

## **Regular Meeting – July 11, 2013**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Thursday, July 11, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were J.J. McCree, Carol Leak-McKenzie, Wade Sealey and Kim Ammons. Commissioner Wayland Lennon, III was out of town on business and participated by telephone. Commissioner Charles Townsend and Town Attorney Robert Price were absent. Staff present included Town Manager Linda Vause, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Tax Collector Rebecca Andrews and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals. Others in attendance included Rev. Tyrone Watson, Carolyn Whitted, Cynthia Dudley, Adelina Shee and several citizens.

### **Call to Order and Invocation**

Mayor Charles Kemp called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Sealey made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Leak-McKenzie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance**

#### **Rev. Tyrone Watson – Leaders of a New Community Youth Educational Center**

Rev. Tyrone Watson is opening the Leaders of a New Community Youth Educational Center at 306 South Main Street. It is a non-profit organization that provides educational services for young men at risk of dropping out of school, at risk of incarceration, and gang affiliation ranging from the ages of 10-21. The program is centered on spirituality.

#### **Carolyn Whitted and Cynthia Dudley – Dogs running loose in neighborhood**

Ms. Carolyn Whitted, of 902 Park Avenue, and Ms. Cynthia Dudley, of 800 South Main Street, came before the board to complain about dogs running loose in their neighborhood. Ms. Whitted is afraid of dogs and there are four dogs that are constantly in her yard. She has called the police in the past to chase them off. Ms. Dudley stated the dogs belong to her neighbor, who has a messy yard with lots of junk. She said the dogs stand up to you when you try to run them off. Other neighbors can't let their dogs outside because of these loose dogs. Ms. Dudley and her neighbors have been bothered with this problem for a long time and they know they can't shoot or poison the dogs. Their next step is to call animal control.

**Consent Agenda**

Upon motion by Commissioner Leak-McKenzie and seconded by Commissioner J.J. McCree it was unanimously voted to adopt the following consent agenda item:

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, June 13, 2013 and Special Meeting, June 27, 2013.

**Unfinished Business**

**Resolution 13-12 – Bond Order authorizing Issuance of Water and Sewer System Revenue Bonds.**

Town Manager Linda Vause asked the board to adopt Resolution 13-12 – Bond Order authorizing Issuance of Water and Sewer System Revenue Bonds. The long title reads as follows:

RESOLUTION 13-12 - BOND ORDER AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM REVENUE BONDS TO PROVIDE FUNDS TO CONSTRUCT IMPROVEMENTS TO THE WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM; PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF ADDITIONAL REVENUE BONDS; PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF REVENUE BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF REVENUE BONDS; PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF CERTAIN SPECIAL FUNDS; PLEDGING TO THE PAYMENT OF THE PRINCIPAL OF AND THE INTEREST ON THE REVENUE BONDS AND NOTES CERTAIN REVENUES OF THE WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM; SETTING FORTH THE RIGHTS AND REMEDIES OF HOLDERS; AND SETTING FORTH THE DETAILS OF CERTAIN RELATED MATTERS

Mrs. Vause stated the resolution is required by the Local Government Commission in order to issue the bonds for the sewer line project. Mrs. Vause added that construction should begin in August. Commissioner Sealey made a motion to adopt Resolution 13-12 – Bond Order authorizing Issuance of Water and Sewer System Revenue Bonds. Commissioner Leak-McKenzie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of the resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

**Resolution 13-13 – Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of Water and Sewer System Revenue Bond Anticipation Notes of the Town of Fairmont, North Carolina in the Aggregate Principal Amount of \$385,000.**

Mrs. Vause asked the board to adopt Resolution 13-13 – Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of Water and Sewer System Revenue Bond Anticipation Notes of the Town of Fairmont, North Carolina in the Aggregate Principal Amount of \$385,000. Commissioner Lennon made a motion to adopt Resolution 13-13 – Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of Water and Sewer System Revenue Bond Anticipation Notes of the Town of Fairmont, North Carolina in the Aggregate Principal Amount of \$385,000. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of the resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Resolution 13-14 - Accepting bid and authorizing sale of real property, portion of lot located at the end of the dirt section of Webster Street, tax parcel 0505-05-035.

Mrs. Vause asked the board to adopt Resolution 13-14 - Accepting bid and authorizing sale of real property, portion of lot located at the end of the dirt section of Webster Street, tax parcel 0505-05-035, which reads as follows:

RESOLUTION 13-14 ACCEPTING BID AND AUTHORIZING SALE OF  
REAL PROPERTY – PORTION OF TAX PARCEL 0505-05-035

WHEREAS, on June 13, 2013, the Board of Commissioners approved Resolution 13-07 declaring a portion of tax parcel 0505-05-035 as surplus and authorizing the sale of that property through the upset bid procedure of North Carolina General Statute 160A-269; and,

WHEREAS, Kenneth Floyd, Jr. made the initial bid for the property in the amount of \$1,200.00; and,

WHEREAS, notice of the offer and the upset bid process was properly advertised; and,

WHEREAS, no upset bid has been received.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Fairmont that it does hereby accept the bid of Kenneth Floyd, Jr. in the amount of \$1,200.00 and authorize the sale of the real property lying and being in the Town of Fairmont, Robeson County, North Carolina, and being more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at a found damaged iron pipe at the most eastern corner of the property of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina described in the deed recorded in Book 1721 at Page 106, said pipe being North 48 degrees 52 minutes 30 seconds East 30.07 feet from an iron pipe found at a corner of the property of Johnny R. Hagins described in the deed recorded in Book 992 at Page 731 in the southeast line of the of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina; thence North 37 degrees 11 minutes 30 seconds West 691.79 feet to an iron pipe in a line of the Fairmont Development Corporation property described in the deed recorded in Book 582 at Page 750; thence with that line North 52 degrees 48 minutes 30 seconds East 65.00 feet to an iron pipe found in the line of the property of Cameron Brent Brooks et al described in the deed recorded in Book 1749 at Page 247(Map Book 43 at Page 6); thence with the Brooks line South 37 degrees 10 minutes 44 seconds East 687.33 feet to a new corner; thence South 48 degrees 52 minutes 30 seconds West 65.00 feet to the iron rod at the point of BEGINNING. This property is a portion of the 2.52-acre tract deeded to the Town of Fairmont by the instrument recorded in Book 775 at Page 597. This property is a portion of tax parcel 0505-05-035.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Fairmont that it does hereby authorize the Mayor and Town Clerk to execute a deed to Kenneth Floyd, Jr. for the above-described property for and on behalf of the Town of Fairmont based on the following terms:

- a. the Town will pay the cost of deed preparation, the property taxes for years prior to the year in which the sale closes, and any tax stamps due. The buyer must pay current year taxes and all other costs of closing,
- b. the Town will use a quitclaim deed to transfer the property, and
- c. the buyer must pay with cash at the time of closing.

Commissioner Lennon made a motion to adopt Resolution 13-14 - accepting bid and authorizing sale of real property, portion of lot located at the end of the dirt section of Webster Street, tax parcel 0505-05-035. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of the resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

**New Business**

Planning Board – reappoint Buddy Taylor and fill two vacancies, one in town member and one out of town (ETJ) member.

The following Planning Board members’ terms expired in May 2013:

Buddy Taylor  
Rev. Chester Hopkins, Jr.  
Lacy Floyd (out of town member)

Mr. Buddy Taylor has agreed to serve again for another three year term expiring May 2016. Rev. Chester Hopkins, Jr. no longer lives in Fairmont and Mr. Lacy Floyd has asked not to be reappointed due to medical reasons. The board needs to appoint one in town member and one out of town/ETJ member to the Planning Board to replace Rev. Hopkins and Mr. Floyd. The new appointees will have a three year term expiring May 2016. Commissioner McCree suggested tabling the appointments until the August meeting since Commissioner Townsend was unable to attend tonight’s meeting. Commissioner Lennon nominated Mr. Maurice McMillan as the in town member replacing Rev. Hopkins. Commissioner Sealey nominated Mr. Buddy Taylor for another three year term. There was no nominations for the out of town member at this time. Commissioner Lennon moved the nominations be closed and Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion. Mayor Kemp asked for a vote on reappointing Mr. Buddy Taylor for a three year term on the Planning Board expiring May 2016. The vote was unanimous in favor of reappointing Mr. Taylor. Mayor Kemp asked for a vote on appointing Mr. Maurice McMillan for a three year term on the Planning Board expiring May 2016. Mr. McMillan was appointed by the following votes:

For:	Commissioners Ammons, Lennon and McCree
Against:	Commissioner Leak-McKenzie
Abstained from voting:	Commissioner Sealey
Absent:	Commissioner Townsend

Mayor Kemp announced that the board would consider appointing an out of town/ETJ member to the Planning Board at the August meeting.

**Mayor Input**

Mayor Kemp invited everyone to Fairmont's National Night Out celebration on Tuesday, August 6 at 7:00 p.m. in the Heritage Center. The guest speaker will be Erich Hackney, an investigator for the district attorney's office.

Mayor Kemp announced that the "Shortest Route to Beach" billboard was now up on I-95 near exit 17. He publicly thanked the nine businesses and one organization whose contributions made the billboard possible: Bonnie B's Restaurant, The Hardware True Value, McDonalds, Fairmont Pizza, Kangaroo Express, Bailey's Garage, Subway, Fairmont Golf Club, L&M Convenient Mart and Fairmont Development Corporation.

**Commissioners Input**

Commissioners Sealey and Lennon thanked everyone who participated in Fairmont's Fantastic Fourth celebration.

**Manager Input**

Mrs. Vause said she would be on vacation the week of July 22 – July 26, 2013.

**Department Head Input**

There was no input from Public Works Director Ronnie Seals.

**Announcements**

Tuesday, July 16 - NCDMV Mobile Driver's License Unit, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Town Hall parking lot.

Thursday, July 11 - Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m. Council Chambers.

Saturday, July 20 - Lumber River Day Festival, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Lumber River State Park. There will be canoe rides, booths and exhibits, activities for kids, food and ice cream vendors.

Thursday, August 1 - Back to School Celebration, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Southeastern NC Ag Center in Lumberton.

Friday, August 2 to Sunday, August 4 – N.C. Sales Tax Holiday. Shop Fairmont for your back to school supplies!

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Saturday, August 3 - Senior Bingo, 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

Tuesday, August 6 - National Night Out, 7:00 p.m., Heritage Center. There will be hot dogs, entertainment and guest speaker, Erich Hackney, District Attorney Investigator.

Tuesday, August 13 - NCDMV Mobile Driver's License Unit, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Town Hall parking lot.

Monday, August 26 - First Day of School.

Monday, September 2 - Town offices and schools closed in observance of Labor Day.

Each Saturday - Focus On Fairmont Radio Show with Mayor Charles Kemp, 12:00 noon, WSTS 100.9 FM.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:26 p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## **Regular Meeting – August 8, 2013**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Thursday, August 8, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were Wayland Lennon, III, Charles Townsend, J.J. McCree, Carol Leak-McKenzie, Wade Sealey and Kim Ammons. Staff present included Town Manager Linda Vause, Town Attorney Robert Price, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals. Others in attendance included Rev. Dalma Cribb, Jane Powell, Adelina Shee and several citizens.

### **Call to Order and Invocation**

Mayor Charles Kemp called the meeting to order. Rev. Dalma Cribb, of Trinity United Methodist Church, gave the invocation.

### **Mayor's Presentations**

Fairmont Farmers Festival Chairwoman Jane Powell announced the festival t-shirt design winners are Jennifer Martinez, Kirkland Hucks and Tori Maynor. They will receive a \$50 check and a free t-shirt.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Sealey made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Leak-McKenzie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance**

There was no public comment this month.

### **Consent Agenda**

Upon motion by Commissioner Lennon and seconded by Commissioner Sealey it was unanimously voted to adopt the following consent agenda item:

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, July 11, 2013.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### **Planning Board – fill vacancy for out of town (ETJ) member**

The Planning Board still has a vacancy for the out of town/ETJ member. Mr. Lacy Floyd passed away last month. The board needs to appoint one out of town/ETJ member to the Planning Board to replace Mr. Floyd. The new appointee will have a three year term expiring May 2016. Commissioner McCree made a motion to table the appointment for the out of town/ETJ Planning Board member to the September meeting. Commissioner Lennon seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**New Business**

There was no new business this month.

**Mayor Input**

Mayor Kemp had no input this month.

**Commissioners Input**

Commissioner Lennon wanted to acknowledge the passing of Laverne Hunt, a former public works employee who worked for the town for 27 years and passed away on July 21.

**Manager Input**

Mrs. Vause presented the following monthly financial summary to the board:

July 2013 has once again been a “cash strapped” month. The town’s property and liability insurance, along with the workers’ comp insurance, is paid in July. The first payment for our Harger Grant liability had to be to the NC Commerce Department by July 15, 2013. This payment was \$62,773.27. This is the first of four annual payments to be made. We are also awaiting reimbursement in the amount of \$49,260.00 for our sewer rehab project. The payment to NC Commerce along with the advance to the sewer rehab project, readily explains the cash deficit of \$61,587.76.

The department heads have been told to hold expenditures to a minimum until our cash flow difficulties improve. I anticipate receiving our sewer rehab reimbursement sometime in August. We should also begin receiving current year’s tax payments in August.

We are progressing smoothly with our transfer of communications to Robeson County. The county has ordered equipment needed for this transfer. We have ordered the emergency phone that will be located at our side entrance to town hall.

Mrs. Vause added that a representative from Waste Management will make a presentation under new business at the September board meeting.

**Department Head Input**

There was no input from Public Works Director Ronnie Seals.

**Announcements**

Tuesday, August 13 - NCDMV Mobile Driver's License Unit, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Town Hall parking lot.

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Tuesday, August 20 - FHS Tornado Booster Bonanza, 6:00 p.m., FHS Cafeteria. Steak supper for 2 and two athletic passes to all FHS home sport games for \$125. For tickets and information, contact Tracy McCormick at 734-1767 or Angie Lovin at 740-1152.

Friday, August 23 - FHS Football vs. East Bladen, HOME, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 24 - Showin' Off For Autism Bike Show, Fairmont Community Park. Entry Fee \$10. Registration 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Judging at 2:00 p.m. and Awards at 3:00 p.m.

Monday, August 26 - First Day of School.

