

Town of Spring Lake  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen  
Municipal Building  
300 Ruth Street  
Spring Lake, NC 28390

September 14, 2009

MINUTES

7:00

p.m.

The Spring Lake Board of Aldermen held a regular scheduled meeting in the Grady Howard Conference Room of the Spring Lake Municipal Building with Mayor Ethel T. Clark presiding.

**Board Members Present:** Mayor Pro Tem James O'Garra  
Alderman Richard Higgins  
Alderman Napoleon Hogans  
Alderwoman Nellie McCoy  
Alderwoman Fredricka Sutherland

**Others Present:**

Allen Coats, Interim Town Manager  
Paul Hoover, Director of Inspections  
Gregg Jarvies, Interim Police Chief

John Jackson, Town Attorney  
Daniel Gerald, W&WR Director  
Tina West, Interim Finance Director

Rhonda Webb, Town Clerk

**2. Invocation.**

Alderwoman Sutherland gave the invocation.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance.**

Mayor Clark led the meeting in the pledge of allegiance.

**4. Additions or Deletions to Agenda**

There were no additions or deletions to the Agenda.

**5. Approval of Agenda and Consent Items.**

The Board approved the agenda and approved the consent items: Minutes of the August 24, 2009 Regular Board Meeting.

**Action:** The Board approved the agenda as amended and the consent items.

**Motion by:** Alderman Hogans

**Second by:** Alderman Higgins

**Vote:** Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda and minutes of the August 24, 2009 Regular Board Meeting is

hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment one.)

#### **6. Public Forum**

No one spoke at the Public Forum.

#### **7. New Business**

##### **a. Update on FAST Bus Service.**

Mr. Hoover updated the Board on the FAST Bus Service. He provided the past and present years cost to operate the bus. He stated that the bus service cost has increased 20% each year and was programmed in the rates for a number of years to phase in the fully allocated costs. This increase was previously covered with grant money. The projected cost for next fiscal year will include the final 20% increase putting the estimated cost between \$177,000 and \$180,000. FAST did receive a grant for economic development through Federal stimulus funds to purchase electric/diesel buses. The grant amount was used to purchase two buses.

Mr. Hoover checked into alternative transportation services. He contacted three agencies and found that only one was still in business. He found that Victory Transport is interested in providing a proposal to the Town for transportation services. The preliminary costs comparison is \$164,462 for FAST and \$111,456 for Victory Transport. This is an annual savings of \$53,006 for contracted services. This cost does not include bus shelters, signs, printing schedules, etc.

Mr. Hoover requested that the Board approve the Budget Amendment that allocates funds to continue the bus service for 30 days which will continue the service through December 2009. At the September 28, 2009 Board Meeting the Board will have to decide on the service for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra asked when Victory Transport could come on board and begin service. Mr. Hoover stated that it could not happen until at least February to allow time to draft a contract and have the attorney approve it. There is time for the Board to consider this alternative until the next Board meeting.

Alderwoman Sutherland asked if he had checked the internet for other possible companies in the area. Alderman Hogans asked about the possibility of Spring Lake providing its own bus/van service and Mr. Hoover was not prepared to discuss that issue at this time. Alderman Hogans requested that he explore all possibilities and bring back information on the requirements and liability of this. We already have a large van that is used to transport seniors, children and others and he would like to explore a possibility like this. We are all inclined to do what we can to continue transportation service out here stated Alderman Hogans.

Alderwoman McCoy asked if the bus service cost could be offset by Fort Bragg and Mr. Hoover stated that it could not. There was a meeting between Fayetteville City and Fort Bragg upper level staff and there is a prohibition against DOD funds being used to support a public transportation system outside the gate. It is against the law. This is what we were told by the Director of FAST.

It was clarified that should we stop Route 40 and FAST decides to bring the bus out close to this

area we may be able to re-negotiate with FAST to transport to that stop and possibly save money due to not having to transport citizens to the mall. Alderwoman Sutherland stated that this is also her point. Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra reported that initially when the bus service was started he worked with Fort Bragg to set up a stop at Butner Road. It was determined that the bus did not transport to Fort Bragg until we initiated the bus service to Spring Lake. The Fort Bragg shuttle will continue to operate and will take Fort Bragg citizens to the mall.

Mayor Clark requested that the information be provided to the Board at the earliest possible date to allow Board Members to have time to look at everything.

(A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment two.)

**b. Budget Amendment, FAST Bus Service.**

Ms. West presented a Budget Amendment to fund the bus service for one month. This will continue the service through December.

**Action:** The Board approved a motion to approve Budget Amendment #3.  
**Motion by:** Alderman Hogans  
**Second by:** Alderwoman Sutherland  
**Vote:** Unanimous

(A copy of the agenda memo and Budget Amendment BOA2010.3 is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment three.)

**c. Discussion of Town's Purchasing and Contracting Policy.**

Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra stated that he would like the Board to consider reducing the limits given to the Manager from \$500,000 to \$105,000 and from \$90,000 to \$50,000.

Alderwoman McCoy's issue was with not knowing what was happening prior to it being done and published in the paper. She stated that the Board needs to know when the Manager signs contracts that are not "in the norm."

Mayor Clark stated that when the amendment was approved it was not clarified that the

Board was giving one individual that kind of responsibility.

