

**TOWN OF BETHANIA COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MINUTES
THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020**

On May 14, 2020, the Board of Commissioners meeting for the Town of Bethania was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Mayor Brent Rockett. In attendance at the Alpha Chapel were Mayor Brent Rockett, Mayor Pro Tem Michelle Leonard and Commissioners Randy Rogers, Tom Beroth and John Rogers.

Commissioner Randy Rogers 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 May 14th Board meeting. Commissioner Beroth made a motion to adopt the agenda. Motion passed unanimously (Attachment A).

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mayor Rockett announced that the April 9, 2020 Board meeting was cancelled due to a lack of quorum, as well as out of safety concerns for those who would be attending, due to the current pandemic. He extended best wishes to the Town Clerk, Karen Keller; today is her birthday.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mayor Rockett asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2020 Regular Board Meeting. Commissioner Randy Rogers made a motion to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously. Mayor Rockett asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2020 Special Board Meeting (Budget Working Session). Commissioner Randy Rogers made a motion to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously. Mayor Rockett asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2020 Special Board Meeting (VC Operations, BWF, DOT Estimate). Commissioner Randy Rogers made a motion to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously. The Board signed the minutes.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Commissioner Beroth explained the Financial Reports as of April 30, 2020 (Attachment B), stating we are right on track with our balances. Mayor Rockett asked Commissioner Leonard if the project replacing the steps to the greenway would be completed soon. She anticipates it will be finished by mid to late May, and will confirm once she hears back from the carpenter. Mayor Rockett thanked Commissioner Beroth for his report.

VISITOR CENTER UPDATE: Mayor Rockett stated that with the closure of the Visitors Center until September 1, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the tough decision was made to furlough Michele Williams, the Visitor Services Manager, for the same time period. Both of these issues will be revisited at the August Board of Commissioners meeting.

Sadly, the Board also voted to cancel the Black Walnut Festival this year. Bethania resident Ron Hash asked if this would affect the budget. Mayor Rockett responded that income and expenses for the Festival were comparable, however the budget will be revised to show zero in both these line items.

Mr. Hash then asked if the new houses being built off Stoneman Place would affect the taxes collected. Commissioner Beroth responded that the new houses will increase the Ad Valorem taxes for the Town.

2020-2021 BUDGET HEARING: Mayor Rockett opened the Public Hearing on the Budget (Proposed Budget, Attachment C).

He thanked Commissioner John Rogers, Town Clerk, Karen Keller, and Town Accountant, Rebecca Keith, for assembling the proposed budget. based on the previous year's income and expenses. He stated the Proposed Budget, along with a Budget Message, was sent to all Bethania residents via email or US Mail for their review. The proposed budget is based on the current tax rate of 30 cents. Some revenue line items for the upcoming year were reduced; the overall budget dropped from \$229,454 (2019-2020 FY) to \$210,025 (2020-2021 FY).

Bethania resident Ron Hash asked if there were any plans to continue the sewer line up Main Street past the Post Office. Commissioner Leonard responded that would be the responsibility of the City County Utility Department. Commissioner Beroth added that it would be the homeowner's responsibility to pay for hook-up and that could be quite costly. Commissioner Randy Rogers suggested if a majority of residents are interested, they should petition the City County Utility Department. He volunteered to research the process.

Mayor Rockett closed the Public Hearing on the Budget. The 2020-2021 Budget will be adopted at the June 11th Board meeting.

REPORT ON TRAFFIC: Town Clerk, Karen Keller stated that there were 26 total tickets written during the month of March, with 24 of those being speeding tickets. The average MPH over was 18.33. There were 16 total tickets written during the month of April, with 16 of those being speeding tickets. The average MPH over was 18.00. There were also numerous security checks and neighborhood patrols.

At the Commissioner's request, Ms. Keller will request the deputies pay special attention to the 3-way stop at Main Street and Bethania Road(s); lots of cars are running right through it. She will also ask them to monitor Main Street below the Post Office, coming into Bethania from Tobaccoville, as well as ask if they have a radar machine available to monitor traffic speeds at random locations.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Bethania resident Ron Hash asked if there is a timeline for the completion of work on Bethania Road; Commissioner Beroth responded they are moving equipment into place, but they haven't started the actual work. Mayor Rockett had spoken with NCDOT and the monies for the project have been approved. They were having a problem scheduling crews with the reduced work force, but as soon as they can start, they expect it will take 3-4 weeks to complete.

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 May 14, 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**

John Rogers

Randy Rogers

**Tom Beroth
Finance Officer**