Friday, August 30 - FHS Football vs. Fayetteville Christian, AWAY, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, September 2 - Labor Day Sidewalk sale, 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, Downtown. Town offices and schools closed for Labor Day.

Friday, September 6 - FHS Football vs. Ashley, HOME, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 7 - Senior Bingo, 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

Thursday, September 12 - Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Council Chambers, Town Hall.

Friday, September 13 - FHS Football vs. Lake View, AWAY, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, September 27 - FHS Football vs. St. Pauls, HOME, 7:30 p.m.

Each Saturday - Focus On Fairmont Radio Show with Mayor Charles Kemp, 12:00 noon, WSTS 100.9 FM.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:14 p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## **Regular Meeting – September 12, 2013**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Thursday, September 12, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Townsend, J.J. McCree, Carol Leak-McKenzie, and Wade Sealey. Absent were Commissioner Wayland Lennon, III who was out of state on business and Commissioner Kim Ammons due to the passing of her mother. Staff present included Town Manager Linda Vause, Town Attorney Robert Price, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, and Public Safety Director Danny Parker. Others in attendance included Rev. Ed Johnson, Ashley Berdeau, Jeff Echols, Adelina Shee and several citizens.

### **Call to Order and Invocation**

Mayor Charles Kemp called the meeting to order. Rev. Ed Johnson, Intentional Interim Pastor of First Baptist Church, South Main Street, gave the invocation.

### **Mayor's Presentations**

Recognize Town Clerk Jenny Larson for winning the 2013 North Carolina Association of Municipal Clerks "Clerk of the Year" award.

Mayor Kemp recognized Town Clerk Jenny Larson with a plaque for winning the 2013 North Carolina Association of Municipal Clerks "Clerk of the Year" award.

Downtown Mural Project and recognize the 2013-2014 Public Schools of Robeson County Teacher of the Year, Ashley Berdeau.

Mayor Kemp announced that Fairmont has been awarded an \$800 N.C. Grassroots Arts grant to continue painting murals downtown. Mayor Kemp also recognized Fairmont High School art teacher Ashley Berdeau with a certificate for winning the 2013-2014 Public Schools of Robeson County Teacher of the Year award.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Sealey made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Leak-McKenzie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance**

There was no public comment this month.

### **Consent Agenda**

Upon motion by Commissioner Sealey and seconded by Commissioner McCree it was unanimously voted to adopt the following consent agenda items:

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, August 8, 2013.
- b. Reappoint L. Floyd to the Fairmont ABC Board for a three year term expiring September 2016.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### **Planning Board – fill vacancy for out of town (ETJ) member**

The Planning Board still has a vacancy for the out of town/ETJ member. Mr. Lacy Floyd passed away in July. The board needs to appoint one out of town/ETJ member to the Planning Board to replace Mr. Floyd. The new appointee will have a three year term expiring May 2016. Commissioner Sealey made a motion to table the appointment for the out of town/ETJ Planning Board member to the October meeting. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **New Business**

#### **Resolution 13-15 – N.C. Governor’s Highway Safety Program grant.**

Town Manager Linda Vause updated the board on the Governor’s Highway Safety Program grant. This is the second year of the three year grant awarded to the town to help combat speed and alcohol related traffic deaths. This year the grant is for training, salary and benefits, requesting \$34,934 with the town providing a match of \$14,972. Commissioner Townsend made a motion to adopt Resolution 13-15 - Governor’s Highway Safety Program grant. Commissioner Leak-McKenzie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of the resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

#### **AT&T presentation – proposal on new phone system.**

Mr. Jeff Echols, of AT&T, presented a proposal for a new phone system for Town Hall. The new system will feature improved technology and features. The system is estimated to cost \$10,456.84 with a 60 month lease. Mr. Echols plans to review the town’s current phone system and reduce the town’s monthly expenditure of \$1,800 to \$1,150. This reduction in expenditures will cover the cost of the new phone system. Commissioner Sealey made a motion for Town Manager Linda Vause to enter into a contract with AT&T for a new phone system. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Fairmont Rural Fire – request for reduced rate or free water.

Mrs. Vause stated the Fairmont Rural Fire Department has made a request for free or reduced rate water. The rural fire department provides mutual aid to Fairmont's fire department. Commissioner Townsend made a motion to provide the Fairmont Rural Fire Department station free water in exchange for their mutual aid. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Mayor Input**

Mayor Kemp announced JobLink is hosting a job fair in the Heritage Center on Wednesday, September 25 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and has invited around 30 employers to participate.

Mayor Kemp also announced that Jan Maynor, Executive Director of the Lumber River Council of Governments, will be facilitating Fairmont's first public meeting on the development of a strategic plan on Tuesday, October 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the Heritage Center.

**Commissioners Input**

Commissioner McCree asked why Waste Management was not at the meeting tonight. Mrs. Vause replied that due to a scheduling conflict, a representative from Waste Management will make a presentation under new business at the October board meeting.

**Manager Input**

Mrs. Vause presented the following monthly financial summary to the board:

August has been similar to July as far as cash flow is concerned. This should improve in September. The Water/Sewer Fund has finally been reimbursed for over \$60,000.00 that had been spent on our Sewer Rehab Project, Phase 1A. We should receive our first property tax check from Robeson County within the next few days.

Waste Water Treatment Plant Operator, Johnny Britt, is retiring effective November 1<sup>st</sup>. His actual last day worked was August 30, 2013. Johnny has enough vacation and comp time accrued to pay him through the last payroll in October. Johnny will work part time, about ten hours per week, starting in December.

Ronnie Seals has asked that I promote Dennis Freeman into the position of WWTP Operator. I completely agree with Ronnie. Dennis needs one more certification to have the necessary credentials. He should obtain that sometime in September. If for some reason he does not pass his final exam, we will advertise for someone with the required qualifications. Ronnie has requested that we leave Dennis's current position open until the first of the year. We hope to replace him with part time help. We will save money by employing two part time employees instead of one full time.

We are progressing smoothly with our transfer of communications to Robeson County. We have purchased an emergency phone that will be located at our side entrance to town hall. This should be installed within the next few days.

### **Department Head Input**

There was no input from Public Safety Director Danny Parker.

### **Announcements**

Friday, September 13 - FHS Football vs. Lake View, AWAY, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 14 - Student Recycling Contest, "Cash 4 Trash", 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the weigh scales on Morro Street.

Wednesday, September 25 - Job Fair hosted the Robeson County JobLink Career Center, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center.

Friday, September 27 - FHS Football vs. St. Pauls, HOME, 7:30 p.m.

Every weekend in October - South Robeson Rescue will have its 2013 Haunted Forest and a new Haunted House. Admission is \$6.00 for one or \$10.00 for both. The Haunted Forest is located at the rescue unit, 1001 S. Walnut Street and the Haunted House is located at 609 South Main Street. For Advance Tickets or more information call 910-535-4090.

Thursday, October 3 - FHS JV Football vs. West Columbus, HOME, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, October 4 - FHS Football vs. West Columbus, AWAY, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 5 - Senior Citizens Cookout, Luther Britt Park, Shelter A, Lumberton from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 10 - Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Council Chambers, Town Hall.

Friday, October 11- FHS Football vs. East Columbus, HOME, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 12 - Fairmont Farmers Festival Pageant, 3:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., E.R. Gause Auditorium, Rosenwald Elementary School.

Thursday, October 17 - FHS JV Football vs. Red Springs, HOME, 6:30 p.m.

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Friday, October 18 - The Fairmont Chamber of Commerce is hosting the sixth annual Farmers Festival Golf Tournament at Fairmont Golf Club with a shotgun start at 1:00 p.m. The entry fee is \$50 per player and includes cart and green fees, mulligan, red tee, range balls, prizes, and lunch. For more information, contact James Honeycutt at Fairmont Golf Club, 910-628-9931 or Chamber President Kelly Johnson, 910-770-1967.

Friday, October 18 - FHS Football vs. Red Springs, AWAY, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 19 - 27th annual Fairmont Farmers Festival, Downtown Fairmont. Parade at 10:00 a.m. The Fantastic Shakers will perform from 8:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. at the Industrial Drive warehouse.

Each Saturday - Focus On Fairmont Radio Show with Mayor Charles Kemp, 12:00 noon, WSTS 100.9 FM.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## **Regular Meeting – October 10, 2013**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Thursday, October 10, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were Charles Townsend, J.J. McCree, Kim Ammons, and Wade Sealey. Commissioner Wayland Lennon, III participated by telephone and Commissioner Carol Leak-McKenzie was absent. Staff present included Town Manager Linda Vause, Town Attorney Robert Price, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals. Others in attendance included Christa Thorndyke, Joel Olsen, Adelina Shee and several citizens.

### **Call to Order and Invocation**

Mayor Charles Kemp called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

### **Mayor's Presentations**

#### **Fairmont Youth T.E.A.M. Council report**

Christa Thorndyke gave the Fairmont Youth T.E.A.M. Council report. The Youth T.E.A.M. Council meets every Tuesday in the library. Miss Thorndyke encouraged everyone to come to the presentation of the documentary "Bully" on October 15 in the Heritage Center. The council's ambassadors Reva Locklear and Brianna Oxendine will ride in the Farmers Festival parade. Other events the council has planned include a food drive in November, singing to the residents of Greenbrier in December, collecting books in February, reading to students at Rosenwald in March and participating in Earth Day in April. They are also planning a fundraiser called "Dancing with a Leader" where students will partner with a teacher or community leader.

#### **Teen Outreach Program**

Ms. Shaunee Hair with the Robeson County Health Department informed the board that the Teen Outreach program meets every Thursday from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. in the Fire Hall. The free program focuses on teen pregnancy prevention.

### **Meeting Recess**

Mayor Kemp called for a fifteen minute recess at 6:20 p.m. The meeting resumed at 6:35 p.m.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Sealey made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance**

There was no public comment this month.

**Consent Agenda**

Upon motion by Commissioner Townsend and seconded by Commissioner Sealey it was unanimously voted to adopt the following consent agenda items:

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, September 12, 2013
- b. Approval of Municipal Records Retention Schedule Agreement.

**Unfinished Business**

**Planning Board – fill vacancy for out of town (ETJ) member**

The Planning Board still has a vacancy for the out of town/ETJ member. Mr. Lacy Floyd passed away in July. The board needs to appoint one out of town/ETJ member to the Planning Board to replace Mr. Floyd. The new appointee will have a three year term expiring May 2016. Commissioner Sealey nominated Terry Hunt. With no other nominations, Commissioner Lennon made a motion to close the nominations and it was seconded by Commissioner Sealey. The board unanimously approved appointing Mr. Terry Hunt as an ETJ member of the Planning Board by acclamation.

**New Business**

**Waste Management presentation**

Town Manager Linda Vause informed the board the representative from Waste Management was unable to attend and will reschedule for November or December.

**Solar Powered Electric Automobile Recharging Station – Joel Olsen, O2 Energies**

Mayor Kemp introduced Mr. Joel Olsen, President of O2 Energies, by making the following statement:

Like it or not, understand it or not, technology is a part of our everyday life and is not going to leave us. We must adapt to these changes to improve our own lives and those of the citizens within our community. We are very familiar with the development of solar energy and have been fortunate to partner with Mr. Joel Olsen's company, O2 Energies, who has constructed a solar farm just outside our town. He has additional plans to install a second farm just north of town on Turkey Branch Road and Highway 41. I have worked with Mr. Olsen closely over the past two years in his various ventures and have seen his keen interest in our community. Tonight I am very proud to announce jointly with Mr. Olsen a brand new initiative which will have long term and positive implications for our community. Mr. Olsen's company has secured a piece of property directly behind McDonalds and next to Food Lion and plans to install a solar powered electric automobile recharging station. Owners of this type vehicle will be in search of a facility of this sort for obvious reasons and with its location in direct proximity to restaurants, a grocery store and other commercial establishments will

bring positive exposure and economic enhancement to our community. We believe that when more of these vehicles come into use in the future, as they surely will, and the location of these vital recharging stations become known through various smart phone apps, Fairmont will experience more visitors and those businesses nearby will certainly feel an economic boost. I am very proud that we have been chosen by Mr. Olsen to set an example and serve as a vanguard for this cutting edge technology.

Mr. Olsen stated the location behind McDonalds is an ideal place to stop and charge electric cars. The solar paneled carport will provide shade while generating power to charge electric cars. When not being used to charge cars, the solar energy generated will be fed into the electrical grid. Mr. Olsen also informed the board about Sun Raised Farms, which raises 100 sheep on Fairmont's solar farm. The sheep eat the grass around the solar panels and are later sold to Whole Foods. The goal is to eventually add 7 more farms and raise 3,000 sheep.

### **Mayor Input**

Mayor Kemp announced the Fairmont Farmers Festival will be held on Saturday, October 19 and thanked Chairman Jane Powell for her efforts to bring the dance back to Fairmont. It will be held at the old Tobaccoland Warehouse on Industrial Drive.

Mayor Kemp announced that the Town of Pembroke will host the R.C.M.A. meeting on Tuesday, October 29 at Sheff's Seafood.

### **Commissioners Input**

There was no commissioner input this month.

### **Manager Input**

Mrs. Vause presented the following monthly financial summary to the board:

Our cash flow improved significantly in September. We received our first tax collection check from the Robeson County Tax Department. Current year taxes are now at 49% of the budgeted amount. However, we did exceed the budget amount for discounts. Tax discounts were under budgeted by \$1,500. More tax payers paid early in order to receive the discount than anticipated. Most revenue items in the General Fund are at the theoretical 25% as of September 30, 2013. All of the departments in the General Fund are at budget with the exception of the tax department. This is because we only budgeted salary and salary related expenses for six months.

Our communications switched to Robeson County Communications on Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. We hit a snag in getting the emergency phone at our side entrance ready, but this should not take much longer. Town Hall now closes at 5:00 PM each day. The staff has received very few comments from the public. I think most of our citizens realize we are trying to cut expenses for the benefit of the town as a whole.

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We received our first allocation of Powell Bill funding and it is the exact amount budgeted. Some work has been done on our three bridges by the NC Department of Transportation, but I am not sure if they have completed the work as of today.

I am extremely pleased with revenues in the Water/Sewer Fund. Every line item is either at budget or slightly above budget. The sewer project is now underway. Hopefully, the Federal Government shut down will not last much longer. We will be unable to process pay requests for the project during this time.

