**MINUTES OF TOWN OF MAXTON, NORTH CAROLINA**

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

The Board of Commissioners of Maxton, North Carolina met in Formal Session in the Meeting Chambers of the Town of Maxton Town Hall located at 201 McCaskill Avenue Maxton, North Carolina on April 26, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

**Present:**

Mayor Emmett “Chip” Morton, Mayor Pro Tem Virgil Hutchinson, Commissioner Elizabeth Gilmore, Commissioner James McDougald, Town Manager Kate Bordeaux, Town Attorney Nick Sojka, Town Police Chief Tammy Deese, Tax Collector/Acting Town Clerk Angela Pitchford.

**Absent:**

Commissioner Paul McDowell

**FORMAL SESSION**

Mayor Morton called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone, and the matters below were addressed. The invocation was given by Mayor Morton.

**Adoption of Proposed Agenda**

Mayor Morton requested a motion to adopt the proposed agenda. Commissioner McDougald moved that the Board approve the proposed agenda, Commissioner Gilmore seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

1. Minutes from Board Meeting March 21, 2017
2. Tax Adjustments- None
3. Tax Lien Advertisement List

Mayor Morton requested a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson moved that the Board approve the consent agenda, Commissioner McDougald seconded motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

**RECOGINITIONS**

**Employee of the month**

None

**Schools**

No speaker was present

**PUBLIC FORUM**

* Jessie Hines- 405 Scotland Street 910 844-3016 spoke to the Mayor and Town Manager to thank them for the expedient response to her complaint about the property next door to her home. She stated, everything that you said would be done, was done. Also Mrs. Hines commended the Board on the cleanup of the football and basketball court.
* Francine McLaurin- 12560 Cypress Drive Laurinburg, NC 910 276-8857 discussed the partnership with St. Matthew AME Zion, Scotland Health Care System, National Association of University of Women (Robeson/Scotland Branch), and the Town of Maxton on the Health & Wellness Fair. The Fair is scheduled for May 20, 2017. She stated, we started this fair last year and it was very successful, so we decided to bring it back again this year. The fair will be housed at the Maxton Resource Center which is next door to the police department. Ms. McLaurin thanked the Town for supplying the facility and also thanked Chief Tammy Deese for allowing the Maxton Police Explorers to assist with the program they will assist in various areas.

Mayor Morton closed the public forum after no others came forward to speak.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**AIA Project – Asset Inventory & Assessment**

Mike Apke of McGill & Associates spoke concerning the grant applications submitted to the state on behalf of the Town of Maxton. These two grant applications were for our water & sewer system separately. The Town of Maxton was awarded $208,000 in grant funds to complete both assessments. Mr. Apke stated that the Town completed the RFQ (request for qualifications) process required by the state. The Town can now select a firm to proceed with the assessment. Mayor Morton requested a motion to pick McGill & Associates to continue on with our water & sewer assessment inventory. Commissioner McDougald made the motion, Commissioner Gilmore second the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

**Questions of the reviewed Projected Budget FY 2017-2018**

There were no questions concerning the projected FY 2017-2018 budget. Commissioner Gilmore made the motion to allow the Town Finance Director to advertise the Projected Budget FY 2017-2018, Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson second the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