Alderwoman Sutherland stated that she believes the amount should be for Interim and permanent managers.

Alderman Hogans agrees with reducing the amount and proposed that all contracts that are executed by the Manager be placed on the consent agenda so that the Board could see what is being done. This is one potential solution to ensuring that the Board is kept informed.

Mr. Jackson clarified that the Town Manager always had the authority to sign contracts and that his approval was for legal sufficiency only and not the amount. He has always been conservative and always believed that the amount was too much to give to the Manager and believes the proposed amounts are still a little high. He also clarified that if the Board gives the Manager the authority to sign the contracts then the item on the consent agenda would be for information only unless the Board only gives the authority to propose a contract prior to Board approval.

Mr. Coats stated that he has concerns that the Manager can spend approximately 45% of the Town's funds balance without approval from the Board. He stated that the dollar amounts that Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra suggested seems reasonable to him. He stated that bringing every contract to the Board would present some hindrance to conducting day to day business.

**Action:** The Board's consensus was to bring back an amendment to lower the amount to \$105,000 and \$50,000.

#### **8. Board and Staff Comments :**

##### **Alderman Higgins**

- Glad to see everyone here.
- He observed an accident that had traffic backed up for hours and it makes it clear how hard it is for a Town not to have its own police department.

##### **Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra**

- Thanked Mr. Metcalf and Mr. Gerald for their presentations at the workshop.
- Apologized for not being here last meeting, had some family business to take care of.
- Good to see everyone.

##### **Alderwoman McCoy**

- Requested that no one use her name without her consent.
- Thanked everyone for coming out. She is proud to be on the Board and looking forward to the election season.

**Alderman Hogans**

- Thanked Chief Jarvies for the vague letter from the Judge about getting our Police Officers back on the street by November 1, 2009. Hope you can nail down more information.
- Young and Associates will have a public forum on the 16<sup>th</sup>. He requested information on when we will have a Manager in place. Mr. Coats reported that final interviews will be on or about October 21, 2009.
- Campaign for Aldermen and Mayor has kicked into high gear. I hope we will not get over zealous and hope everyone will use high standards in conducting their campaign. We need to have a sense of fair play. Good luck to all candidates.

**Alderwoman Sutherland**

- It looks like we are going back to not having many people at the meetings and I hope citizens who have stated that they love Spring Lake will step forward and serve on committees. Thanked everyone for serving as volunteers.
- Requested information about CCAP and asked who the Town's representative is. Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra is the representative. Alderwoman Sutherland asked about free food that was given out and if that had anything to do with the Board or Town. Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra stated that he also serves on the Second Harvest Food Bank Committee and they bring food to the Lillian Black Elementary school children. They get 60 back pack meals every Thursday to be given out on Friday. He clarified that it is not CCAP or Second Harvest who brings the food to Spring Lake. Ms. Jackie Jackson requested to be heard and advised that the free food was brought out by her non-profit 501C3 organization, Teens Do Care. She stated that her organization sends flyers out to the school for anyone who needs help with food. She has been doing this for the past two years. They also provide a food pantry for Senior Citizens and during Christmas, they do Toys for Tots. She stated that they gave free food to anyone and everyone who needed it. She also stated that Teens Do Care's name was on the flyer. She stated that they fed over 150 families and they plan to do it again in October. Alderwoman Sutherland inquired about what is done with the information they gather on people. Ms. Jackson stated that information goes back to the Department of Agriculture. She said that all information goes back to the government.

**Mayor Clark**

- All of the board members serve on various organizations and represent Spring Lake in the community and other areas. One of the organizations is Partnership for Children's Board of Directors. I served on it for 3 years and when my time was up I convinced Ms. Sutherland to serve on it and she shared with me a certificate of appreciation they presented to her. We appreciate her serving and working for us on this committee. There are a lot of things going on behind the scenes that people do not know about and I guess we should toot our own horns more. I am also on the Arts Council, the BRAC Regional Task Force, the NC League's Board of Directors

and several other committees at the League. Mr. Higgins serves on the Transportation Committee and there are others that I can not think of right now. So, there are a lot of good things going on and I commend you all for stepping up to the plate.

**Allen Coats**

- Reminder that the public forum for the Town Manager search is scheduled for September 16<sup>th</sup> from 2 PM – 5 PM.

**John Jackson**

- Would like to again publicly thank Rhonda for helping me on the Manchester Sewer Project. We were down to the cut off date and unfortunately Danny got sick and Byron was on vacation and she really stepped up to the plate. We would have had to file three condemnations but for her effort of going to the people and getting their signatures on the easements we did not have to do that. Mayor Clark stated "that is why I call her Rhondini." Alderman Higgins stated that he would like to add that he received a call Thursday night around 8 PM and Rhonda was trying to deliver the agenda packets. I think she is over working and I am concerned. I don't think she needs to be out at that time of night going around to houses so I would like management to take that into consideration. I appreciate

it and I appreciate others, we have some hard working people here.

**9. Adjournment.**

**Action:** There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

**Motion:** Alderwoman Sutherland

**Second by:** Alderman Higgins

**Vote:** Unanimous

Rhonda D. Webb, MMC  
Town Clerk

ATTEST:

Ethel T. Clark  
Mayor