We are going to need to take a long, hard look at equipment failures in public works. Most of our equipment is held together by a shoe string. We have just about stretched that string as far as we can. I praise the employees in public works for the services they provide with the equipment they have to work with.

Town offices are scheduled to be closed December 24, 25 and 26 for the Christmas Holidays. Administration and public works will also be closed on Friday, December 27<sup>th</sup>. The affected staff will use vacation or comp time for those hours.

### **Department Head Input**

Public Works Director Ronnie Seals informed the board the equipment at Public Works is old and in bad shape. The town has a 10 year old backhoe, a 20 year old street sweeper and a 25 year old tractor, all of which needs to be replaced soon. One of the department's tractors broke down and the cost to repair it would be \$4,000, more than the tractor is worth. A new tractor and cutter would cost \$40,000. Mrs. Vause is looking into financing options and payment plans.

### **Announcements**

Friday, October 11- FHS Football vs. East Columbus, HOME, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 12 - Fairmont Farmers Festival Pageant, 3:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., E.R. Gause Auditorium, Rosenwald Elementary School.

Thursday, October 17 - FHS JV Football vs. Red Springs, HOME, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, October 18 - The Fairmont Chamber of Commerce is hosting the sixth annual Farmers Festival Golf Tournament at Fairmont Golf Club with a shotgun start at 1:00 p.m. The entry fee is \$50 per player and includes cart and green fees, mulligan, red tee, range balls, prizes, and lunch. For more information, contact Fairmont Golf Club, 910-628-9931 or Chamber President Kelly Johnson, 910-770-1967.

Friday, October 18 - FHS Football vs. Red Springs, AWAY, 7:30 p.m.

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Saturday, October 19 - 27th annual Fairmont Farmers Festival, Downtown Fairmont. Parade at 10:00 a.m. The Fantastic Shakers will perform from 8:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. at the Industrial Drive warehouse.

Friday, October 25 - FHS Football vs. Whiteville, HOME, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 26 - Student Recycling Contest 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon at Morro Street weighing station. Cash Prizes to Top Three Students turning in recycling.

Thursday, October 31 - Trick or Treat with Dr. Electrode at Fairmont Town Hall Front Porch. 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 2 – Senior Bingo 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

Tuesday, November 5 - Election Day 6:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. All voting will be in the Fire Hall.

Friday, November 8 - FHS Football South Robeson at Home.

Monday, November 11 - Veterans Day Ceremony 11:00 a.m., Heritage Center.

Monday, November 11 – Town offices and schools closed in observance of Veterans Day.

Thursday, November 14 – Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Council Chambers.

Each Saturday - Focus On Fairmont Radio Show with Mayor Charles Kemp, 12:00 noon, WSTS 100.9 FM.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## **Regular Meeting – November 14, 2013**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Thursday, November 14, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were Wayland Lennon, III, Carol Leak-McKenzie, Charles Townsend, J.J. McCree, Kim Ammons, and Wade Sealey. Staff present included Town Manager Linda Vause, Town Attorney Robert Price, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, Police Major David Windom and Deputy Fire Chief James Thompson. Others in attendance included the 2013-2014 Fairmont Farmers Festival Queens, Jane Powell, Chalmus Hood, Claudius Worley, Kashay Worley, Austin Callahan, Sandra Pridgen, Sarah Willets and several citizens.

### **Call to Order and Invocation**

Mayor Charles Kemp called the meeting to order and gave the invocation. Mayor Kemp recognized Claudius Worley, a local boy scout and his sister, Kashay Worley, a local girl scout.

### **Mayor's Presentations**

#### **Fairmont Youth T.E.A.M. Council report**

Austin Callahan gave the Fairmont Youth T.E.A.M. Council report. He showed off the council's new t-shirts and encouraged everyone to participate in their Thanksgiving can food drive. The group also plans to make Christmas cards for the residents of Greenbrier and sing carols to them. Their future plans include "Dancing with a Leader" in April.

#### **Introduction of 2013-2014 Fairmont Farmers Festival Queens.**

Mayor Kemp introduced the 2013-2014 Fairmont Farmers Festival Queens. They are Wee Miss Halona Locklear, Little Miss Chloe Locklear, Tiny Miss Adriana Gay, Junior Miss Rachel Sealy, Teen Miss Hailey Hunt, Miss Lindsey Barfield, Mini Ambassador Marley Johnson, Ambassador Taylor Locklear, Royal Ambassador Tristen Rich and Majestic Ambassador Ivy Page.

#### **Recognition of Farmers Festival Chairman Jane Powell.**

Mayor Kemp gave Fairmont Farmers Festival Chairman Jane Powell a certificate of appreciation for her service during the 2013 festival.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Sealey made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Leak-McKenzie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance**

**Chalmus Hood, 1006 A East White Pond Road – Residency and voting issues**

Mr. Chalmus Hood, of 1006A East White Pond Road, came before the board with residency and voting issues. His property is on the edge of town and he has always had issues when it came to public safety as to whether he was in the town limits or not. During the recent election, he had to vote provisional because they could not determine whether he lived in town or not. Mayor Kemp suggested Mr. Hood talk to Town Manager Linda Vause. The town is aware of some E-911 addressing problems and is working with the county to correct them.

**Consent Agenda**

Upon motion by Commissioner Townsend and seconded by Commissioner Sealey it was unanimously voted to adopt the following consent agenda items:

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, October 10, 2013

**Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business this month.

**New Business**

**N.C.D.O.T. Leesville Road bridge project.**

Town Manager Linda Vause asked the board to approve the Municipal Agreement for the Transportation Improvement Project, replacing the bridge on Leesville Road. Commissioner Lennon made a motion to approve the Municipal Agreement for the Transportation Improvement Project #B-4251, replacing the bridge on Leesville Road. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mrs. Vause asked the board to donate or sell an easement to the NCDOT for the bridge project. Commissioner Townsend made a motion to donate an easement to the NCDOT for the Leesville Road bridge project. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Mayor Input**

Mayor Kemp announced that Proctorville will host the RCMA meeting on Tuesday, November 26.

**Commissioners Input**

Commissioner Sealey thanked Jane Powell and everyone involved with the Fairmont Farmers Festival.

**Manager Input**

Mrs. Vause presented the following monthly financial summary to the board:

October was a busy month with Farmers' Festival preparations. I personally think it was worth the effort. We received several nice comments about the festival, especially with the dance being held in town again. Hopefully, this will work out again for the 2014 festival. That will, of course, depend on the availability of a building.

Our budget versus actual shows our revenues and expenditures pretty much on target. The departments that appear to be exceeding budget, i.e. tax and communications, were expected to be at their current percentages due to staff cuts.

An after-hours payment drop box has been installed for the convenience of our utility customers. As of today, our outside emergency phone is still not connected. I have expressed my displeasure with AT&T about this, and Mr. Jeff Echols assures me he is diligently working on this problem.

Mrs. Vause is working with the county tax department to correct the addressing problems that affected the election. Some streets will have to be readdressed.

Mrs. Vause has had complaints about people using the park when it is dark. The park rules state the park is only open from sunrise to sunset, so the police department will begin locking the park at sunset and reopening it at sunrise to prevent injuries.

**Department Head Input**

Public Works Director Ronnie Seals had no input this month.

Public Safety Deputy Fire Chief James Thompson gave the board an explanation of the newly painted fire hydrant colors. All the hydrants in town were tested for water pressure and their tops painted accordingly. Blue is very good flow with 1500 gallons per minute, green is good for residential areas with 1000-1499 gallons per minute, orange is adequate with 500-999 gallons per minute and red is inadequate with 500 or less gallons per minute.

**Announcements**

Monday, November 18 - FHS Basketball vs. West Bladen, HOME, 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 23 - Lumberton Christmas Parade, 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, November 27 - Teacher workday.

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Wednesday, November 27 - Town employees holiday cookout, 12:00 noon, Fire Hall.

Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29 - Town offices and schools closed in observance of Thanksgiving.

Friday, December 6 - Holiday on Main/Twilight Christmas Parade, Downtown Fairmont, 6:00 p.m. The parade will be followed by the annual tree lighting, singing by the Long Branch School Chorus, reading of the Christmas story, and other heartwarming presentations in the Community Park. Afterwards, there will be more musical talent, singing, a performance by the Rosenwald Elementary School Chorus, a visit from Santa himself and hot chocolate to enjoy inside the Heritage Center.

Friday, December 6 - FHS Basketball vs. Lumberton, HOME, 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 7 – Senior Citizen Christmas Party, 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

Thursday, December 12 - Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Heritage Center. Swearing in of mayor and commissioners.

Friday, December 13 - FHS Basketball vs. St. Pauls, HOME, 4:00 p.m.

Monday, December 23, 2013 to January 3, 2014 - Schools closed.

Each Saturday - Focus On Fairmont Radio Show with Mayor Charles Kemp, 12:00 noon, WSTS 100.9 FM.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## **Regular Meeting – December 12, 2013**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Thursday, December 12, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center with Mayors Charles Kemp and Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were Carol Leak-McKenzie, J.J. McCree, Wade Sealey, Kim Ammons, Amelia McLean, Terry Evans and Monte McCallum. Commissioner Wayland Lennon, III was absent. Staff present included Town Manager Linda Vause, Town Attorney Robert Price, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, and Public Safety Director Danny Parker. Others in attendance included Superior Court Judge Frank Floyd, Rev. Dalma Cribb and around 150 citizens.

### **Call to Order and Invocation**

Mayor Charles Kemp called the meeting to order. Rev. Dalma Cribb of Trinity United Methodist Church gave the invocation.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Sealey made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Consent Agenda**

Upon motion by Commissioner Leak-McKenzie and seconded by Commissioner Sealey it was unanimously voted to adopt the following consent agenda item:

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, November 14, 2013

### **Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business this month.

### **Organizational Meeting**

#### **Comments from outgoing Commissioners Kim Ammons and Mayor Charles Kemp.**

Commissioner Ammons thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve the community. She met a lot of wonderful people and enjoyed the experience.

Mayor Kemp thanked the citizens for their love and support during his 28 years as commissioner and 8 years as mayor. In that time many improvements have been made to make Fairmont a better place. He thanked the town staff for their leadership and loyalty. Mayor Kemp concluded his comments by stating that in the past eight years he never once used town finances to pay for projects that he was involved in and undertook.

Swearing in of Mayor and Commissioners by Superior Court Judge Frank Floyd.

Superior Court Judge Frank Floyd swore in Mayor Charles Townsend and Commissioners Amelia McLean, Terry Evans and Monte McCollum. A copy of their sworn oaths is hereby incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes.

Comments by newly elected officials Mayor Charles Townsend and Commissioners Amelia McLean, Terry Evans, and Monte McCallum.

Mayor Townsend thanked the citizens for putting their trust in him. He plans to continue the programs Mayor Kemp started and enhance activities for the youth. He appreciates the town staff, considers them a valuable asset and looks forward to working with them. Mayor Townsend wants to work for all people and put differences aside to move Fairmont forward.

Commissioner McLean thanked the citizens for the opportunity to serve and make “a better change” for Fairmont. She wants to make a difference, embrace the past and look forward to great things ahead.

Commissioner McCallum thanked the citizens and plans to help our children and seniors who are our future and heritage.

Commissioner Evans thanked the citizens and encouraged everyone to hold on, that jobs would be coming to Fairmont.

Set Meeting Schedule.

The board agreed to keep the current meeting schedule of the second Thursday at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Town Hall.

Select Mayor Pro Tempore.

Commissioner Leak-McKenzie nominated Commissioner J.J. McCree as Mayor Pro-Tempore. Commissioner Evans seconded the nomination and it passed unanimously.

**Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance**

There was no public comment this month.

**New Business**

**Resolution 13-16 – Bank Signatures**

Town Manager Linda Vause asked the board to adopt Resolution 13-16, Bank Signatures for the town checking account. She noted the Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, Finance Director and Town Clerk are the authorized signatures. Commissioner McCree made a motion to adopt Resolution 13-16, Bank Signatures. Commissioner Leak-McKenzie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Mayor Input**

Mayor Townsend thanked everyone for coming tonight and helping to move Fairmont forward. He encouraged the citizens to come to the town board meetings and stay involved.

**Commissioners Input**

Commissioner Sealey welcomed Mayor Townsend and Commissioners Evans, McLean and McCallum and looks forward to working with them and keep Fairmont going forward.

Commissioner Leak-McKenzie welcomed the new board members and hopes the board can work together as a unit to make Fairmont grow.

Commissioner Evans encouraged the citizens to stay involved and work together.

**Manager Input**

Mrs. Vause presented the following monthly financial summary to the board:

Our budget versus actual shows our revenues and expenditures pretty much on target. However, the Fire Department is at 97% of the budgeted amount. We have had several equipment failures in that department, especially with the Volvo fire truck. Public Safety Director Danny Parker is abreast of this situation. A budget amendment may be required if we have any more equipment problems.

The town staff is trying diligently to save money everywhere possible. The Town is blessed with such a loyal staff. I hope with the changes we have made, i.e. communications, taxes and consolidating of positions in administration, we will be able to reward the staff with a pay increase in the next fiscal year. The last increase in salaries was July 1, 2008.

Mrs. Vause said a new phone system is being installed at Town Hall and apologized for missing any phone calls.

**Announcements**

Friday, December 13 - FHS Basketball vs. St. Pauls, HOME, 4:00 p.m.

Monday, December 23, 2013 to January 3, 2014 - Schools closed.

Monday, December 23 to Friday, December 27 - Town offices closed in observance of Christmas.

Wednesday, January 1 - Town offices closed in observance of New Year's Day.

Friday, January 3 - FHS Basketball vs. East Columbus, HOME, 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 9 - Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Council Chambers

Friday, January 10 - FHS Basketball vs. Whiteville, HOME, 4:00 p.m.

Monday, January 20 - Town offices and schools closed in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Tuesday, January 21 and Wednesday, January 22 - Schools closed, Teacher workdays.

Tuesday, January 21 - FHS Basketball vs. South Robeson, HOME, 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 28 - FHS Basketball vs. West Columbus, HOME, 4:00 p.m.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner McCree and seconded by Commissioner Sealey to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. A social with refreshments was provided following the meeting in honor of the new mayor and commissioners.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## **Regular Meeting – January 9, 2014**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Thursday, January 9, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were Carol Leak-McKenzie, J.J. McCree, Amelia McLean, Terry Evans and Monte McCallum. Commissioner Wade Sealey was absent due to illness. Staff present included Town Manager Linda Vause, Town Attorney Robert Price, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals. Others in attendance included John Masters, Maddy Sealey, Sarah Willets, Lucretia Marshall and several citizens.