**Landfill Closure**

Town Manager Bordeaux explained that the Town has not officially closed the landfill. Town Manager Bordeaux and Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson have met several times to discuss the appropriate way to close the landfill. Town Manager Bordeaux reached out to several companies for proposals in order to close the landfill. In order to be eligible for closure, there must be a foot of dirt over the area used for the landfill. Once this part is completed there is a grid that must be marked, the company would then have to go in and bore down a foot to ensure there is a foot of dirt. The best quote received was from Anderson Engineering. Town Manager Bordeaux and Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson met with Mr. Larry Anderson to go over the discovery work. Town Manager Bordeaux shared with the Board that this process started when our Tax Collector Ms. Pitchford was Interim Town Manager. She thanked Ms. Pitchford for sharing the information on this project and providing valuable assistance on the project. Mrs. Bordeaux also thanked Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson for his leadership and educating her on what steps were required. Mrs. Bordeaux recommended to the Board that the work be granted to Anderson Engineering and stated that Mr. Larry Anderson is here to answer any questions that the Board may have. Commissioner McDougald asked about the dirt. Mayor Morton stated the dirt would be out over the debris that has been sitting there. Commissioner McDougald asked if the debris was just leaves and limbs. Mayor Morton stated yes to his question. Mr. Larry Anderson addressed the Board by explaining the scope of the project. Mr. Anderson stated that his company would grid off, survey, and create a map. The company would create a 75 foot grid, the Town’s Public Works Department will put the holes in the ground and Anderson Engineering will verify that there is one foot of cover required over the debris. Anderson Engineering will then complete a series of paperwork, do the grid/mapping, and submit to the State for closure. Anderson Engineering will be involved in all efforts to close the site. Commissioner McDougald asked, with decay would your company have to come back and re-do the area? Mr. Anderson stated no. The requirement is to have a foot of soil over the debris. Mr. Anderson stated that the area is well established and grass is growing. Mayor Morton asked about the statement certified, asking if this meant we will no longer be able to operate this particular landfill, Mr. Anderson stated that this was correct. The closure and the documents will be recorded in the Robeson County Registry. It will be verified and visited by the Division of Waste Management. Mr. Anderson will attend on behalf of the Town. Mayor Morton asked for a motion to hire Anderson Engineering to officially close the Town of Maxton landfill. Commissioner McDougald made the motion, Commissioner Gilmore second the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Town of Maxton Water Tower**

The water tower being discussed is located by the Gilbert Patterson Library on Water Street. Town Manager Bordeaux stated that the tower is not operable as it has deterioted so we have two options- remove or paint and repair the water tower. As you may recall three years ago the riser broke, the tower was insured and we received a reimbursement check in the amount of $46,000. Town Manager Bordeaux has received repair quotes for the water tower between $35,000 to $50,000. To paint the water tower it is going to cost another $50,000. There is also an annual inspection with the cost of $1500. With the yearly inspection the state automatically changes the lightbulbs in the tower. When you look at the interior where the bulb is housed, it is deterioted as well, birds have roosted on it, which is also causing a health issue. Town Manager Bordeaux recommend the quote from R.E. Tank Company in the amount of $46,000 is take the tower down. Mayor Morton asked the pleasure of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner McDougald asked about the siren on top of the tower. Mayor Morton explained that years ago, if there was an emergency this siren would be used by the chief of police and the fire chief to alert the residents. McDougald made the motion to remove the water tower and to save the siren, Commissioner Gilmore second the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

**Beacham Walking Trail Promotion/Enhancement**

Commissioner Gilmore shared with the Board that she discovered this project at one of her meetings. In March 2017 four churches in the Town of Maxton completed a program called Faithful Families (Eating Smart and Moving More programs). One area that each church addressed and promoted was physical activity, walking in our congregation’s community. For some reason neither of the churches have a walking area or walking trail. Commissioner Gilmore spoke with Mr. Travis Gear at the Robeson County Health Department and inquired about assistance for the Town of Maxton. She further stated that she wants the residents to be educated on the chronic diseases of diabetes, heart disease, and other diseases in the community. She shared that the faith community came up with what is called an enhancement opportunity for a walking trail, which will be sponsored by the Robeson County Chronic Disease Prevention Program. The program awards grants that would help the Town obtain benches for rest or stretch breaks, walking trail signs with the distance and other information, plant tree labels for trees, as well as, plants at the walking trail. She stated, there are so many things that this organization can help us with, the Town can get other grants if we accept this, and we need this here in Maxton for our chronic diseases. Mayor Morton requested a motion to approve the Beacham Walking Trail Enhancement Project. Commissioner McDougald made the motion, Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson second the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

**Laurinburg/Maxton Airport Commission sale of property (29 Acre pond site)**

Executive Director for the Laurinburg/Maxton Airport Commission **(**LMAC) Joann Gentry came before the Board asking for approval to sell 29 plus acres of land to the Scotland county Economic Development Inc. (EDC). This land is located on the property where the LMAC sold land two months ago for the 322 mega certified site. This land is a pond of 16 acres of the 29 acres is a pond. The only access to that pond is through the certified site which LMAC has sold. EDC wants to buy the property at an appraised value of $14,500. Mayor requested a motion to give LMAC permission to sell the property to EDC. Attorney Sojka also added the approval of the resolution. Commissioner McDougald made the motion, and Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson second the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

