

**TOWN OF BETHANIA COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MINUTES
THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2020**

On January 9, 2020, the Board of Commissioners meeting for the Town of Bethania was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Mayor Brent S. Rockett. In attendance at the Alpha Chapel, 5385 Ham Horton Lane, were Mayor Brent S. Rockett, Mayor Pro Tem Michelle Leonard and Commissioners Tom Beroth, Randy Rogers and John Rogers.

Mayor Pro Tem Leonard gave the invocation. Mayor Rockett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Mayor Rockett asked for a motion to adopt the Agenda of the January 9th meeting. Commissioner Beroth made a motion to adopt the Agenda. Motion passed unanimously (Attachment A).

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mayor Rockett welcomed the two newly elected Commissioners, John Rogers and Randy Rogers to the Board.

Mayor Rockett attended the Forsyth County Census meeting this past Tuesday. They are in the process of having banners made to get the word out about the census and encourage participation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mayor Rockett asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2019 Board Meeting. Commissioner Beroth made a motion to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously. Mayor Rockett asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Board Meeting (Orientation for New Commissioners and Delegate Responsibility) of December 11, 2019. Commissioner Beroth made a motion to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously. The Board signed the minutes.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Town Accountant, Rebecca Keith, presented the financial reports as of December 31, 2019 (Attachment B), noting that we are halfway through the fiscal year, with income at \$113,397 (49.3%) and expenditures at \$80,000 (35%). She explained the required budget line item categories (Attachment B, page 3) to the new Commissioners and invited them to contact her anytime with questions or concerns.

Mayor Rockett added that he continues to work with Wells Fargo to straighten out the signature authority issue on the Town checking account. (The new Finance Officer, Commissioner Beroth, is unable to sign checks at this time, due to an issue with "Incorporated" as part of the Town's name on the account.) While he is trying to work out this issue with Wells Fargo, he is also investigating moving the account to another bank.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES:

Commissioner Information: Town Clerk, Karen Keller, asked the Commissioners to contact her with their preferred email and phone contact information for their new business cards.

Ethics Training: She added that once the webinar is available for purchase, the required Ethics Training program will be available for the Commissioners to take on demand.

Traffic Report: There were 33 tickets written for the month of December, with 32 of those being speeding tickets. The average MPH over the speed limit was 19.66. There were also numerous security and neighborhood patrols.

February Board Meeting: Mayor Rockett is unable to attend the February 13th Board meeting. Discussion followed. Commissioner Leonard made a motion to move the February Board meeting to the 3rd Thursday of the month, February 20th. Motion passed unanimously.

This shall serve as notice that the regular monthly meeting for February will be held on Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 7:00 PM in the Alpha Chapel.

Metal Detecting Request: Ms. Keller referred to the letter received earlier today (Attachment C), requesting permission to metal detect the in Town of Bethania. Discussion followed, with the consensus among the Board being to deny permission. Reasoning includes disturbance of state protected lands, the PLC does not allow metal detecting on their conserved land, once items are removed from the dirt, the context is also removed and it may trigger other requests for detecting and digging on town property.

Ms. Keller will draft a letter in response to this request (including the reasoning behind the decision as well as the option of contacting private land owners for their permission) for the Commissioners review.

VISITOR CENTER UPDATE: Visitor Services Manager, Michele Williams, asked the new Board of Commissioners if they were in favor of continuing to host the Black Walnut Festival on the last Saturday of September, the 26th - the consensus was a resounding “yes”.

She further asked if they are interested in Bethania’s participation in *Preservation Month* in May. Last year, we held collaborative events with Bethabara and Old Salem. Discussion followed, with Mayor Rockett asking Commissioners to pass along their suggestions to Dr. Williams. Commissioner Leonard added that since this year is the 125th anniversary of the Wachovia Historical Society, perhaps we could partner with them for a Preservation Month event.

Dr. Williams pointed out that a new botanical display, on loan from the Moravian Archives, has recently been installed in the Chapel. She hosted an AVA meeting in the Chapel this past Tuesday and gave a lecture to Elon University students earlier today. Nick Pastorino will be filming in the Alpha Chapel this Saturday, beginning at 7:00 AM. Further, she has been asked by author Michael Briggs (collector of NC guns) to write a cover review of his new book.

She noted that since the Muddy Creek Café closed, visitation at the Visitors Center is down by half.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Liz Tatum asked if the website could be updated to reflect the new Board of Commissioners. Mayor Rockett thanked those in attendance this evening and recognized former Commissioner Chris Sapp. He further thanked the Commissioners and staff for helping him as he takes on the new duties of Mayor.

ADJOURNMENT: Commissioner Beroth made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted for approval, the Minutes of the Board of Commissioners Meeting of January 9, 2020, consisting of three pages.

**Submitted by Karen Keller
Town Clerk**

APPROVED BY:

**Brent S. Rockett
Mayor, Town of Bethania**

**Michelle Leonard
Mayor, Pro Tem**

Randy J. Rogers

John Rogers

**Tom Beroth
Finance Officer**