

MINUTES

DANBURY TOWN COUNCIL

JANUARY 23, 2013

A regular meeting of the Danbury Town Council was held at the Danbury Public Library on January 23, 2013.

Present were Mayor Janet Whitt; Council Members Ken Carrick, Gary East, Olivia Shelton and Wendi Spraker; Town Administrator Mike Barsness, Town Clerk Dianne Starnes and Town Attorney Mike Bruce. Others present were: Patti Dunlap, Jane Charleville, Meghann Evans, Becky Boles, David Mabe, Steve Shelton, and Jim Hicks.

Mayor Whitt called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

On motion of Olivia Shelton, seconded by Gary East, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that the agenda be approved as submitted.

On motion of Wendi Spraker, seconded by Gary East it was unanimously

RESOLVED that the minutes of the January 9, 2013 meeting be approved.

Town Administrator Mike Barsness explained that accounts payable will be approved at each meeting.

Town Administrator Mike Barsness made the introduction for the Seven Island Bridge discussion.

Jane Charleville started the discussion by giving a brief history of the bridge and how the town came into ownership. She spoke in support of the bridge and the importance of keeping it in the town of Danbury or within Stokes County.

Becky Boles spoke in support of keeping the bridge in Stokes County. She further stated that the bridge was built in 1905, that a petition, listing thousands of names from all over North Carolina, was obtained to save the bridge and that the bridge is embedded in the hearts of Stokes County's people.

Patti Dunlap, President of the Stokes County Historical Society, explained how no monetary interest could ever be generated for saving the Sheppard's Mill and how historical items that are lost are no longer on the historical register.

Steve Shelton stated the Town has inherited a major project, that the bridge is in bad shape and is structurally deficient (18.5) He further stated that the town would have to get a permit to place the bridge across the river and the probability of one being issued is unlikely.

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Town Administrator Mike Barsness stated that the town does not have the money to restore or reuse the bridge. In addition, the agreement to store the bridge on private property expired two years ago. The structure is also a liability for the town, therefore, a few options would be

- Transfer ownership to another government entity or non-profit
- Negotiate with a private buyer who would keep it in Stokes County
- As a last resort it might have to be scrapped if nobody steps forward.

Mr. Barsness reiterated that the bridge must be transferred from town ownership now. Keeping it in town hands for an additional period of time does not change the fact that the town will never be able to afford to move it or to engage in a restoration project.

In the Administrator's report, Mr. Barsness reported the according to the Stokes County Tax Revaluation, the Town lost \$2500.00 in revenue. Seventy percent was attributed to Hanging Rock Retreat. The good news, the town has revenues to cover expenses at this time. An evaluation of storm drains after recent rains show that storm water runoff is moving fairly well. Mr. Barsness hopes to finish a street evaluation in February and will develop a street maintenance schedule soon. With regard to current budget status, the town will run over in miscellaneous expense/mowing/clean-up. It can be covered through the non-powell contingency account .

On motion of Olivia Shelton, seconded by Gary East, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that the Council go into closed session at 8:20 p.m. to discuss details of the possible transfer of town property and a possible contract for services.

On motion of Ken Carrick, seconded by Olivia Shelton, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that the Council go out of closed session at 8:45 p.m.

On motion of Olivia Shelton, seconded by Gary East, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that the Town accept written proposals from persons, firms or corporations to take ownership of the old Seven Island Bridge, to be filed with the Town of Danbury by 5:00 p.m. the 26th of February, 2013.

On motion of Wendi Spraker, seconded by Olivia Shelton, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

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Janet S. Whitt

Mayor

Attest:

Dianne B. Starnes

Town Clerk