**Maxton Fitness**

Dallas Everette introduced Rodney Dowdy who wants to propose a boxing club for the youth. Mr. Dowdy stated that many people do not understand that boxing is a discipline, and some of youth in Maxton have a lot of aggression. We feel that boxing will teaching them how to control that aggression, eliminate some of the bad mentality we see, and will allow the youth to go different places. We feel that boxing will teach the kids a lot, and keep them out of trouble. We are asking for help to get what is needed for the youth. He further stated that the boxing club will reduce summer problems, so when the kids are at home and the parents are at work, it will give them something to do. They will not be in the streets, walking around, hanging around in the stores. It will be something for them to get involved in positive reinforcement. All we are asking is to give our youth a chance. Commissioner McDougald asked what items they were looking for. Mr. Dowdy stated the basics such as, head gear, sparring gloves, cups, etc. Maybe some transportation needs to help them go out of town and possible get promoted. Mr. Dowdy stated “Like you Mr. McDougald there are a lot of talented youth here in Maxton but never got the opportunity, I believe the stats are one every 25 years, those numbers can change if given the opportunity”. Commissioner Gilmore asked where will the training be held, have you thought of a sight? Mr. Dowdy stated that the training would be inside the gym. Commissioner Gilmore asked if there was thought of getting some outside help such as grants. Mr. Dowdy stated that he does not have that knowledge to apply for grants. Commissioner Gilmore states that although you do not have the knowledge have you asked for help from those in the community. Mayor Morton asked if they were asking the Town for some financial assistance. Mr. Dowdy and Mr. Everette stated yes they were seeking financial assistance from the Town if possible. Mayor Morton asked if they had any idea how much funding they were asking for at this time. Mr. Dowdy stated that they had not tallied up the expenses for the basic kits. Mr. Everette researched online and got an estimate of $800. Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson asked how long is the training period. Mr. Dowdy stated that training never actually stops, some boxers have actually gone pro. Commissioner Gilmore states that she believes it will be a great idea for the youth of this area. Mayor Morton states that one problem would be for the Town to begin to give funds to private businesses, it will set a precedent. Mr. Everette stated maybe we can get the program up and running and then come to the Town for help. Commissioner McDougald stated that maybe it can be made a separate organization from the gym. Mayor Morton stated that it will not be operated by the Town. Mr. Everette stated that the six would help train at least twenty students because everyone will share. Mayor Morton stated that he would help the fitness center to get some sponsors, and that he would personally donate $200 towards the boxing program. Mr. Everette stated that they do have a nonprofit status. Mr. Everette stated they will also be operating amateur wrestling with the help of Mr. Scottie Dials with the IWA pro school of wresting. He shared that some of you may have heard of these names Ivan Kolof “The Russian Bear” he trained Mr. Dials, Dusty Rhodes, Chief McDaniel’s, Mr. Dials wrestled these men. Mr. Dials has been wrestling for years. The wrestling program will also be operated out of the gym. Mr. Dial’s objective is to have young people develop the discipline in the field of wrestling. Also, he can train them to be professionals, if they can learn the acting part of wrestling they have a better opportunity. Mr. Dials wants to start a professional wrestling club out of Maxton and will travel with the team. The ring will come in the gym on Sunday April 30, 2017. The ring will be for both sports. The gentleman that donated the ring stated that we will have exclusive use of the gym at no charge. They will only come to get the ring if they need it for an event. They will be having an event in Fairmont holding an open wrestling contest. We want to do the same thing here, we can take that ring and set it up anywhere as long as the weather is nice, and do an open wrestling event right here in Maxton. We are trying to have the gym not just a place to come work out but also a framing board for programs. Resident Dollie Dowdy stated that she feels that this is a good thing and stated that she goes to the gym.

