Director Selwyn Chalker, Town Engineer Lamar Nix, Recording Secretary Jane Capman and Town Attorney William Coward.

### **Call to order**

Mayor David Wilkes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

#### **1. Public Comments**

Alan Marsh discussed the county safe slope ordinance and the issues facing realtors.

#### **2. Approve Revised Agenda**

Town Manager Jim Fatland requested that item no. 6 of the Revised Agenda (Resolution on Water Shortage Response Plan) be removed.

Vice Mayor Amy Patterson moved to approve the Amended Agenda, as revised, was seconded by Commissioner Larry Rogers, and was unanimous.

#### **3. Approve minutes of May 19, 2010**

The May 19, 2010 minutes are amended as follows:

Section 8, Proposed Dog Park at Recreation Center, is amended to include Commissioner Gary Drake's comment that the silent majority has remained silent.

Section 11, Kelsey-Hutchinson Park Improvements, paragraph 3 is amended to read:

Mr. Young stated that the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust supports this idea and reminded the Board that it would be at no cost to the Town.

Section 11, Kelsey-Hutchinson Park Improvements, first word on the last line of this section is amended to correct the word to Commissioners.

Vice Mayor Amy Patterson moved to approve the Minutes of May 19, 2010, as amended, was seconded by Commissioner Larry Rogers and was unanimous.

#### **4. Reports**

##### **A. Mayor**

Mayor Wilkes announced that Bevin Schiffli, a Highlands School junior, was Named the winner of the 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade division in the "Doodle 4 Google" contest.

Mayor Wilkes also stated that he attended the scholarship awards ceremony at Highlands School and was impressed at the number of scholarships awarded.

B. **Commissioners**

Commissioner Gary Drake discussed the publishing of the Board meeting’s Agenda in the newspaper and the concerns of adding additional items to the agenda after the publication date.

Commissioner Dennis DeWolf discussed the scholarship fund drive and thanked all of those who had already contributed.

C. **Committees**

The Finance Committee gave its report.

The Recreation Committee gave its report.

D. **Town Manager**

Town Manager deferred to Recreation Director Swelyn Chalker who discussed the community pool, its’ deck, and a leak, which has now been fixed and the pool is now holding water. Mr. Chalker also discussed anti-entrapment drains and the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act.

5. **Consent Agenda**

- A. Set June 9, 2010 for FY11 Budget Work Session.
- B. Set June 23, 2010 for Public Hearing for Proposed FY11 Budget

Vice Mayor Amy Patterson moved to approve the Consent Agenda, was seconded by Commissioner Larry Rogers and was unanimous.

6. **Resolution on Water Shortage Response Plan**

At the request of Town Manager Jim Fatland, this item was tabled.

7. **Scholarship Awards**

The Board was presented with the following recommendations made by the Scholarship Committee for awards:

Graduating High School Seniors	Special Scholarship	Amount
Billingsley, Tiffany D.		\$550.00
Bolt, James M.		\$600.00
Burton, Aaron P.		\$650.00
Chastain, Shelbi E.		\$650.00
Damian, Carmen A.		\$450.00
Dickey, Ashley N.		\$800.00
Dryman, Patrick E.		\$550.00
Durham, Katherine E.		\$800.00
Fuller, Amanda D.		\$550.00
Gagne, Jessica W.		\$550.00
Graham, Avee L.		\$800.00
Hall, James H.		\$450.00
Hedden, Sara E.		\$550.00
Hedden, Rachel A.		\$550.00
Jenkins, Bryce T.	Jack Taylor Scholarship (Valedictorian)	\$1,500.00
Johnson, Shelby F.		\$800.00

Johnson, Susan M.		\$550.00
Linville, Kayla R.		\$600.00
Mathiowdis, William M.		\$650.00
Parks, Kate-Marie B.	Jack Brockway Scholarship (Salutatorian)	\$1,500.00
Perez, Tawny M.		\$450.00
Rodriguez, LaDonna K.		\$450.00
Schiffli, Olen F.	Edith Joel Memorial Scholarship	\$1,500.00
Schmitt, Brie M.		\$400.00
St. Germain, Christopher		\$450.00
Strahan, Paige M.		\$400.00
Talley, Bobbi Jo		\$650.00
Taylor, Madison C.		\$550.00
Zachary, Frances S.		\$450.00

