



Town of Stem

April 17, 2017

Regular Town Meeting Minutes

TOWN BOARD MEMEBERS

Renee Green, Mayor	919-864-0435	Kenneth McLamb, Mayor Pro	919-528-6459
Casey Dover, Commissioner	919-656-4062	Lonnie Cole, Sr, Commissioner	919-528-3131
Kevin Easter, Commissioner	919-810-5841	Mary Cordrey, Commissioner	919-417-8008
Vicki Garrett, Town Clerk	919-691-2369	Robert Hornik, Town Attorney	

TOWN MEMBERS PRESENT

Renee Green, Mayor, Kenneth McLamb, Mayor-Pro, Commissioners Casey Dover, Lonnie Cole, Sr., Kevin Easter, & Mary Cordrey. Town Clerk, Vicki Garrett, Town Attorney, Robert Hornik, & Police Chief Mike Beal

OTHERS PRESENT

Richard Garrett, Alexis Winstead, John Gooch, Samantha Pridgen, Lynn Carden, Jason Varner, Dave Pavlus, Kevin Rumsey, Joyce Bailey, Nancy Mace, Wayne Sisk, Justin Morris, Colleen Dover, Charles Mace, Dale Gunter, and Debra Abbott.

MEETING ORGANIZATION

- Meeting called to order by Mayor Renee Green
- Pledge of Allegiance by everyone present
- Invocation by Commissioner Easter

AGENDA CHANGES

- Commissioner Cole – tax rate, Building behind Town Hall & Update on flags.
 - Commissioner Easter also has something on Building behind Town Hall.
- Everyone approved these agenda changes.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

- A motion was made by Mayor Pro McLamb to accept the Consent Agenda as written, this motion was 2nd by Commissioner Easter, and it passed unanimously.

GUEST SPEAKERS

- Amanda Dixon- She wanted to ask the Town if they were going to run an ad supporting the graduating seniors this year. That ad will run June 8, 2017. A motion was made by Mayor Pro McLamb to run this ad as usual at the cost of \$100.00 and it was 2nd by Commissioner Dover, and it passed unanimously.

MAYOR REPORT

- Alford Law Suit- Mr. Hornik stated that Mrs. Alford had until the end of April to sell the property at 106 E. Tally Ho Rd. and pay down or pay off the debt to the Town.
- The Village Storm water update- In the last rain we had the work that was done by Chris Bass to prevent flooding on some homes, worked very well. No homes were flooded.
- Fire Dept. Audit-To Mayor Green's understanding at the last meeting, Commissioner Dover made the statement that he had called the auditor. Mayor Green stated that we have not signed the audit letter, and the audit was actually ordered by Jim Winston. It was made very clear that the audit would not take place until after tax season. Commissioner Cole stated that he thought that a different auditor should be used, other than Stark and Company, because he felt the integrity of the audit had been jeopardized. Commissioner Dover stated that he spoke with Jim Winston and he (Commissioner Dover) was told that Winston, Williams, Creech, Evans & Co. LLP could not

Mayor  Clerk 

do the audit, but he (Jim Winston) referred the Mayor to someone. Commissioner Dover also wanted to know if anyone else was used for the audit was the fire dept. going to absorb the cost at this point. Mayor Pro McLamb stated that since the Town Board is the one who ordered the audit, which the Town would pay for it.

- Town Audit- We got pinged for several things that we should not have been pinged on. Jim Winston's office get all of the Town's paper work in a timely manner. We also got pinged on a report being filed late again by Winston's office. Mayor Green did speak with Amy for the State Auditor's office.
- Granville Co. Recreation Committee-Mayor Pro McLamb stated he attended the fire dept. meeting on the Kiddie Park Land Swap, which is the property the Town currently owns for the kiddie park and the property owned by the fire dept. on School Street. Mayor Pro McLamb spoke with Charla Duncan of the county and has a meeting with them tomorrow (4/18/17) to see if this is even possible and if they will extend the Town's grant.
- Walking Trail Equipment-This was also discussed in the fire dept. meeting that Mayor Pro McLamb attended. One of Commissioner Cole's fire fighters brought up a very good point before we go spending a whole lot of money, this has always been a farming community and if someone got hurt the fire department made it work then and we can make it work now. Mayor Pro McLamb stated he would like to be pro-active but also everyone that goes and walks these trails do it at their own risk.
- Open Commissioner Seat-Commissioner Easter stated he didn't see a need to fill the seat. Mr. Hornik said the statue doesn't specify a time limit to fill the seat, it just states that it needs to be filled. If an application process is used, it has to be done in open session. It was decided to run an ad for applicants with the final date being 5/5/17. The commissioners are to come back to the work session on 5/1/17 with questions for the applicants.

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE REPORTS ONLY

Commissioner Casey Dover: Planning Board & Subdivision Liaison

- Planning Board-nothing new.
- Subdivision Liaison-There was another mention of the water quality in Prestwick.

Commissioner: Kiddie Park, Human Relations, Mowing & Maintenance

Mayor Pro Kenneth McLamb: Granville County Recreation Committee, SGWASA, Fire Department & Police Liaison

- Mayor Pro McLamb has been in touch with Charla with Gran. Co. Rec. on the land swap and that meeting is tomorrow (4/18/17)
- SGWASA-This was a very short meeting because most of the meeting was in closed session. See attached letters.
- Mayor Pro McLamb spoke with Chief Beal prior to meeting and the police dept. is not in any need of anything at this time.
- He also attended the fire dept. meeting April 9, 2017. They discussed Bingo, they elected a new board member, Eric Wilson, they discussed trails and ATV, hydrant testing, turkey shoot is going well, ladders & hose testing, pump testings' and cleanup day at the fire dept. Mayor Pro McLamb also stated he would like to see a cleanup day with the Town, something to get the whole community together, in lieu of just 1 person.