### **Call to Order and Invocation**

Mayor Charles Townsend called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner McCree made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance**

Lucretia Marshall, Fairwoods Apartments Site Manager

Ms. Marshall thanked the Fairmont Police Department for their help with the apartment complex's security system. Ms. Marshall had a complaint about bulk trash lining the road and asked if it could be picked up more often. She would also like to see the county book mobile visit the apartments for the kids and seniors.

### **Consent Agenda**

Upon motion by Commissioner McCree and seconded by Commissioner McCallum it was unanimously voted to adopt the following consent agenda item:

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, December 12, 2013

### **Unfinished Business**

Youth T.E.A.M. Council report

Miss Maddy Sealey, Secretary of the Fairmont Youth T.E.A.M. Council, presented their monthly report. The group visited Greenbrier in December and made the residents Christmas cards and sang carols. They will be collecting new and used children's books in February to take to the hospitals in Lumberton and Dillon.

**New Business**

**2012-2013 Audit Report**

Mr. John Masters, with S. Preston Douglas and Associates, presented the 2012-2013 audit report. The town's year end cash balance is static. The General Fund balance has decreased over time due to declining state revenues and the economy. The town's undesignated portion of the fund balance is 5.42%, which is below the state LGC recommendation of 8%. The town's tax collection rate is 88.31%. Mr. Masters advised the board to consider looking at ways to reduce the town's OPEB liability, which is \$260,741 for 2012-2013. Commissioner McCree made a motion to approve the 2012-2013 audit as presented. Commissioner Leak-McKenzie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Select alternate for LRCOG board**

Mayor Townsend asked the board to appoint an alternate to the LRCOG board to replace Kim Ammons. Commissioner McCree nominated Commissioner Amelia McLean. Commissioner Evans seconded the nomination and it passed unanimously.

**Resolution 14-01 – Adoption of National Incident Management System.**

Town Manager Linda Vause informed the board that Robeson County wants the town to adopt Resolution 14-01 – Adoption of National Incident Management System. The county is the lead agency and already uses this system. Commissioner Leak-McKenzie made a motion to adopt Resolution 14-01 – Adoption of National Incident Management System. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of this resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

**Set date for Board Retreat**

Mayor Townsend asked the board to set a date for a board retreat. Mrs. Vause said Commissioner Sealey is willing to let the board use his office conference room for the retreat. After a brief discussion, the board agreed to set the retreat for Thursday, January 16 at 6:00 p.m. in the conference room of Gaston Sealey Company, Inc.

**Mayor Input**

Mayor Townsend looks forward to working together with the board, town employees and citizens to get fresh ideas and make things better for Fairmont.

**Commissioners Input**

Commissioner McLean thanked the board for appointing her as alternate to the LRCOG board.

Commissioner Evans invited everyone to participate in the Robeson County Planning Board's public hearing on the draft land use plan on Monday at 5:00 p.m. at the County Administrative Building.

Commissioner McCallum thanked the citizens for coming to the meeting and getting involved because the board needs their input.

**Manager Input**

Mrs. Vause presented the following monthly financial summary to the board:

The attached December financial reports are somewhat misleading. Please note that there is no current year tax revenue reported in the General Fund. This is due to the long holiday break taken by the town and Robeson County. Also, we do not have reconnect revenue in the Water Fund. The Town has a long standing policy of not cutting utility services off during Christmas. Both of these revenue items should be back up to par for the January report.

I am having a problem with the bridge repair work we had completed by the NC Department of Transportation. Their estimate was \$7,419.00 for the required repairs for the Floyd Street, Mitchell Street and Morro Street bridges over the Pittman Mill Branch. The invoices for this work now total \$18,715.41. I am working with Mr. Tim Everette with the NCDOT, Robeson County Bridge Maintenance Unit on this problem. I have made Mr. Everette well aware of my disappointment and dissatisfaction with this issue. He is also aware that a payment in excess of 150% of estimate will require a budget amendment approved by the town council.

Our sewer rehab project is on schedule. We have received complaints from the residents in that area of the condition of the streets involved. There is not much that can be done to remedy the situation. Horne Construction did apply stone to the streets to make traveling these streets (Brown and Murphy) easier. The streets will be paved at the end of the project sometime this spring

**Announcements**

Monday, January 13 - Line Dancing, 6:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

Tuesday, January 14 - NCDMV Mobile Driver's License Unit, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Town Hall parking lot next to Fire Hall.

Monday, January 20 - Town offices and schools closed in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Monday, January 20 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration, Heritage Center, 1:00 p.m. Free admission and refreshments will be served.

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Tuesday, January 21 and Wednesday, January 22 - Teacher workdays.

Tuesday, January 21 - FHS Basketball vs. South Robeson, HOME, 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 25 - Baltimore Baptist Church Wild Game supper, 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 28 - FHS Basketball vs. West Columbus, HOME, 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 4 - FHS Basketball vs. Red Springs, HOME, 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 11 - FHS Basketball vs. South Columbus, HOME, 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 11 - NCDMV Mobile Driver's License Unit, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.,  
Town Hall parking lot next to Fire Hall.

Monday, February 17 - Teacher workday.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner McCree and seconded by Commissioner Leak-McKenzie to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## **Board Retreat - January 13, 2014**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a board retreat on Thursday, January 13, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the conference room of Gaston Sealey Company, Inc. with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were Wade Sealey, Carol Leak-McKenzie, J.J. McCree, Amelia McLean, Terry Evans and Monte McCallum. Staff present included Town Manager Linda Vause, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals and Public Safety Director Danny Parker.

### **Call to Order and Invocation**

Mayor Charles Townsend called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

### **Report by Public Safety Director Danny Parker**

Public Safety Director Danny Parker said his department is well equipped but would like to purchase in car cameras in the future. The department has 3 cameras now and they cost \$5,000 each. Chief Parker is concerned because 3 experienced officers left in the past month to take higher paying jobs with the Sheriff's Department. Fairmont has the lowest starting salary for a police officer in the county at \$25,995. This low salary attracts rookies straight out of school but training and equipping a new officer costs around \$10,000. Chief Parker is also looking into rebuilding Community Watch.

### **Report by Public Works Director Ronnie Seals**

Public Works Director Ronnie Seals needs to replace equipment and vehicles that are 10-15 years old. A new street sweeper would cost \$150,000, a new backhoe is \$130,000 and a new tractor with cutter is \$39,000. Mr. Seals has dedicated employees that make a lot of overtime due to numerous water and sewer leaks in the town's crumbling, antiquated lines. Phase I of a sewer line replacement project will be finished in April. An engineering company, McGill & Associates, is working on a no match infrastructure grant to fund Phase II.

### **Report by Town Manager Linda Vause**

Town Manager Linda Vause reported that the town has declining revenue due to no industry and a low property tax base. The town employees have not had a cost of living raise in 7 years. Mrs. Vause feels the 2014-2015 budget should reflect the positive changes made in 2013 by giving property tax collection and communications to the county. The town will have most of its debt paid off in the 2015-2016 budget year including the police cars, fire truck, flusher truck and drainage project. Mrs. Vause asked the board to think about the town's OPEB unfunded liability for retiree insurance. She suggested revising the town's retiree health insurance resolution to include only current employees.

### **Board member concerns and suggestions**

Commissioner Sealey recommended focusing on economic development and enticing businesses to come to town, possibly building a strip mall to increase the tax base. Commissioner Evans proposed researching the feasibility of merging the police department with the county sheriff's department and combining the city and rural fire departments. Commissioner McCallum suggested a one or two cent sales tax as a revenue source. Mayor Townsend proposed working with the LRCOG to devise a strategic plan for the town.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## **Regular Meeting – February 18, 2014**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, February 18, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were Wade Sealey, Carol Leak-McKenzie, J.J. McCree, Amelia McLean, Terry Evans and Monte McCallum. Staff present included Town Manager Linda Vause, Town Attorney Robert Price, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Public Safety Director Danny Parker, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals and Deputy Fire Chief James Thompson. Others in attendance included Logan Cameron, Sarah Willets, Pat Kalembe, Barbie Hunt and several citizens.

### **Call to Order and Invocation**

Mayor Charles Townsend called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Evans asked to amend the agenda to include discussing the police and fire departments. Commissioner Sealey made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Mayor Presentation**

Recognize Logan Cameron, NC Junior Beta Club Vice President.

Mayor Townsend recognized Logan Cameron, a seventh grader at Fairmont Middle School, on her recent election as the NC Junior Beta Club Vice President.

### **Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance**

Barbie Hunt, NC Foreclosure Prevention Fund

Ms. Barbie Hunt, with the Robeson County Community Development Corporation, Inc., informed the board about the NC Foreclosure Prevention Fund. The fund helps North Carolina homeowners who are struggling to pay their mortgage due to job loss or other temporary financial hardship, by offering zero-interest, deferred loans up to \$36,000 to cover mortgage and related expenses for up to 36 months. The fund also helps homeowners who are struggling to pay their second mortgage because of previous unemployment, a cut in salary, or a temporary financial hardship by refinancing the second mortgage with a zero-interest, deferred loan up to \$30,000. Ms. Hunt asked the board to help get the word out about the fund. It has helped 74 people in Robeson County and there is only one year of funding left.

**Consent Agenda**

Upon motion by Commissioner Leak-McKenzie and seconded by Commissioner Evans, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following consent agenda item:

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, January 9, 2014 and Council Retreat, January 16, 2014.

**Unfinished Business**

Youth T.E.A.M. Council report

There was no Fairmont Youth T.E.A.M. Council report this month.

**New Business**

Public Safety annual report.

Public Safety Director Danny Parker presented the annual report for his department. In 2013, there were 4,253 calls for service with 671 crimes reported. There were 2 murders with a 100% solvability rate. There were 8 robberies reported with six arrests for a 60% solvability rate. There were 76 cases of breaking and entering and larceny with 17 arrests and a solvability rate of 22%. Many of these crimes were committed by repeat offenders. In 2012, Fairmont had 27 solved breaking and entering cases, the highest rate in the entire county. There were 973 traffic citations, an increase over the average of 500-600 citations due to the Highway Safety Grant county taskforce. There were 44 drug arrests, almost double the arrests made in 2012. There were only 70 traffic accidents in 2013, which normal averages around 100 per year. Overall in 2013, Fairmont had 671 reported crimes and 441 were solved for a solvability rate of 66%.

Question and answer session with Waste Management representative.

Mr. Pat Kalemba, a representative with Waste Management, was present to answer board questions about their services. Waste Management has been the town's solid waste provider for almost 19 years. WM picks up trash on Tuesdays and yard waste on Mondays and Tuesdays. They provide a recycling bin and 5 front load dumpsters to the town at no cost, as well as extra carts during the Farmers Festival. WM has supported the town's recycling program by donating monetary awards for the recycling contest winners. WM also works closely with the town to make sure trash is collected properly. Commissioner Evans stated that due to the budget shortfall, the town should shop around to find the best and cheapest waste provider for the citizens. Commissioner McCree had concerns about WM giving the town a CPI rate increase two months after the town has adopted its budget, which causes the town to lose money and hurt citizens by increasing rates to cover expenses. Mr. Kalemba said the company could give the town CPI increases in February so those numbers could be used in the budgeting process.

Commissioner Sealey suggested bidding out the waste provider contract no later than April 20. Town Manager Linda Vause asked the board whether they would like to see curbside recycling or keep the current recycling bin. The board agreed they would like to see the current solid waste services with no additions in the request for proposals.

Resolution 14-02 – Adopting Robeson County Solid Waste Flow Control Ordinance.

Town Manager Linda Vause informed the board that Robeson County wants the town to adopt Resolution 14-02 – Adopting Robeson County Solid Waste Flow Control Ordinance. The purpose of this resolution is to prevent waste from being transported by private waste haulers out of the county, which results in a loss of revenue. Town Attorney Rob Price suggested an amendment to remove the words “and adopt the Robeson County solid waste flow control ordinance” and replace it with “Robeson County ordinance 20130506.” Commissioner Sealey made a motion to adopt Resolution 14-02 – Adopting Robeson County Solid Waste Flow Control Ordinance as amended. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of this resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Budget Amendment – Bridge repairs.

Mrs. Vause reported to the board a cost overrun for bridge repairs in December. These repairs were completed by the NC Department of Transportation for the bridges that cross Pittman Mill Branch on Floyd, Mitchell and Morro Streets. The actual expense exceeded the estimate by \$11,296.41. Therefore, Mrs. Vause requested the following budget amendment:

Powell Bill Fund Equity (Fund Balance)	(\$11,300.00)
Powell Bill Maintenance	\$11,300.00

Commissioner Sealey made a motion to move \$11,300 from Powell Bill Fund Equity to Powell Bill Maintenance to cover the cost overrun for bridge repairs. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Sales Tax proposal.

Commissioner McCallum suggested pursuing the option of a one or two cent local sales tax just for Fairmont to help alleviate revenue problems. According to the School of Government, no municipality has its own specific sales tax. Attorney Price said the town needed to specify one or two cents as well as enacting a tax versus holding a referendum. The town would then have to persuade the local state delegation to introduce special legislation. Commissioner McCallum stated that Representative Garland Pierce is willing to introduce the bill for the town. Robeson County is also currently seeking a one cent sales tax to be voted on by referendum. After discussion, Commissioner McCallum made a motion to ask the state for a referendum on a one cent sales tax for Fairmont. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Attorney Price will contact Representative Pierce and prepare the paperwork.

Resolution 14-03 – Grissett offer for 505 Gertrude Street.

Mayor Townsend stated the town has received an offer of \$1,200 from Mr. Jonathan Grissett for the property located at 505 Gertrude Street, Parcel 300805005. Commissioner McCallum made a motion to accept Mr. Grissett's bid for 505 Gertrude Street and to adopt Resolution 14-03 authorizing the advertisement of an offer to purchase certain property in the Robeson Journal. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of this resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Resolution 14-04 – Pittman offer for 205 Liberia Street.