College Applicants	Comments	Amount
Bates, Sara Fraser		\$450.00
Bowers, Jacob Douglas		\$550.00
Brooks, Austin Ralph		\$400.00
Brown, Caden Randall		\$450.00
Chambers, Kasey Ryan		\$400.00
Chandler, Adam		\$450.00
Dryman, Brittany Hanna		\$700.00
Frederick, Claire Elizabeth		\$700.00
Grabe, Michael Arthur		\$450.00
Graham, Russell Joseph		\$450.00
Hornsby, Carolyn I.		\$550.00
Jenkins, Casey M.		\$400.00
Jenkins, Chase Matthew		\$450.00
Keener, Darin James		\$700.00
Kerhoulas, Nick St.		\$400.00
Lassiter, Kyle Henry		\$700.00
Lica, Alexandra Dawn		\$825.00
Lica, Michael A.		\$525.00
Parrish, David K.		\$400.00
Parrish, Taylor Christian		\$450.00
Parmelee, Amanda Henderson		\$450.00
Power, Rachel Chandler		\$450.00
Reed, Jacqueline Denise		\$700.00
Reese, Danielle Nicole		\$450.00
Sanchez-Colon, Angela M.		\$550.00
Schmitt, Toni Aline		\$400.00
Stinson, Loretta Taylor		\$550.00
Wheeler, Sally Ann		\$550.00
Wilson, Leslie Diane		\$550.00
Winn, Allison Marie		\$550.00
TOTAL		\$35,000.00

After review of the Scholarship Committee’s recommendations, Vice Mayor Amy Patterson moved to approve the Scholarship Awards, was seconded by Commissioner Gary Drake and was unanimous.

8. Consider Appointments to Planning Board

Vice Mayor Amy Patterson discussed the Board’s previous process of choosing appointees and the use of secret ballots. Town Attorney William Coward

explained the process of secret ballots. Concerns were raised by the Commissioners if the applicants were in fact town residents and Commissioner DeWolf suggested that the Board be given a list of all of the town residents to which Commissioner Dotson agreed as he raised his concerns about out of state telephone numbers listed on some applications.

Commissioner Drake suggested tabling this matter until the next Board meeting and Vice Mayor Patterson stated that she had a difficult time approving the applicants as she did not know some of them and/or their views and expressed her concern that there needed to be a balance on the Board.

Mayor Wilkes suggested the possibility of an interview process and to extend the applicants beyond the Town limits to which Joe Cooley stated that there is a “limited” pool and suggested that the application be modified.

Bill Nellis inquired why just residents, why not business owners to which Commissioner Dotson stated that there would be the possibility of the business going under and the owner leaving.

After continued discussion, Commission Gary Drake moved to table this matter until the next Board meeting in order to obtain more information concerning the applicants, to see if the applicants met the necessary criteria and to conduct interviews, was seconded by Commissioner John Dotson and was unanimous.

9. **Resolution in Support of Bob Zahner Wilderness Area of Nantahala National Forest**

The following Resolution was presented to the Town Board for review and consideration:

**RESOLUTION**

**A RESOLUTION BY THE TOWN OF HIGHLANDS TO SECURE PERMANENT PROTECTION OF THE OVERFLOW WILDERNESS STUDY AREA AS THE BOB ZAHNER WILDERNESS AREA**

**WHEREAS**, the Overflow Wilderness Study Area was created in 1987 by the U.S. Forest service, and has been maintained as such since this time, and

**WHEREAS**, this area is an important source of outdoor recreation, wildlife and plant habitat, clean water, and a significant headwater stream of the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River, and

**WHEREAS**, this area is significant to the outstanding natural features surrounding the Town of Highlands and the citizens of Macon County, North Carolina, and

**WHEREAS**, the protection of such places is important to the quality of life and local economy of said citizens, and

**WHEREAS**, Highlands conservationist Bob Zahner dedicated his life and career working to protect such places,

**LET IT THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE TOWN OF HIGHLANDS:**

That we support and endorse the permanent protection of the Overflow Wilderness Study Area in the Nantahala National Forest as the **Bob Zahner Wilderness Area**.

On motion duly made by (voting member) \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by (voting member) \_\_\_\_\_, the Town of Highlands, does hereby approve and authorize the adoption of said Resolution to become effective immediately.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2010.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Mayor Wilkes provided an overview to the Town Board and then Brent Martin addressed the Board. Mr. Martin passed out a flyer for the Board’s review that advised that the last Wilderness legislation for North Carolina was passed in June 1984. The legislation created the Southern Nantahala Wilderness, the Middle Prong Wilderness, added acreage to several wilderness areas established in previous Wilderness legislation, and created recommendations for five new Wilderness Study Areas (WSA’s), which were approved by the Forest Service in 1987. These recommended areas have been managed as wilderness since their designation. Activities allowed in Wilderness include hunting, fishing, horseback riding, hiking, camping, and management for rare and endangered species. Not allowed are logging, road building, motorized or mechanized forms of transportation, such as off road vehicles and mountain bikes.

Mr. Martin further advised that there would be no changes to the restrictions already in place. Commissioner Dotson inquired if existing roads would be closed and was advised that access would not change.

Commissioner Gary Drake moved to approve the Resolution in Support of Bob Zahner Wilderness Area of Nantahala National Forest, was seconded by Vice Mayor Amy Patterson and was unanimously approved.

10. **Adjourn**

Vice Mayor Amy Patterson moved to adjourn, was seconded by Commissioner Gary Drake and the Town Board meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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James R. Fatland  
Town Manager

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Jane J. Capman  
Recording Secretary

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David Wilkes  
Mayor