

Town of Spring Lake Special Meeting of the Board of Alderman

MEETING MINUTES

Call to order: A Special Meeting of the Board of Alderman was held in the Grady Howard Room of the town hall on January 27, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by Mayor Chris Rey.

Approval of the agenda: Mayor Rey asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mayor Pro Tem made the motion to approve the agenda and it was seconded by Alderman Christian. It was moved and properly seconded. Motion was carried.

Members in attendance: Alderman James Christian, Alderwoman Fredericka Sutherland, Alderman Richard Higgins, Mayor Pro Tem James O'Garra, Mayor Chris Rey & Town Manager, Ken Metcalf.

Alderwoman Densie Lucas arrived at 6:31 p.m.

Others in attendance: Paul Hoover, Allen Coats, Troy McDuffie, Henry Taylor, Jason Williams and Rhonda Webb.

CIP Discussion: The Town Manager opened the meeting with the discussion of the Capital Improvement Plan. He stated that the idea for tonight is to introduce some of our capital proposals that might or might not tie into future water bill discussions. On Dec. 10th at the board retreat, the CIP was introduced to you. Mr. Metcalf asked that we approve the document tonight as presented and stated to the board members that certainly you have the right to make changes as you see fit. By approving this tonight you are not committing to any specific dollars, stating that this simply serves as a guide for us to move forward. We are open to any questions or discussions you may have. Ideas from the retreat, we talked about were: Fire Station #2, Smart/One touch Meters for our water system, several items included for the waste water treatment for the next few years that will be ongoing with your approval, and a Rotation Plan for vehicles especially with our police fleet. We are considering looking at 2 – 3 vehicles every year. These are some of the priorities that we took away from the Dec. meeting.

Alderwoman Sutherland – Looking at the CIP Vehicle Rotation; Administrative vehicle replacement every five years, fire vehicle replacement every three years and three police vehicles rotating out of active fleet per fiscal year, as well as the Public Works rotating out one vehicle replacement every fiscal year with the exception 2014-2015 where two vehicles have been earmarked for replacement for rotating them out. Looking at that and the dollar amount which can be kind of expensive and I've stated at prior meetings with the rotation, what is the mileage when rotating the vehicles out instead of automatically saying if approved we will

rotate and replace. Wouldn't we have something else to go by? That can get kind of expensive for taxpayers in the town rotating these out as stated. Mr. Metcalf commented that based on the past several months it is not necessarily the mileage but the condition & age of the vehicle. Obviously mileage does come into play but isn't the only factor, it has more to do with age and how many repairs we are making. Alderwoman Sutherland stated if we go by this, we rotate them out every year still depending on condition, but if we are purchasing them I wouldn't think vehicles would need to be replaced a year later. Mr. Metcalf said different vehicles. Alderwoman Sutherland said rotating out like this can still be kind of expensive.

Alderman Higgins commented, if we were to approve the CIP tonight, what we are doing is approving a tentative plan. This is a year to year basis. Every year we will be facing this and looking at that plan and making decisions about how much money we have & what you are going to buy. This is just a plan.

Mr. Metcalf said that approving this tonight we are not committing to any dollars tonight or next fiscal year. Mr. Paul Hoover stated a plan is just a plan. Alderwoman Sutherland stated that at some point it won't be just a plan. Alderman Higgins stated that you have to have a plan. No vehicles will ever be purchased without approval of the budget, obligating those funds or authorization for any fiscal year said Mr. Hoover. Mr. Hoover stated the plan is based on projected needs, mileage, condition of vehicles and amount of maintenance dollars placed into the vehicles. Alderwoman Sutherland stated I am not talking about the old fleet but once this goes into effect, it is no longer a plan and you will still bring it back year to year so purchasing these vehicles as listed can get kind of expensive. We may not need to purchase vehicles but according to the plan it states this is what we would like to do as a town. Mr. Metcalf stated that we will have to bring it back to the board to approve each year with each budget because things could change. Each year it will have to be approved to put into the new budget. By approving the plan tonight you are just authorizing us to move forward with a vision not necessarily with the dollar amount. Alderwoman Sutherland stated earmarks means we have already talked about those fleets that will need to be replaced. We have three or four. Earmarks mean we have pointed those out to replace those. Our best guess moving forward with police vehicles it will be three vehicles per year that will need to be addressed. Allen Coats stated given the size of the fleet and the average yearly miles, we will need to address at least three police vehicles per year, some years may be more, some may be less depending on the actual condition of the fleet.

Alderwoman Sutherland stated that it is nice to be able to do this if budget permits. In the past we haven't been able to replace vehicles every year or every three years. It is good to be able to do this if budget permits.