Mayor Townsend stated the town has received an offer of \$1,000 from Mr. Anthony Pittman for the property located at 205 Liberia Street, Parcel 300802033. Commissioner McCallum made a motion to accept Mr. Pittman's bid for 205 Liberia Street and to adopt Resolution 14-04 authorizing the advertisement of an offer to purchase certain property in the Robeson Journal. Commissioner Leak-McKenzie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of this resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Police/Fire Study request

Commissioner Evans requested the town manager and staff conduct a feasibility study on having the Robeson County Sheriff's Department take over the police department and Fairmont Rural Fire taking over the fire department. Commissioner Evans wants the state to see that the town is pursuing all options to improve its financial situation.

**Mayor Input**

Mayor Townsend thanked Commissioner McCallum for his efforts in helping the town dispose of surplus property. He also thanked the Public Works and Public Safety departments for their work during the ice storm. Mayor Townsend would like to hold a planning workshop soon and will call the board for available dates.

**Commissioners Input**

Commissioner McCallum would like to see a shelter opened for the elderly without power. Mrs. Vause replied the county's department of social services is mandated by the state to handle all shelters.

Commissioners Sealey and Leak-McKenzie suggested compiling a list of residents with special needs to use in future emergencies. Deputy Fire Chief James Thompson went around and checked on several residents following the storm to see if they needed assistance.

Commissioner Evans suggested the board look at the town's policy of double rates for sewer customers outside of the city limits. He feels the double rate policy could hurt the town's chances of attracting new customers.

### **Manager Input**

Mrs. Vause presented the following monthly financial summary to the board:

The majority of the departments in all funds are well within budget. The Fire Department and the Public Buildings Department expenses have been very high. Maintenance and repair of equipment and vehicles has caused the concern in the Fire Department. Overtime expense is the main concern in the Public Buildings Department.

Phase 1 of our Sewer Rehab Project is on schedule. The Bond Anticipation Notes will go through close out in March. This is when the USDA purchases the notes and they then become bonds.

McGill and Associates Engineering is preparing an application for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to continue with rehabilitation of our sewer lines. This year's CDBG funds are for infrastructure only. Fortunately, if we should receive the grant, there will not be a required match. We are ahead in the application process because we already have the plans ready for Phase 2 of our project.

### **Announcements**

Saturday, March 1 - Senior Bingo, 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

Sunday, March 9 – Daylight Savings Time Begins, move clocks ahead one hour.

Tuesday, March 11 - NCDMV Mobile Driver's License Unit, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Town Hall parking lot next to Fire Hall.

Thursday, March 13 - Regular Town board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Town Hall Council Chambers.

March 3 to March 15 - "S.N.I.P." Special Discount Spay & Neuter clinic for dogs & cats by appointment only at all local veterinary hospitals in Robeson County. Fairmont location: South Robeson Veterinary Hospital, 5412 NC Highway 41 South, 628-7178.

Friday, March 28 - Required Teacher Workday.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## **Board Workshop - February 27, 2014**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a board planning workshop on Thursday, February 27, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Town Hall with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were Wade Sealey, Carol Leak-McKenzie, J.J. McCree, Amelia McLean, Terry Evans and Monte McCallum. Staff present included Town Manager Linda Vause and Town Clerk Jenny Larson.

Mayor Charles Townsend called the meeting to order and stated the purpose of the planning workshop was to discuss how to handle divisive issues at a board meeting. He advised the board that perception is everything and what is said and how things are handled with the media is important. Once something divisive is printed in the newspaper, citizens start to question the board and whether they can trust them.

Commissioner McLean asked how to respond to misunderstanding in the press in order to regain the respect and trust of the citizens. She suggested writing a retraction, explaining the situation to assure people and bring confidence back.

Commissioner Sealey said the best way to handle turbulent situations is to be patient and not say anything that could be misconstrued in the press. He emphasized that negative press will hurt Fairmont and Robeson County's chances to attract new industry.

Commissioner Evans feels the police and fire study request was perceived wrong and blown out of proportion.

Mayor Townsend said many citizens plan to come to the March meeting. The public comment period is only 30 minutes and each speaker gets 5 minutes. He advised the board to listen but not respond to comments made during citizen's appearance per the town's policy. The best response is "we will get back with you." He advised the board to stay professional and be politically correct when speaking.

Commissioner McCallum suggested holding a public forum to let citizens know what is going on. Commissioner McLean suggested waiting until the research study is complete.

Commissioner Leak-McKenzie feels like she is being attacked by the citizens. She asked the board members to think before speaking, because bad press is detrimental to Fairmont.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## **Regular Meeting – March 13, 2014**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Thursday, March 13, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were Wade Sealey, Carol Leak-McKenzie, J.J. McCree, Amelia McLean, Terry Evans and Monte McCallum. Staff present included Town Manager Linda Vause, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Public Safety Director Danny Parker, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals and Deputy Fire Chief James Thompson. Others in attendance included Sarah Willets, Coach Jullian Pipkin, FMS Boys Basketball Team, Ryan Farr, FMS Band and around 75 citizens.

### **Call to Order and Invocation**

Mayor Charles Townsend called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Mayor Townsend asked the board to remove the resolutions on property offers (items c to g) under new business and closed session from the agenda since Town Attorney Rob Price could not attend tonight's meeting. Commissioner McCree made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Mayor Presentations**

#### **Recognize Fairmont Middle School Boys Basketball Team**

Mayor Townsend recognized Coach Jullian Pipkin and the Fairmont Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball Team for winning the Robeson County Championship.

#### **Recognize Fairmont Middle School Band**

Mayor Townsend recognized Band Director Ryan Farr and the Fairmont Middle School Band for winning the First Annual Battle of the Middle School Pep Bands.

#### **Youth T.E.A.M. Council report**

Mrs. Sandra Pridgen, Fairmont Youth T.E.A.M. Council advisor, gave their monthly report. The youth council partnered with the FHS Beta Club to read to students at Rosenwald and Long Branch Elementary Schools. They are also collecting children's books in memory of a former student to donate to the hospitals in Lumberton and Dillon. They will also be participating with the school's S.A.V.E. club in a no texting or drinking while driving simulator exercise.

**Public Hearing – CDBG grant for sewer infrastructure**

Commissioner McCree made a motion to go into Public Hearing at 6:13 p.m. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Town Manager Linda Vause stated the purpose of the public hearing is to gather input on a possible CDBG for sewer infrastructure that will be used to continue the town's sewer line rehabilitation project. This is the first of two required public hearings on the grant. The project will repair or replace lines in several sections of town. The grant requires no match from the town. There was no public input, so Commissioner Sealey made a motion to come out Public Hearing at 6:15 p.m. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance**

Geraldine Pittman

Ms. Geraldine Pittman has lived in Fairmont for 60 years and she has never heard of a board that would suggest taking away the services that are paid for by taxpayers. She stated the older women in the community depend on the police department to come when they are needed.

Lucretia Marshall

Ms. Marshall wanted to know why there was no response by the board to the misleading statements in the newspaper. She stated the citizens are paying for past mistakes of prior boards. She asked Mayor Townsend when he is available at Town Hall.

Jean Andrews

Mrs. Jean Andrews was concerned and disturbed when she read in last month's newspaper that the town was going to study the possibility of getting rid of the police and fire departments. She said that many of the citizens at the meeting tonight wanted an explanation for why the board would consider such a change.

Tim Prevatte

Mr. Tim Prevatte grew up in Fairmont and has the utmost respect for the town's police and fire departments. A few days before Christmas, he saw two people in his backyard looking into his car. He had his wife call 911 and he used a police tip line to contact town police. Officer McKinnon responded within minutes while his wife was still on the phone with 911.

Susie Swenson

Mrs. Susie Swenson read a letter written by Mrs. Anne Marks that was recently printed in *The Robesonian*. Mrs. Marks wrote that doing away with the police and fire departments would lead to more problems than the town already has. Mrs. Marks also stated that high taxes and low protection would discourage people from coming to Fairmont.

Tom Hosach

Mr. Tom Hosach spoke on behalf of the business center located next to Bo's Supermarket. Mr. Hosach asked the board to consider allowing sweepstakes machines back in town. The machines have new software that met the requirements of state law.

**Mayor Input**

Mayor Townsend thanked the citizens for coming out to comment and express support for the police and fire departments. He explained that Commissioner Evans requested the town manager and staff to conduct a feasibility study on the possibility of merging the town's police department with the county sheriff's department and the fire department with Fairmont Rural Fire to prove to the state that the town is trying to improve its financial situation. Mayor Townsend said it is procedure for town staff to respond to a board member's request for information. Mayor Townsend reassured the citizens that it is vital to have a strong police and fire department and the chance of the town disbanding these departments is slim to none.

**Consent Agenda**

Upon motion by Commissioner McCree and seconded by Commissioner McCallum, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following consent agenda item:

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, February 18, 2014 and Council Workshop, February 27, 2014.

**Unfinished Business**

Resolution 14-05 – Authorizing The Issuance and Sale of Water and Sewer System Revenue Bonds, Series 2014 of the Town Of Fairmont, North Carolina in the Aggregate Principal Amount of \$385,000.

Town Manager Linda Vause informed the board that this resolution is part of the process for closing out the USDA grant/loan for Phase I of the sewer line rehabilitation project. Phase I repaired lines on Murphy, Dogwood and Brown Streets as well as repairing manholes throughout town. Commissioner McLean made a motion to adopt Resolution 14-05 – Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of Water and Sewer System Revenue Bonds, Series 2014 of the Town of Fairmont, North Carolina in the Aggregate Principal Amount of \$385,000. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of this resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Resolution 14-06 – Accepting Bid and Authorizing Sale of Real Property – Tax Parcel 300805005, 505 Gertrude Street.

Mayor Townsend announced that no upset bids were received for the 505 Gertrude Street property. Mr. Jonathan Grissett offered \$1,200 for the property. Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Resolution 14-06 – Accepting Bid and Authorizing Sale of Real Property – Tax Parcel 300805005, 505 Gertrude Street. Commissioner McCallum seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of this resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

**New Business**

Set regular meeting date.

Mayor Townsend asked the board to set the regular meeting schedule for the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers, beginning in April. Commissioner Sealey made a motion to set the regular meeting schedule for the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers. Commissioner Leak-McKenzie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Set date for second public hearing on a CDBG infrastructure grant for Thursday, March 27 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers.

Mayor Townsend asked the board to set Thursday, March 27 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers as the date for the second required public hearing on a CDBG infrastructure grant for sewer rehabilitation. Commissioner Evans made a motion to set Thursday, March 27 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers as the date for the second required public hearing on a CDBG infrastructure grant for sewer rehabilitation. Commissioner McCallum seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

LGC letter and response

Mrs. Vause explained the Local Government Commission is now requiring all municipalities to sign the response to their annual letter concerning the town's financial health. An excerpt from the town's response is included below:

The Town of Fairmont has a new Mayor and three new commissioners. The new board has been made aware of the town's serious financial problems. Our new board has many new ideas to raise revenues and decrease expenditures. A couple of ideas currently being discussed include a local sales tax referendum and possibly contracting with Fairmont Rural Fire Department for fire services.

Our current property tax rate is \$.73; which is already a hardship on many town tax payers. We have been unable to come up with a revenue stream to replace our gaming revenue. Therefore, we have been concentrating on cutting expenses everywhere we can. Currently, we do not have any plans to include a fund balance appropriation in the current year's budget. We would like to see a much higher percentage of available fund balance.

The town contracted with Robeson County for emergency communication services in the current fiscal year. There were some upfront costs. We expect to see some expense reduction in our current fiscal year and a much larger savings in fiscal year 2015.

The Robeson County Tax Department is now handling our property tax billing and collections. This move has been suggested by your department in previous years. So far, current year collections are up from previous years. Our tax collector position has been eliminated with prior years' tax collection being handled by the finance and clerk departments. We are still aggressively working with the Debt Set Off program through which we have collected about \$2,000.00 in prior years' taxes.

Other areas of savings include our town clerk and public works director handling code enforcement issues. The town clerk also takes care of the town's zoning. I am now town manager and finance officer. Personnel have been reduced significantly. The town is down to eighteen full time and six part time employees in the General Fund. Thirteen of the full time and four of the part time employees are in the police department.

Water and sewer maintenance and repairs continue to cause problems in the Water and Sewer Fund. We have located records that show where some of the sewer lines have been in use since 1914! We are working on a \$1,000,000.00 project replacing and rehabbing lines. We are also applying for a CDBG grant (with no match) to continue this process. Our minimum water rate was increased by \$1.94 to a rate of \$21.28. The sewer rate was increased by \$2.32 for a monthly rate of \$25.43. Personnel have also been cut in this fund. We have collected about \$1,000.00 in bad debt in the Water and Sewer Fund through the Debt Set Off program.

Fairmont has a very high poverty rate, with many low income and senior residents. We hope to avoid property tax or utility increases in the near future for this reason. The board of commissioners has authorized me to sell any and all town properties and equipment that are not needed.

The letter was approved by consensus and a signed copy is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

### **Commissioners Input**

Commissioner Leak-McKenzie said several citizens came to her with concerns about disbanding the police and fire departments. She wanted to make clear to the citizens that it was just a study and that no action can be taken without the board voting.

Commissioner McCallum asked Mrs. Vause to write a letter to Mr. Chuck Miller with the NCDOT asking for a lettering change to our I-95 Exit 10 signs. The signs currently say "Historic Fairmont" in small letters. Commissioner McCollum suggested changing the wording to "FAIRMONT – Myrtle Beach via 41 to 904" with bigger lettering.

Commissioner McCallum also asked the board's consent to go forward with a May Day Fun Festival to be held on Saturday, May 31 with a parade, vendors and bands. The Fairmont Chamber of Commerce supports the plans for the festival. Commissioner McCallum would like to get the citizens involved and help promote growth and prosperity in Fairmont.

Commissioner McCallum understands the concerns of the citizens about the police and fire departments. He explained that his idea of a one cent sales tax was to help alleviate the town's financial problems as well as the property tax burden on the citizens.

Commissioner Evans asked for the police and fire feasibility study because of the town's financial situation and emphasized that it is only a study. He pointed out that rural volunteer fire departments serve St. Pauls and Maxton.

Commissioner McLean said that due to miscommunication the study caused fear among the citizens. Commissioner McLean took office to help the community and make it a better place. She stated getting rid of the police department would be the most ignorant thing the board could do and she would never vote for it.