**REPORTS**

**Town Manager**

Town Manager Bordeaux briefed the Board on Tax Collector Angela Pitchford and her efforts in collecting taxes. One of the priorities of the Board is to focus on is increasing our tax rates. At this point we are hirer in collection percentage than we have been in years past. Some of the things Tax Collector Pitchford has done is wage garnishments, bank garnishments, different agreements, face to face conversation. It seems like people come upstairs a lot to work with her and make sure that these taxes are paid, she has done some debt setoff. We have our attorney here and we would like to commend and thank Town Attorney Sojka for working with Tax Collector Pitchford on packets that she has given you. We have people that are delinquent and have not paid taxes in years. Town Manager Bordeaux thanked Ms. Pitchford for her professionalism and diligent work in improving the tax collection rate. Our Tax Collector is also our code enforcer and she has been instrumental in sending out letters to people. Ms. Pitchford, Public Works Director Freeman, and I ride around and we see different pieces of property that are not kept up according to the Town’s Ordinances. The Town is putting the residents on notice that we are going to continue code enforcement. Town Manager Bordeaux will follow up with all property owners and tenants with what the Town Ordinances. After a grace period of a few weeks, the Town will then send the property owners who are not in compliance with the Town Ordinance a letter giving 15 days as per the Town Ordinance to clean it up. If you the owner or tenant chooses not to be in compliant, the Town’s Public Works Department will clean up the property, and send the owner/tenant a bill. If the bill is not paid in the specified time, the Town will put a tax lien on the property. We have got to clean up the town, our Public Works Department has done a great job in cleaning up and getting the trash up. Now we need for the property owners to be responsible and comply with the Town Ordinances. Commissioner McDougald asked about the old freight building in front of the laundromat on Central Street. Town Manager Bordeaux stated she has reached out to CSX with no response. Also, there have been two individuals who have inquired about removing the building. Mayor Morton states that we own the building but not the land under. Any building that we own, we should be able to remove. Manager Bordeaux stated that once we ascertain that we own the property, we will send out to get some quotes to see what the cost is to take it down.

**Mayor’s Comments**

Mayor Morton stated that we have had a great meeting I hate to end it with a bad comment. Commissioner McDougald and I a few months ago put together a plan to get recycling bin out here for citizens who like to recycle. Commissioner McDougald and I spoke about the recycling bin not being emptied. Mayor Morton stated that the reason it was not empty is because someone had stuck a mattress in the bin, and left four televisions on the ground in front of the bin. The Town cleaned up the bin, but citizens need to understand that bin will be removed if it not appropriately used. There are a good percentage of our citizens that use that recycling bin, and that is why it is there. You can very easily find somewhere else to take the TV’s for $2-$3 dollars someone where else such as the Scotland landfill.

**Commissioners**

Commissioner McDougald gave the Board an update on Economic Development. We are really moving forward with the new businesses coming to town. Driven Contractors is doing a great job at the old pharmacy turning it into their headquarters. I met with the owner, Joseph Locklear and he is really excited about coming, and his qualifications have increased to AA. This will give him opportunity to hire more people. There are a couple of new businesses that are open now. One is Allen’s Grill at the Old Eagle’s Nest. The second is Rebba’s Newly New which will be opened on May 1, 2017. He further stated that he met with Hunt Brothers representative and they basically have approved Maxton as a location where we can get pizza. He stated that this is not a franchise. There is a gentlemen out of Charlotte, NC named John McCrimmon, just by chance he was passing through Maxton to get to Rowland and fell in love with the place. Mr. McCrimmon is working with Beth Wilkerson concerning building reuse on several projects. One of those projects is Maxton Supply, where he is also talking with True Value and Ace about what they need to get in there and open the store. Mr. McCrimmon is also looking into other old building and old houses to renovate. The town has a lot of these houses that he can sink his teeth into. The gym Mr. Everette talked about is doing well. We do not have to travel to Pembroke, Red Springs or even Laurinburg as we now have a local gym. He asked all the citizens to get involved- it will make you feel better.

Attorney Sojka advised the Board to move next meeting due to scheduling conflict. Mayor Morton requested a motion to move the next meeting to Tuesday May 23, 2017. Commissioner McDougald made the motion, Commissioner Gilmore second the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

**Adjourn**

Mayor Morton requested a motion to adjourn. Commissioner McDougald made the motion, and Commissioner Gilmore second the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved..

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Emmett Morton, Mayor Angela Pitchford, Acting Town Clerk