

**TOWN OF WELDON BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
WORK SESSION  
February 7, 2017  
4:00 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Julia M. Meacham, Mayor

Commissioner Susie Adams  
Commissioner Charlotte Moss  
Commissioner Kimberley Robinson  
Commissioner John Smith

**STAFF PRESENT:** Mark Macon – Police Chief/Town Administrator, Katherine Parker – Town Clerk, Donald Crowder – Water/Sewer Supervisor, Richard Brown – Code Enforcement Officer

**MEDIA PRESENT:** None.

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** Yvonne Banks, Lydia Garner, Bernnie Harding, Meta Rawls, Dr. Mae B. Parker, Zena White, Jeremiah Webb, Helen Vincent

Mayor Meacham called the Work Session to order at 4:00 p.m.

**ITEM ONE: ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Mayor Meacham requested to add that a report be given on the incident that happened Saturday night under tab four.

Commissioner Moss requested to make the Powell Bill as item five and tree removal as item six.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to adopt the agenda with modifications. Commissioner Moss second the motion. All in favor; motion carried.

**ITEM TWO: INVOCATION**

Mr. Macon provided the invocation.

**ITEM THREE: WATER & SEWER REPORT**

Donald Crowder gave his report. (On file in Clerk's Office)

Water meter replacement project is almost complete. Water utilities staff have been in training today on operating the software to read meters.

There has been no response from the State regarding civil penalty letter dated from November, 2016. Still no results on waste water treatment plant inspection. Mr. Crowder will inform the Board once correspondences mentioned have been received.

Commissioner Moss asked if repairs had been made to the tank that withstood gun shots. Mr. Crowder stated that the manufacturer of the tank informed them that it could not be permanently repaired but gave instructions on how to make temporary repairs until all sludge was removed and cleaned properly.

#### **ITEM FOUR: OLD HEILIG MYERS BUILDING**

*a) Incident from Saturday*

Mr. Macon said that the investigation is still active so he is limited to what can be said. One victim was shot and there was one suspect involved in the shooting that took place out on the street.

Commissioner Moss asked if Mr. Macon was permitted to say if alcohol was in the premises and if there was a license issued. Mr. Macon stated that he could not go into further detail due to the case still being active at this time.

*b) Old Heilig Myers Building*

Mr. Macon said that there was supposed to be a report regarding the roof with committee and Ms. Banks. The Board agreed to table the discussion until the Regular session. Commissioner Moss stated that Ms. Banks chose not to meet with the committee. It is her understanding that the leak in the roof that is being requested for repair is not the same leak.

Commissioner Smith suggested this matter be tabled until speaking with Ms. Banks.

The Board decided to table this discussion until they are able to set up a meeting with Ms. Banks.

#### **ITEM FIVE: POWELL BILL**

Commissioner Moss asked how much money was received from the state this fiscal year and how much has been spent up to date.

Mr. Macon said that there is \$88,146.54 in the account but \$41,000.00 was budgeted by the Board for this fiscal year budget. To date, there has been \$5, 120.00 spent with a remaining balance of \$35,880.00. The Powell Bill funds are set up into four categories; departmental supplies, contract services, CSX maintenance fees and sidewalks. Each line item has a certain amount of money appropriated. Powell Bill funds are based on size, location and population of municipality.

Commissioner Moss asked what can be classified under contractual services. Mr. Macon utilized an example of Green Engineering being a contracted service that meets the criteria for such line item. There services were retained to conduct a study on having a storm water drainage system since there had been issues with certain streets and ditches flooding in town.

Commissioner Moss asked what funds were available to fix streets and sidewalks. Mr. Macon said \$3,000.00 was appropriated for sidewalks. However, line items are simply there to track spending but the funds could be interchangeable within the Powell Bill account.

Mr. Macon said he wanted to answer Commissioner Moss other question regarding projects that were anticipated. He stated that ten streets in town need to be repaired. Mr. Macon said one project is to clear out the ditches on Longstreet due to water drainage.

Commissioner Moss asked if the cost to repair sidewalks included labor to come out of the sidewalk budget. Mr. Macon stated that materials and labor would come from the sidewalk line item under Powell Bill account.

Mr. Macon mentioned that the Board may want to consider adopting a tree removal policy in the future regarding the next item on the agenda.

#### **ITEM FIVE: TREE REMOVAL**

Commissioner Moss spoke with Senator Bryant and was given contact information of horticulturist and an extension agent in the area that could assist with options for preserving the tree. With the Boards permission, she would like to speak with these two individuals about those options.

Commissioner Moss also had concern with the Boards decision to cut the tree down and after hearing about the Powell Bill account, has great concern with the funds appropriated for projects such as this. She does not have a problem with public concern of a tree but does have a problem with a person coming before the Board angry and hostile threatening to sue the Town. Commissioner Moss said she has concern for children as well but if cutting down a tree comes from a concern about branches falling, the Town would have to cut down all of the trees; especially those on Washington Avenue. She also presented photos of the area where the tree is located and sidewalks. To her observation, the sidewalk was not disturbed by the tree nor was any part of the sidewalk raised. It disturbs her to know the Board would spend money on a tree that is not ill, that is not in danger of falling, and that has not disrupted the safety of walking on the sidewalk.

Commissioner Moss is going to ask if the Board will reconsider the vote of removing the tree at the next Regular Board Meeting.

Commissioner Robinson said that she did not find Mr. Martin to be hostile but passionate regarding how he felt. He articulated that well to the Board. Commissioner Robinson stated that if sidewalks are going to be discussed, it needs to be added to the agenda for discussion. Therefore if it is on the agenda, the Board can make a decision on that as well.

#### **ITEM SEVEN: SEVERE WEATHER/ EMERGENCY POLICY**

Mr. Macon drafted this policy for the purposes of having a guideline that the Town can follow during inclement weather. He suggested the Board observe and consider adopting at the Regular Board Meeting.

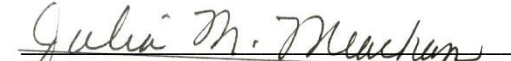
**ITEM EIGHT: ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, Commissioner Smith made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Adams. All voted in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 4:21p.m.



---

Katherine Parker, Town Clerk

---

Julia M. Meacham, Mayor