Commissioner Sealey felt the situation got blown out of proportion and the board never said it was going to get rid of the police and fire departments. The town has worked hard to change its image, bring industry to town to increase the tax base and get a better fire rating for insurance.

Commissioner McCree encouraged citizens to look at the town's financial report to see how tight the budget situation is. The town has made efforts to cut costs by combining positions and outsourcing tax collection and communication to the county. He emphasized that Fairmont is the poorest town in the poorest county in the state and the citizens cannot afford any more tax or water increases.

### **Manager Input**

Mrs. Vause presented the following monthly financial summary to the board:

The harsh winter weather has caused extra expense in public safety and public works. The expenses range from overtime pay to the extra cost of keeping the generators running.

Public works remains very busy. They have hauled many loads of limbs to our landfill. We have had several calls and complaints about limbs remaining on the side of the street too long. Please remind everyone that we have a very small public works staff. Public works is already stretched pretty thin. We also have had requests for additional services not normally provided. I have instructed Ronnie Seals to come to me with any requests that are not in the employee's normal scope of duties. We must remain mindful of worker safety and liability exposure for the town.

Repair and maintenance to vehicles and equipment in the fire department has caused a budget overrun. I have moved \$3,000.00 from communications to the fire department. The department budget adjustments were done in accordance with the 2013-2014 Budget Ordinance. I am sure I will need to make further adjustments in the coming months. Several departments in the general fund are close to budgeted amounts.

We had a major sewer line collapse on Leesville Road Saturday. Public works tried several times to flush the line, but to no avail. We will have to replace this line very soon and it will be expensive. We cannot wait to see if we will receive the infrastructure grant. Incidents like this one is why we must build up our fund balance in all funds.

**Announcements**

Tuesday, March 18 - FHS Varsity Baseball and Softball vs. East Columbus, HOME, 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 25 - FHS Varsity Baseball and Softball vs. Whiteville, HOME, 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 1 - FHS Varsity Baseball and Softball vs. South Robeson, HOME, 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 5 - Senior Bingo, 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

Tuesday, April 8 - FHS Varsity Baseball and Softball vs. West Columbus, HOME, 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 12 - Easter Egg Hunt, 10:00 a.m., Fairmont Community Park, Age 0-12.

Sunday, April 13 - Fairmont Women's Club Dinner, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Fire Hall.

Tuesday, April 15 - NCDMV Mobile Driver's License Unit, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Town Hall parking lot.

Tuesday, April 15 - Regular Town board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Council Chambers, Second Floor of Town Hall.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## **Special Meeting – March 27, 2014**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Thursday, March 27, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were Wade Sealey, Carol Leak-McKenzie, J.J. McCree, Amelia McLean, Terry Evans and Monte McCallum. Staff present included Town Manager Linda Vause, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals. Others in attendance were Mr. Bill Cowen and several citizens.

### **Call to Order and Invocation**

Mayor Charles Townsend called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

### **Public Hearing – CDBG grant for sewer infrastructure**

Commissioner Sealey made a motion to go into Public Hearing at 6:01 p.m. Commissioner McCallum seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Bill Cowen, of McGill and Associates, stated the purpose of the public hearing is to gather input on a possible Community Development Block Grant for sewer infrastructure that will be used to continue the town's sewer line rehabilitation project. This is the second of two required public hearings on the grant. The North Carolina General Assembly has earmarked \$25 million in funds for water and sewer infrastructure. The project will repair or replace lines in several sections of town including North Fairmont, Collinswood and Leesville Road. The \$2,635,000 grant requires no match from the town and is for communities with low to moderate income residents. Mr. Huel Faulk was not familiar with the phases of the sewer line rehabilitation project. Town Manager Linda Vause replied that Phase I replaced and repaired lines on Dogwood and Murphy Streets as well as repairing manholes on Main Street. This grant will fund Phase II of the project. Public Works Director Ronnie Seals stated the grant was for sewer only and could not be used to correct drainage problems. Commissioner Leak-McKenzie made a motion to come out Public Hearing at 6:15 p.m. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **New Business**

#### **Adoption of Resolution 14-12 – Adopt CDBG Plans**

Mayor Townsend asked the board to approve Resolution 14-12, which will adopt and place into effect the required CDBG plans if awarded funding in 2014. Commissioner McCree made a motion to approve Resolution 14-12, adopt CDBG plans. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of this resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Approval of CDBG infrastructure grant application

Mayor Townsend asked the board for authorization to sign the CDBG grant application. Commissioner Sealey made a motion to authorize Mayor Townsend to sign the CDBG infrastructure grant application for sewer rehabilitation. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Discussion of sale of property

Town Manager Linda Vause presented the board with a history of prior offers on the town's surplus property. She suggested the board set a percentage of the appraised value as a minimum bid. Town Attorney Rob Price suggested a percentage between the appraised value and the tax value. He also suggested contacting the county to see what is owed in back taxes to make sure the town receives enough money to cover what is owed. Commissioner McCallum has worked on getting bids for the surplus properties because the town has been sitting on them for two years. In that time, the properties have been depreciating in value and the town is receiving no tax or utility revenue from them. Attorney Price suggested that the board could use an online bidding process with an auction company or take sealed bids rather than the current upset bid procedure. Commissioner McCree made a motion to table the discussion of sale of property until the county is consulted about back taxes and a new policy is written on how to dispose of property. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**New Business**

Internet Sweepstakes discussion

Town Attorney Rob Price said the Robeson County District Attorney will prosecute any business and law enforcement agency that allows internet sweepstakes. The School of Government feels that it is okay for towns to issue business licenses but to be aware they could be prosecuted. Attorney Price's advice is for the town not to issue business licenses for internet sweepstakes. However, the board can vote to go against his advice but warned they should be prepared to stand behind the Police Chief if the D.A. prosecutes. Attorney Price suggested the board talk to Chief Danny Parker and get his take on the situation since some machines now meet the state legal requirements. Commissioner Sealey made a motion to table discussion on internet sweepstakes until the May board meeting and to talk to Chief Parker about the situation. Commissioner Leak-McKenzie seconded the motion and it passed with a vote of 5 to 1 as follows:

For: Commissioners Sealey, Leak-McKenzie, McCree, McCallum and Evans  
Against: Commissioner McLean

Attorney Price added that the District Attorney will back off his threat of prosecution if a judge in Robeson County will issue an injunction.

**Executive/Closed Session – Personnel and Attorney-Client Privilege GS 143-318.11(a)(3,6)**

Commissioner Evans made a motion to go into closed session at 7:02 p.m. to prevent the disclosure of information that is deemed privileged or confidential as determined under General Statute 143-318.10(e) and to discuss personnel and attorney client privilege as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3,6). Commissioner Leak-McKenzie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Sealey made a motion to come out of closed session at 7:25 p.m. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mayor Townsend announced that personnel and attorney client privilege had been discussed as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3,6) and that no action was taken.

**Police Department and ambulance calls**

Commissioner McLean had concerns about a recent incident in her neighborhood where a person died waiting for the ambulance to arrive. She wanted to know why the police and fire departments did not respond to the emergency. Town Manager Linda Vause explained the police and fire departments have not gotten called out to ambulance calls in the past because they are not EMTs. Mrs. Vause has talked to the county and going forward the police department will be notified when a call for an ambulance is made. If the officers are not on another call, they will respond and wait until the ambulance arrives in order to give comfort and reassurance to the family in need.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## **Regular Meeting – April 15, 2014**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, April 15, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were Wade Sealey, Carol Leak-McKenzie, J.J. McCree, Amelia McLean, Terry Evans and Monte McCallum. Staff present included Town Manager Linda Vause, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Town Attorney Rob Price, Public Safety Director Danny Parker, and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals. Others in attendance included Sarah Willets, Ashley Berdeau, Lucretia Marshall, Peggy Spencer, FMS 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball Team, Inaya Davis, Graceanne Schuster and several citizens.

### **Call to Order and Invocation**

Mayor Charles Townsend called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Town Manager Linda Vause asked the board to add “Audit contract approval” under new business and “Approval of May Day Fun Festival” under old business. Commissioner Sealey made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Mayor Presentations**

#### **Recognize Fairmont Middle School 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball Team**

Mayor Townsend recognized the Fairmont Middle School 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Basketball Team for winning the Robeson County Recreational Championship.

#### **Recognize Fairmont High School Students**

Mayor Townsend recognized NaShyala Ratley for winning first place in the 2013 North Carolina Radon Poster Contest, Inaya Davis for winning first place in the Red Dress Luncheon Dress Design contest, Graceanne Schuster for winning second place in the Red Dress Luncheon Dress Design Contest and Jordan Monroe for All Around Academic.

### **Public Hearing – CDBG grant for sewer infrastructure**

Commissioner Evans made a motion to go into Public Hearing at 6:05 p.m. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Town Manager Linda Vause stated the purpose of the public hearing is to gather input on a possible CDBG for sewer infrastructure that will be used to continue the town’s sewer line rehabilitation project. This is the third public hearing on the grant. The project will repair or replace lines in several sections of town. The grant requires no match from the town. There was no public input, so Commissioner Evans made a motion to come out Public Hearing at 6:06 p.m. Commissioner Leak-McKenzie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance**

**Lucretia Marshall – Easter Egg Hunt at Fairwoods Apartments**

Ms. Lucretia Marshall invited the board and citizens to an Easter Egg Hunt and cookout at Fairwoods Apartments on Monday, April 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**Peggy Spencer, Gertrude Street – Police officer saved her from dog attack**

Mrs. Peggy Spencer came before the board to thank the Fairmont Police Department and Officer Stephen Penfield for saving her life when her neighbor's dog almost attacked her while she was working in her flower bed.

**Consent Agenda**

Upon motion by Commissioner Sealey and seconded by Commissioner McCree, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following consent agenda item:

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, March 13, 2014 and Special Meeting, March 27, 2014.

**Unfinished Business**

**Approval of May Day Fun Festival**

Commissioner McCallum would like approval for a May Day Fun Festival to bring the town together for a fun event and attract visitors. He has already started organizing the festival and has gathered some donations. Commissioner Leak-McKenzie thinks the festival is a good idea but had concerns that the board did not give prior approval. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the May Day Fun Festival scheduled for Saturday, May 31. Commissioner McLean seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**New Business**

**Employee Health Insurance – switch insurance carrier.**

Mrs. Vause informed the board that the town has used the NCLM as its health insurance carrier for over 15 years. The insurance rates have climbed steadily the past few years and this year's increase is 13%, which the town cannot afford. Town Clerk Jenny Larson received quotes from several insurance brokers. The Laymon Group came back with a quote from United Health Care that would save the town approximately \$32,000 over current costs and \$57,300 over the NCLM's renewal cost. Commissioner McCree made a motion to approve United Health Care as the new employee health insurance carrier. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Ordinance 14-155 – Alcohol in the park during town and chamber events.

Mrs. Vause suggested the board consider a one-time approval for alcohol in the park for the May Day Fun Festival being organized by Commissioner McCallum and the Fairmont Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber is sponsoring a band in the park that day and would like to sell beer. This event could be a test to see how the ordinance would work and the board could then amend the ordinance in the future if needed. Commissioner McCallum made a motion to give one time approval of alcohol in the park for the May Day Fun Festival. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Resolution 14-13 – Retiree Health Insurance.

Mrs. Vause reminded the board that the town's auditor, John Masters, suggested the town revisit the town's retiree health insurance policy. Many towns and counties are changing their policies due to the burden of funding future liability issues. Resolution 14-13 would not affect current employees. However, new employees hired after April 15 would no longer be eligible for retiree health insurance. Town Attorney revised the resolution by adding extra language that was not in the current policy. He asked the board to strike the reference to Municipal Insurance Trust and the North Carolina League of Municipalities since the town is changing health insurance carriers. Commissioner McCree made a motion to adopt Resolution 14-13, Retiree Health Insurance as amended. Commissioner McCallum seconded the motion. Commissioner Evans had some concerns about the resolution and suggested tabling it. Mrs. Vause also was concerned with the language that an employee must be injured in the line of duty to receive insurance when retiring on disability. The town has had more than one employee retiree on disability for non-job related health issues. Commissioner McCree withdrew his motion. Commissioner Evans made a motion to table Resolution 14-13, Retiree Health Insurance. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Audit Contract.

Mrs. Vause presented the 2014-2015 audit contract with S. Preston Douglas & Associates. The fee is the same as last year, \$12,900. S. Preston Douglas & Associates has handled the town's audit for many years. Commissioner Sealey made a motion to approve the audit contract for 2014-2015 with S. Preston Douglas & Associates. Commissioner McCallum seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Commissioners Input**

Commissioner McCallum thanked the board for the opportunity to organize the May Day Fun Festival.

**Manager Input**

Mrs. Vause presented the following monthly financial summary to the board:

I have had to amend the budget in several departments in the General Fund. Repair and maintenance to vehicles and equipment in the fire department; training in the governing body department; and overtime along with elevator repairs in the public buildings department have caused these budget overruns. I will probably have to ask for a budget amendment for the General Fund in May.

The department budget adjustments were done in accordance with the 2013-2014 Budget Ordinance.

The following are the increased (decreased) budget amounts:

Governing Body	\$ 1,850.00
Public Buildings	7,850.00
Fire Department	2,000.00
Elections	( 1,100.00)
Finance Department	( 800.00)
Communications Dept.	( 4,300.00)
Non Departmental	( <u>5,500.00</u> )
Total:	0.00

The department heads are busy planning the 2014-2015 budget requests. They have been told to keep their requests at a minimum. I hope we can include a pay raise for our staff. The last cost of living increase was July 1, 2008.

**Announcements**

Friday, April 18 - Town offices closed in observance of Good Friday.

Monday, April 21 to Friday, April 25 - Schools closed for spring break.

Thursday, April 24 and Friday, April 25 - Primary election early voting, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Fire Hall.

Saturday, April 26 - Fairmont Middle School Band Boosters Plate Sale, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Fish Plates \$7.00, Hot Dog Plates \$5.00. Music, Bounce Houses and Face Painting. All funds raised go to send the students to Carowinds to perform on May 24.

Tuesday, April 29 - FHS Varsity Baseball and Softball vs. South Columbus, HOME, 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 1 and Friday, May 2 - Primary election early voting, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Fire Hall.