Commissioner Kevin Easter: Kerr-Tar, Granville Greenways Advisory Council

- The last Kerr Tar meeting was March 23, 2017, it was just general business.
- The Granville Greenways meeting that was scheduled for April 13 was canceled.

Commissioner Cole: Streets and Signs/Chamber of Commerce

- The sign at Railroad & Sunset has been replaced. The railroad crossing sign that was down on Church St. has been put back up.
- Commissioner Cole will turn over a list of house #'s that still have not complied with putting up the house numbers.

ZONING & STORMWATER REPORT

- Mike Conti- He talked about the flooding in some of the yards in the Highlands in Prestwick. The Town is getting involved to protect the streets. See attached. Matt Hastings will be the engineer on this project. A motion was made by Commissioner Cole at the max cost of \$1500.00 to do the project of fixing the drainage problems and it was 2nd by Commissioner Easter, it passed unanimously.

POLICE REPORT

- Someone got bit on Sunset St., they had a couple of assists with outside agencies. Chief Beal also mentioned the Granville Co. search & rescue. He ask if the Board would please consider a donation to this in the upcoming budget.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mayor Green had a question, are we really not going to consider a new town hall before next election? This will be discussed further in the next commissioner work session.
- Records request will go through the clerk from now on and if anything needs approval from Mr. Hornik.
- Commissioner Cole stated that Campbell paving will be back to start the project on Gooch/School St. within the next couple of weeks

NEW BUSINESS

- Donation for the annual 4th of July Celebration at Lake Holt- A motion was made to donate \$250.00 to the celebration by Commissioner Dover, 2nd by Mayor Pro McLamb, and it passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Jason Varner-Mr. Varner started out by saying, "Interesting things here tonight. Suddenly you want public input on the Town Hall. I do recall the application process being taken about six months ago, to which nothing ever came about it. So if we ask for public input and we get application, then why aren't we acting on them?" He also stated since moving to Stem, he has knocked on many doors and met with many residents and spoke with them if only for a few minutes. In doing so I've found that we are a diverse pole with unique thoughts, dreams, hopes and visions and that many of us choose Stem because of similar reason that I did. "It was a blank canvas of somewhere that had possibilities and opportunities if only I would give my time and try. That if me, my wife and four year old son put our time in, we could help paint our portrait of what Stem looks like tomorrow." Unfortunately, I've also discovered the existence of inept and pernicious politicians; card-holding members of the gold ole boy's club, and practitioners of doing business as usual. These behaviors of those showing symptoms of corruption." "Corruption is like a disease. Pretending it's not there allows for it to fester and grow, slowly eroding away all of the dreams and hopes that we all have, regardless of the hard work you put in. If you let it take root, it is going to take root and grow." "Corruption is contagious, often times beginning with most innocent of transgression, but, without reprimand, will quickly spread to far worse undertakings." "I believe if Stem is to ever become that which we all want it to be, a place where good people live, where we take pride in calling home, living in, working in, and playing in, then we have to resist corruption even at the smallest level at every front, and aggressively, rebuke it." I believe there exists an implied contract between elected officials and their constituents; between the government and the people. Specific to our case, between the Stem Board of Commissioners and its residents; wherein each of you vowed to conduct yourself in a professional manner, to act with integrity, to govern with wisdom and compassion, and to treat the residents of Stem with the respect they deserve. In return, we afforded you with our trust, our support, and our vote." "After careful consideration of some evidence that has led to the question about the Stem Fire Department that I placed before you, I have come to the conclusion that some of you in breach of this contract. Some of you are morally bankrupt." See attached questions that Mr. Varner passed out.
- Kevin Rumsey spoke on the first amendment right and the freedom to speak and you don't throw people out, because that was in the town minutes. Mr. Rumsey also stated, "A lot of people died for that flag and I know a lot them." "In terms of trash, I have brought this to the attention of the Board members and to the police dept. There are still no less than fifty tires up on Hopkins Road with trash. I have taken some away, but I am not going to do that anymore because I have blown out a tire on my trailer. We talk about cleaning up the town that needs to be cleaned up. I know I have been told by one person on the police force that they know who put some of those tires there, but they have not been charged with a crime. They should be charged with a crime, to put tires on private property." "I don't agree with you Madam Mayor about Ledge Creek, I think it is an asset. I go there at least once a week. The safety issue does need to be addressed. I don't know what needs to be done."

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor



Clerk



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- Motion made by Mayor Pro McLamb to go into closed session due to Attorney/Client Privilege information, 2nd by Commissioner Easter to adjourn, it passed unanimously.
 - A motion was made to go back into open session by Mayor Pro McLamb, 2nd by Commissioner Easter, and it passed unanimously.
 - A motion was made by Mayor Pro McLamb to adjourn, 2nd by Commissioner Easter, and it passed unanimously.

Vicki C. Sanett 5/15/17
Clerk Signature / Date

Renee Green 5-17-17
Mayor Signature / Date



NEXT REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING WILL BE: May 15, 2017 AT 7:00 PM
Recording of this meeting is available for \$5.00. Please contact the town clerk.

Mayor [Signature] Clerk VG