Mr. Metcalf stated that approving this tonight and we get into the heart of budget discussions it may be something different once we get into the budget discussions we may figure that we can't do all of this. Two years down the road it might be something completely different.

Mayor Rey stated that it is important to have a plan because that is how we will be able to budget for the future. Not having a fleet maintenance document of how we are going to replace our vehicles wouldn't be good for the town. What happens is over time you will have to purchase vehicles at one time because of not being able to rotate vehicles out. Our priority should be that we are maintaining the current stock pile that we have. I appreciate the work that was done on that document and the discussion given by the board for clarity.

Alderman Christian – Are we looking at Odell Rd. for the new fire station #2? Mr. Metcalf said Manchester Road, and Hwy 210 has been talked about, not Odell Road.

Mr. Metcalf stated that it will benefit us to look at the Hwy. 210 side with the calls to the Manchester district and the configuration of the new highway. Jason Williams stated we are more worried about the 210 side once the bridge comes in because of time. Right now we are looking at 9 or 10 minutes response time. We would have access to both sides from Hwy. 210/Manchester side. Alderman Christian asked is the projected cost \$50,000 for land purchase? Mr. Metcalf said that it is just a guess. No property has been identified. Mr. Metcalf said there have been casual discussions. Alderman Christian suggested looking at the possibility of a small police substation as well to have more police presence in that area.

Alderman Higgins stated he would like us to pursue with the County Commissioners to help fund a new fire station through CBDG. Primarily that is where the problem will come in with the highway configuration. We should look into it and pursue. Mayor Rey stated when we have that meeting with the County Commissioners we will put that on the agenda.

Mr. Metcalf clarified street paving and said if you accept this idea is to put aside money every year and do the paving every third year.

Alderman Christian asked Mr. Metcalf if we could get updates on the new highway change coming, maybe with projected times, when it is coming.

Mayor Rey stated the current agenda approved did not include the waterline updates because all board members were not present. With all board members present a motion was made to amend the agenda and add the water line repairs update to the agenda.

Alderman Christian made the motion to amend the agenda to add the water line repair update and Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra seconded the motion. Motion was carried.

Mr. Metcalf stated that we have a pending grant application and part of that will need a CIP approval.

Alderman Higgins made a motion to approve the CIP. It was moved and properly seconded by Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra. Motion carried.

Paul Hoover talked about the water line breaks. We had a major water line break at N. Bragg Blvd at Deerfield that took about 6 ½ hours to repair. A contractor came in from Cameron to help with the repair. While working in Deerfield we received a call about a water leak at Scarborough. It was a 6 inch water line broken in half flooding properties, causing problems. The problem with Scarborough is there are no valves to control that part of town. It never has been. We are now in the process of identifying locations that will be acceptable to put valves in so we never encounter this again. We have had water leaks all over town. Scarborough, Lakeview Gardens, Maxi Loop, Priddy, Main Street, and the list continue. All were repaired. The men worked from 6:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. and back the next morning. They have really supported this town and done an outstanding job. We have a lot of water lines in the town that are old and they are being maintained and it is an ongoing process. Water loss has been significant. It will be calculated and put in the monthly report.

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra asked if the guys working those long hours are getting paid overtime, time in a half or comp time? They are getting paid overtime but not time and half because Monday was a holiday. Labor laws require that you work more than 40 hours. They will get paid, not comp time. Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra asked are we letting them know how much we appreciate them?

Alderwoman Sutherland stated she spoke with Mr. Metcalf about the valve shut off for Scarborough. I would like to thank the employees for working those long hours and the individuals walking door to door to give out letters to notify residents about the water issue. I appreciate that. The question is do we have a blueprint to know where the shut valves are or to identify these things? What are we going to do for future reference to identify these things? Mr. Hoover stated that we do have a partial map of the town that is not complete. We have a mapping program that is being managed updated every time we find something. It is a work in progress. As we find them we update the maps. In the Scarborough area we have no valves to turn off, simply tried to find valves to reduce the pressure. Alderwoman Sutherland stated that I am sure the citizen's thank you and I am sure Mr. Metcalf will ensure these employees get paid because we certainly don't want to work individuals without paying them.

Alderwoman Lucas asked Mr. Hoover about looking into getting assistance in buying some of those valves due to economic conditions of Main Street from Community Development.

Contact Jeff and Dee Taylor to possibly defray some of the cost. Alderwoman Sutherland asked Mr. Hoover if he could let us know if they can help.

Seeing no more business, Mayor Rey asked for a motion to adjourn.

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Higgins. It was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.


Respectfully Submitted, Debora J. Hudson

Debora J. Hudson

Debora J. Hudson
Deputy Town Clerk

ATTEST:




Chris V. Rey
Mayor