Friday, May 2 - FHS JV Varsity Baseball vs. South Robeson, HOME, 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 3 - Senior Bingo, 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

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Saturday, May 3 - Primary election early voting, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Fire Hall.

Tuesday, May 6 - Primary Election Day, Fire Hall.

Tuesday, May 13 - NCDMV Mobile Driver's License Unit, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Town Hall parking lot.

Tuesday, May 13 - Fairmont Middle School Spring Band Concert, 7:00 p.m., E.R. Gause Auditorium, Rosenwald Elementary School.

Tuesday, May 20 - Regular Town board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Council Chambers, Second Floor of Town Hall.

Monday, May 26 - Town offices and schools closed in observance of Memorial Day.

Tuesday, May 27 - Fairmont Budget Workshop, 6:00 p.m., Council Chambers.

Friday, May 30 - Robeson County Relay for Life, Robeson County Fairgrounds, Lumberton, 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, May 31 - First Annual May Day Fun Festival, Downtown, 10:30 a.m.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## **Regular Meeting – May 20, 2014**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, May 20, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were Wade Sealey, J.J. McCree, Amelia McLean, Terry Evans and Monte McCallum. Commissioner Carol Leak-McKenzie was absent due to being out of town. Staff present included Town Manager Linda Vause, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Town Attorney Rob Price, Public Safety Director Danny Parker, and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals. Others in attendance included Rev. Ed Johnson, Larry Anderson, Sam Powers, Thomas Norton and several citizens.

### **Call to Order and Invocation**

Mayor Charles Townsend called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Mayor Presentations**

#### **Recognize Fairmont Middle School Cheerleaders – First Runner-ups at Nationals.**

Mayor Townsend recognized the Fairmont Middle School Cheerleaders for winning first runner-up at Nationals.

#### **Recognize Fairmont High School Cheerleaders – First Place at Nationals.**

Mayor Townsend recognized the Fairmont High School Cheerleaders for winning first place at Nationals.

#### **Recognize Fairmont High School JROTC.**

Mayor Townsend recognized the Fairmont High School JROTC for winning first place at a recent competition.

### **Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance**

#### **Rev. Ed Johnson, First Baptist South Main – sale of alcohol at park during May Day Festival**

Rev. Ed Johnson, pastor of First Baptist Church South Main, was concerned about the sale of alcohol in the park during the upcoming May Day Festival on May 31. He has spoken to other pastors and members of other congregations in the Fairmont area who are strongly opposed to the sale of alcoholic beverages in the park. He stated the sale of alcohol is incompatible with children activities and gospel music and that alcohol leads to foul language and altercations. He encouraged the board to deny the sale of alcohol in the park or he will ask the members of his church not to participate in the festival.

**Consent Agenda**

Upon motion by Commissioner Evans and seconded by Commissioner McCallum, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following consent agenda item:

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, April 15, 2014.

**Unfinished Business**

**Resolution 14-13 – Retiree Health Insurance.**

Following the April board meeting, Town Clerk Jenny Larson and Town Attorney Rob Price made amendments to Resolution 14-13 – Retiree Health Insurance:

**RESOLUTION 14-13 - HEALTH INSURANCE FOR RETIREES**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Fairmont offers health insurance to its employees, their families, and certain retirees of the Town, and,

**WHEREAS**, the Town is committed to honoring and rewarding employees for dedicated service to the Town, but the Town must reduce its liabilities for such benefits in order to keep the Town financially sound;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Fairmont Board of Commissioners grants the following benefits under its Personnel Policy (the following language shall replace all current language related to this subject):

Health insurance premiums will be paid to the extent indicated below for eligible retired employees who were hired before May 21, 2014. Employees hired after May 20, 2014, will not receive any benefits for health insurance from the Town after those employees retire, unless they are otherwise eligible to receive this benefit under 2.d. below. Those eligible for these benefits must:

1. have retired under the North Carolina Local Governmental Retirement System and be currently receiving retirement benefits under that system, and
2. meet one of the following requirements:
  - a. Retired after reaching 55 years of age or older and after a minimum of 25 years of service with the Town of Fairmont, or
  - b. Retired after a minimum of 30 years of service with the Town of Fairmont, regardless of age, or
  - c. Retired after reaching 62 years of age or older and after a minimum of 15 years of service with the Town of Fairmont, or
  - d. Retired after a minimum of 5 years of service with the Town of Fairmont, regardless of age, and retired due to disability, but only for individuals receiving injury in the line of duty, and who, consequently, must retire on disability because of said injury.
  - e. A current employee with the Town of Fairmont who has a minimum of 5 years of service and retired due to disability under the North Carolina Local Governmental Retirement System.

Health insurance premiums will be paid in full for those who qualify under paragraphs 1 and 2 a, b, c, or d above. Health insurance premiums will be paid to the following extent for those who qualify under paragraphs 1 and 2 e above:

5-9 Years	25% Paid
10-14 Years	50% Paid
15-19 Years	75% Paid
20 Years plus	100% Paid

The Town will terminate coverage for anyone receiving partial premium benefits from the Town who does not meet his/her premium obligation.

Once a retired employee is eligible for Medicare, the Town will only pay the premiums for supplemental insurance.

In the event a retiree returns to employment with any employer, the employee will lose these retiree premium benefits once that employee is able to receive the insurance benefits of an employee or six months of employment have passed, whichever comes first. However, for those returning to employment with the Town, for purposes of qualifying for benefits on any subsequent retirement, that person will always be treated as being hired on his or her original hire date, as determined on May 20, 2014.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Resolution 14-13, Retiree Health Insurance. Commissioner McLean seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of the signed resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Surplus Property – County and town taxes owed on foreclosed properties

Mrs. Vause presented the current county and town taxes owed on foreclosed properties:

J. W. Ashley Heirs – vacant lot on Iona Street			
County	\$1,534.55	Town	\$684.45
		Total	\$2,219.00
Mercer Property – 309 Main Street			
County	\$966.94	Town	\$0.00
		Total	\$966.94
Mercer Property - 319 Main Street			
County	\$936.18	Town	\$761.34
		Total	\$1,697.52
Mercer Property – 501 Iona Street			
County	\$4,537.48	Town	\$3,982.29
		Total	\$8,519.77
Mercer Property - 505 Gertrude Street			
County	\$634.51	Town	\$618.67
		Total	\$1,253.18
Mercer Property – 606 Main Street			
County	\$657.08	Town	\$826.27
		Total	\$1,483.35
Josephine Fields Heirs – Happy Hill Road			
County	\$1,593.88	Town	\$1,533.37
		Total	\$3,127.25
Delois L. Killens Heirs - 205 Liberia Street			
County	\$2,045.53	Town	\$2,159.77
		Total	\$4,205.30

Town Attorney Rob Price said that when a piece of foreclosed property is sold, a percentage of the money goes to cover taxes in the town and county. Commissioner McCallum made a motion to sell the surplus properties for 50% of the appraised value and work out payment plans if needed to get these eyesore properties fixed up and back on the books as tax and water customers. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### CDBG Sewer Infrastructure Grant not funded

Mrs. Vause explained the NC Division of Water Infrastructure did not fund Fairmont's CDBG sewer infrastructure grant application. The state had \$10 million to allocate to round one on April 1<sup>st</sup> and they received 69 applications for projects totaling \$97 million. They decided to fund approximately 5 projects. A project had to score at least 106 to be funded. Fairmont only scored 85 because the percentage of low to moderate income (LMI) wasn't high enough. Fairmont had a LMI of 57.6% and the bare minimum to apply was 55%. The best way to increase the chance of funding in September is to do a door-to-door income survey with assistance from the Lumber River Council of Governments and eliminate the Collinswood segment of the project because it has the highest median family income.

#### New Business

##### Palmer Prevention, Tommy Norton

Mr. Tommy Norton, with Palmer Prevention, asked the board to consider putting \$500 in the 2014-2015 budget for their program. They will use the funds as a cash match for federal funding. Mr. Norton said drug addiction is a huge problem in Robeson County with more drug addicts showing up in Lumberton's emergency room than Duke or Chapel Hill. Mr. Norton encouraged the town to consider passing an ordinance prohibiting the public display of tobacco and drug paraphernalia products.

##### Happy Hill Sidewalk Project – Anderson Engineering & Associates

Mr. Larry Anderson, of Anderson Engineering & Associates, has been working with Commissioner Amelia McLean on a proposed Happy Hill Sidewalk Project. The sidewalk would run from Industrial Drive to Walnut Street and is much needed by the pedestrians in the area walking to and from the grocery store and doctor's office. The estimated cost of the project is \$91,000. Commissioner McLean has spoken to Mr. Larry Sampson with USDA and he said the town qualifies to have 75% of the cost covered by a grant. She presented a letter for the board to sign and send to Representative Garland Pierce to get his assistance in finding funding for the other 25%. Once funded, the project will take 8 months to complete. Commissioner McLean made a motion to proceed with the Happy Hill Sidewalk project. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

General Fund Budget Amendment.

Mrs. Vause presented the following budget amendment:

Last month I reported the possibility of a budget amendment for the General Fund. This amendment is for the Public Buildings Department and the Fire Department. They both have budget overruns in the maintenance and repair line items. Public Buildings will go over budget during the month of May in the salaries line item. The salary budget increase is due to overtime.

I am requesting that the 2013-2014 Budget Ordinance reflect the following changes.

ABC Revenue increase to \$15,000.00	(\$ 10,000.00)
Public Buildings increase	7,000.00
Fire Department increase	3,000.00

Commissioner McCree made a motion to approve the budget amendments in the Public Building and Fire Departments. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Mayor Input**

Mayor Townsend thanked Rev. Johnson, Mr. Norton and Mr. Anderson for the information they shared tonight. Mayor Townsend supports the sidewalk project because it will alleviate the problem of residents walking in the road and make it safer for everyone.

**Commissioners Input**

Commissioner McCallum appreciated Rev. Johnson expressing his concerns. He assured everyone that all the children activities for the May Day Fun Festival will be held next to the library and the gospel singing will take place in the center of downtown. The Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a beach band in the park and there will be police there to make sure no problems occur. The sale of beer is limited to only one half of the park and no one will be allowed to walk up and down the street with alcohol.

Commissioner Evans enjoyed the recent National Day of Prayer service held at Fairmont Middle School. He was surprised to learn the town no longer holds spring and fall clean sweep weeks.

Commissioner McLean thanked everyone for supporting the sidewalk project. She also thanked Palmer Prevention for giving her son an opportunity to get a great start in life by writing gospel rap. She said her son's life turned for the good and he is now a paralegal in Raleigh.

**Manager Input**

Mrs. Vause presented the following monthly financial summary to the board:

April was a relatively quiet month in town. May, however, has not been quite so calm. We learned early in May that we did not receive the CDBG Sewer Infrastructure Grant we applied for. We will reapply in September.

We also received three resignations from staff members. We are advertising for a Waste Water Treatment Plant Operator III due to the resignation of Dennis Freeman. Mr. Freeman is leaving us to go to work for the Town of Maxton

Major David Windom is going to work for New Hanover County. Officer Stephen Penfield is returning to the Town of Parkton as their Chief of Police. He worked there as a part time officer prior to coming to Fairmont.

As I stated in my March summary, I hope we can include a pay raise for our staff in the 2014-2015 budget. The last cost of living increase was July 1, 2008.

**Announcements**

Monday, May 26 - Town offices and schools closed in observance of Memorial Day.

Monday, May 26 - Memorial Day Ceremony, 1:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

Tuesday, May 27 - Fairmont Budget Workshop, 6:00 p.m., Council Chambers.

Friday, May 30 to Saturday, May 31 - Robeson County Relay for Life, Robeson County Fairgrounds, Lumberton, 9:00 a.m. Friday to 9:00 a.m. Saturday. Opening Ceremonies at 7:00 p.m. & the Survivor Lap at 7:05 p.m.

Saturday, May 31 - First Annual May Day Fun Festival, Downtown, 10:30 a.m. featuring a performance by the Carolina Soul Band at 12:30 p.m. in the park!

Tuesday, June 3 - Fairmont Budget Workshop, 6:00 p.m., Council Chambers.

Thursday, June 12 - Last day of school.

Tuesday, June 17 - Fairmont Regular Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Council Chambers. Public Hearing on 2014-2015 Budget.

Thursday, June 19 - Fairmont Budget Workshop (if needed), 6:00 p.m., Council Chambers.

Tuesday, June 24 - Fairmont Budget Workshop (if needed), 6:00 p.m., Council Chambers.

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Sunday, June 29 - Fairmont's Fantastic Fourth Fireworks.

Monday, June 30 - Fairmont Special Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Council Chambers.  
Adoption of FY 2013-2014 Amended Budget and FY 2014-2015 Budget.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## **Budget Workshop – May 27, 2014**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a budget workshop on Tuesday, May 27, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were Carol Leak-McKenzie, J.J. McCree, Amelia McLean, Terry Evans and Monte McCallum. Commissioner Wade Sealey was absent. Staff present included Town Manager Linda Vause, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Public Safety Director Danny Parker, and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals.

### **Call to Order and Invocation**

Mayor Charles Townsend called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. and gave the invocation.

### **Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget Workshop**

Town Manager Linda Vause presented the following information to the board about the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget:

The proposed 2014-2015 budget for the Town of Fairmont has no increases in fees or charges. This budget proposal is much the same as last year. The biggest difference is the 2.5% COLA for the staff. We were able to achieve this by the reduction in staffing and decrease in our health insurance premiums. Per the Social Security Administration website, the cost of living has increased by 13.4% since January 2008. The last cost of living adjustment the staff received was 4.3% effective July 1, 2008.

### **GENERAL FUND**

Last year's tax valuation was \$92,461,879.00. As of today the value of real, personal and public utility property is \$93,217,439.00. Our rate of .73 remains the same. The amount billed will be approximately \$680,487.30. I estimated a 91% collection rate for total estimated revenue of \$619,000.00. State revenues were estimated using the NC League of Municipalities' estimates and past history. Their estimates include a 3.75% increase in sales tax collection. Robeson County's distribution of this tax is based on population. Our population estimate increased from 2,658 to 2,663. Due to the uncertainty of this tax, I increased my projection by only 1.0%. There is an anticipated 1% decrease in video programming tax again this year. This decrease is most likely because of the many different ways to watch television; including internet streaming video on sites like Netflix and Hulu. Utility franchise tax is based on the electricity sold in our town limits. The League estimates a 3.0% increase. A mild summer or a mild winter can affect this tax. Therefore, I did not include an increase. Sale of fixed assets is once again included. Business license revenue is iffy because the state is discussing a cap of \$100 per business for 2014-2015 and eliminating it for 2015-2016.

Highlights are listed below. The highlights include capital items requested by department heads but not included in this budget.

**Police Department:** There is \$4,000.00 for capital outlay. This will cover the cost of a 2004 Cadillac Escalade drug seizure vehicle. We will use it to replace one of our unmarked cars.

**Street Department:** Public Works Director Ronnie Seals requested \$60,000.00 again this year to purchase a tractor or bush hog for the Street Department. This is NOT included in the budget.

**Sanitation Department:** Mr. Seals requested \$30,000.00 for chipping of the landfill. This is an area that NCDENR inspects annually. There is also \$15,000.00 in capital outlay. This is to purchase a used van to haul inmates with. We must have dependable transportation to use.

**WATER/SEWER FUND**

**Water/Sewer Administration:** Ronnie Seals requested \$40,000.00 for a new pickup truck. I did not include this request.

**Water Treatment Department:** The public works request for \$10,000.00 for a well casing is included again this year. The Gertrude Street well has been repaired. We included the funds for well casing again since our other wells are just as old.

**Water Maintenance Department:** The request for \$135,000.00 for a new backhoe is NOT included in this budget. Hopefully we can make do for two years until the flusher truck is paid off.

The budget for Powell Bill, Federal Drug Funds, State Drug Funds, RBEG Fund and the Sewer Rehab Project are complete and much the same as in prior years.

It is imperative that we do not budget a fund balance in either fund. I am required by law to present you, the media and the public with a balanced budget by June 1, 2013. My plan is to do this May 31, 2013. Changes to the budget can be made up until June 30, 2013. State law mandates a final balanced budget before July 1. Our next budget workshop is planned for June 3rd.

Commissioner McCree asked how much the Escalade is worth. Chief Parker said it was worth around \$10,000 and has about 100,000 miles. Mrs. Vause said the town would have to pay the federal government \$3,200 in fees and the rest would be insurance costs. If the town decides to keep the vehicle, it must be used for at least 18 months in the police department only.

Commissioner McCallum asked what type of van public works was looking for to transport the inmates. Public Works Director Ronnie Seals said he needs a 6-7 passenger minivan that will only be using for hauling inmates and nothing else.

Commissioner Evans asked about the possibility of getting a USDA loan to purchase new equipment for public works. Mr. Seals said the department needs a new four wheel drive truck with extended cab to pull generators, a new backhoe and a new, smaller street sweeper. He understands that the equipment can't be replaced all at once due to the expense but pointed out that parts for repairs go up 10% every year.

Commissioner McCree was concerned about budgeting for the Happy Hill Sidewalk Project in case the town does not receive 100% funding.

Commissioner Leak-McKenzie asked about court fees. Mrs. Vause stated the new clerk of court is researching it for the town. The town does not receive court fees if a case is continued, dropped, or waived by the judge.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## **Budget Workshop – June 3, 2014**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a budget workshop on Tuesday, June 3, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were Carol Leak-McKenzie, J.J. McCree, Amelia McLean, Terry Evans and Monte McCallum. Commissioner Wade Sealey was absent. Staff present included Town Manager Linda Vause, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals.

### **Call to Order and Invocation**

Mayor Charles Townsend called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and gave the invocation.

### **Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget Workshop**

Town Manager Linda Vause presented the following information to the board about the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget:

The proposed 2014-2015 budget for the Town of Fairmont has no increases in fees or charges. This budget proposal is much the same as last year but does contain a 2.5% COLA for the staff. We were able to achieve this by the reduction in staffing and decrease in our health insurance premiums. Per the Lumber River Council of Governments, the cost of living has increased 13.4% since January 2008. The last cost of living adjustment the staff received was 4.3% effective July 1, 2008.

### **GENERAL FUND**

Last year's tax valuation was \$92,461,879.00. The current valuation of real, personal and public utility property is \$93,217,439.00. Our rate of .73 remains the same. The amount billed will be approximately \$680,487.30. I estimated a 91% collection rate for total estimated revenue of \$619,000.00. State revenues were estimated using the NC League of Municipalities' estimates and past history. Their estimates include a 3.75% increase in sales tax collection. Robeson County's distribution of this tax is based on population. Our population estimate increased from 2,658 to 2,663. Due to the uncertainty of this tax, I increased my projection by only 1.0%. There is an anticipated 1% decrease in video programming tax again this year. This decrease is most likely due to the many different ways to watch television; including internet streaming video on sites like Netflix and Hulu. Utility franchise tax is based on the electricity sold in our town limits. The League estimates a 3.0% increase. A mild summer or a mild winter can affect this tax. Therefore, I did not include an increase. Sale of fixed assets is once again included, but at a lesser amount. A fund balance is not budgeted. There has been much discussion about the privilege license tax in the NC General Assembly. They just passed a law allowing towns to issue privilege licenses at the same rate as last year but only bill businesses with a physical address within the town limits. They also voted to totally eliminate privilege licenses in 2015-2016. Because of this, I reduced my revenue projection by \$4,000.00 and took out the Escalade in the Police Department to make up the difference.

This is a very tight budget. There are many capital outlay items needed, especially in public works. This is not included in my budget proposal. I hope we can maintain until we have some debt paid off in fiscal year 2015 and more in 2016.

**Sanitation Department:** I have included \$30,000.00 for chipping of the landfill. This needs to be done every year in order to remain compliant with the NC Department of Natural Resources. \$15,000.00 is in capital outlay for the purchase of a used minivan to haul inmates to and from Wagram. We must have dependable transportation to use.

**WATER/SEWER FUND**

**Water Treatment Department:** The public works request for \$10,000.00 for a well casing is included again this year. The Gertrude Street well was repaired last year. We included the funds for well casing again since our other wells are just as old.

The budget for Powell Bill, Federal Drug Funds, State Drug Funds, and RBEG Fund are also included in this budget proposal. They remain much the same as last year.

Commissioner McCree pointed out that the budget includes \$31,500 in fixed assets and that the town needs to sell these assets in order for the budget to work. He asked why the line item for maintenance and repair of building and grounds is \$25,000 when this year's budget was \$33,700. Town Manager Linda Vause said the higher amount this year was due to the generator installation in the fire department. Commissioner McCree asked if the budget included the sale of vacation time. Mrs. Vause replied no, that the town has not budgeted for that in over two years. Commissioner McCree suggested selling time for the public works department to help reduce their compensation time. Commissioner McCree also asked about the recreation budget. Mrs. Vause stated the park needs repairs to the bridge, fence and shelters.

Commissioner McLean asked about the library allocation of \$6,500. Mrs. Vause replied that the library has asked for and the town has given the same amount for 16 years. Commissioner McLean pointed out that Fairmont's library is the second busiest next to Lumberton. Mrs. Vause said the county may expand the library's hours.

Commissioner Evans was concerned that the budget is so tight there is no wiggle room in case of emergencies. Commissioner McLean asked if the town had the funds to cover any unfunded portion of the sidewalk project and Mrs. Vause said not at this time.

Commissioner McCallum stated the one cent sales tax proposal will not be heard until the next long session of the general assembly. He suggested a one year property tax increase of two cents, which would only generate \$18,400 in revenue. Commissioner McCree was concerned that if the town raised property taxes more people would quit paying taxes and the town would lose revenue. Commissioner McCallum suggested reducing the employee cost of living raise from 2.5% to 2% to help pad the budget.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## **Special Meeting – June 9, 2014**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Tuesday, June 9, 2014 at 4:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were Wade Sealey, Carol Leak-McKenzie, J.J. McCree, Amelia McLean, Terry Evans and Monte McCallum. Staff present included Town Manager Linda Vause and Town Attorney Rob Price. Reporter Amanda Dolasinski was also in attendance.

### **Call to Order and Invocation**

Mayor Charles Townsend called the meeting to order and gave the invocation. He stated the purpose of the meeting was to go into closed session to discuss attorney-client privilege and personnel.

### **Closed Session – Attorney-Client Privilege and Personnel, G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3,6)**

Commissioner Evans made a motion to go into closed session at 4:34 p.m. to prevent the disclosure of information that is deemed privileged or confidential as determined under General Statute 143-318.10(e) and to discuss attorney-client privilege and as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3,6). Commissioner Leak-McKenzie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Townsend, Commissioners Sealey, Leak-McKenzie, McCree, McCallum, McLean and Evans along with Linda Vause and Rob Price were in attendance during closed session.

A motion was properly made and seconded to come out of closed session at 5:47 p.m. and it passed unanimously. Mayor Townsend announced action was taken in closed session as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3,6) but the action was confidential because it is related to personnel..

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

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Linda Vause  
Town Manager

## **Regular Meeting – June 17, 2014**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, June 17, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were Wade Sealey, J.J. McCree, Amelia McLean, Terry Evans and Monte McCallum. Commissioner Carol Leak-McKenzie was absent due to death of her husband. Staff present included Town Manager Linda Vause, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Town Attorney Rob Price, and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals. Others in attendance included Daren Bastidas, Sarah Willets and several citizens.

### **Call to Order and Invocation**

Mayor Charles Townsend called the meeting to order and gave the invocation. He asked everyone to remember Commissioner Leak-McKenzie whose husband recently passed away.

### **Public Hearing – Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget**

Commissioner Sealey made a motion to go into Public Hearing at 6:05 p.m. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The purpose of the public hearing is to gather public and board comment on the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 budget. Town Manager Linda Vause stated the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 General Fund budget is \$1,763,960 and the Water Fund budget is \$1,129,100. The budget does not increase any fees and keeps the tax rate at \$0.73. It also includes a 2.5% COL raise for the employees.

There was no public comment on the budget. Commissioner Evans was concerned that there is not enough wiggle room in the budget in case of emergency. He stated he would not vote for the budget unless more cuts are made.

Commissioner McCallum made a motion to come out of the public hearing at 6:07 p.m. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Sealey made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner McCallum seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance**

There was no public comment this month.

### **Consent Agenda**

Upon motion by Commissioner Sealey and seconded by Commissioner McCree, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following consent agenda item:

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, May 20, 2014, Budget Workshop, May 27, 2014, Budget Workshop, June 3, 2014, and Special Meeting, June 9, 2014.

**Unfinished Business**

**Resolution 14-09 – Killens offer for McDaniel/Market St. lot**

Town Manager Linda Vause stated the town has received an offer of \$1,000 from Mr. Talmadge Killens for the old Williamson property located at the corner of Market and McDaniel Streets, Parcel# 30060101801. The property has a tax value of \$6,700 and an appraised value of \$1,500. Commissioner McCree made a motion to accept Mr. Killen's bid for the lot at the corner of Market and McDaniel Streets and to adopt Resolution 14-09 authorizing the advertisement of an offer to purchase certain property in the Robeson Journal. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously with Commissioner McCallum abstaining due to Mr. Killens being his blood uncle. A signed copy of this resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

**Resolution 14-10 – Lyons offer for North Walnut Street warehouse lot**

Mrs. Vause stated the town has received an offer of \$5,000 from Harry and Denise Lyons for the old warehouse property located on North Walnut Street, Parcel# 300201007. The tax value of the property is \$30,200 and the appraised value is \$10,000. Commissioner Evans made a motion to accept Mr. and Mrs. Lyon's bid for the old warehouse property located on North Walnut Street and to adopt Resolution 14-10 authorizing the advertisement of an offer to purchase certain property in the Robeson Journal. Commissioner McLean seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of this resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

**Resolution 14-11 – Floyd offer for old Employee Wellness Center, 603 S. Main St.**

Mrs. Vause stated the town has received an offer of \$22,500 from Ricky and Teresa Floyd for the old Employee Fitness Center property located at 603 South Main Street, Parcel# 300803013. The tax value is \$48,000 and the appraised value is \$45,000. Commissioner McCallum made a motion to reject Mr. and Mrs. Floyd's bid for 603 South Main Street due to their request for financing. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Resolution 14-14 – Stevenson offer for 606 North Main Street.**

Mrs. Vause stated the town has received an offer of \$1,500 from Mr. Wayne H. Stevenson for the old Mercer property located at 606 North Main Street, Parcel# 300303003. The property has a tax value of \$21,400 and an appraised value of \$3,000. Commissioner Evans made a motion to accept Mr. Stevenson's bid for 606 North Main Street and to adopt Resolution 14-14 authorizing the advertisement of an offer to purchase certain property in the Robeson Journal. Commissioner McCallum seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of this resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Resolution 14-15 – Stevenson offer for Iona Street lot.

Mrs. Vause stated the town has received an offer of \$2,500 from Mr. Wayne H. Stevenson for the old Ashley lot located on Iona Street, Parcel# 300504052. The property has a tax value of \$6,400 and an appraised value of \$5,000. Commissioner Sealey made a motion to accept Mr. Stevenson's bid for the Ashley lot on Iona Street and to adopt Resolution 14-15 authorizing the advertisement of an offer to purchase certain property in the Robeson Journal. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of this resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Resolution 14-16 – Bastidas offer for 3 lots at Highway 41 and 130 Bypass.

Mrs. Vause stated the town has received an offer of \$7,000 from Daren Bastidas for the three vacant lots located at the corner of Highway 41 and 130 Bypass (next to Hi Dollar Warehouse), Parcels 301201014, 301201016, and 301201017. The tax value is \$74,000 and the appraised value is \$14,000. Commissioner Sealey made a motion to reject Mr. Bastidas' bid for the three vacant lots at the corner of Highway 41 and 130 Bypass due to his request for financing. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Resolution 14-17 – Accepting bid and authorizing sale of 205 Liberia Street.

Mrs. Vause announced that after upset bids were received for the 205 Liberia Street property, Mr. Anthony Pittman had the highest bid at \$1,835. Commissioner McCallum made a motion to adopt Resolution 14-17 – Accepting Bid and Authorizing Sale of Real Property – Tax Parcel 300802033, 205 Liberia Street. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of this resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Ordinance 14-155 - Alcohol in the park during town and chamber events.

Mrs. Vause stated the sale of alcohol in the park for the May Day Fun Festival by the Fairmont Chamber of Commerce was successful and that no problems were reported. Commissioner Sealey does not believe the town should have alcohol at an event where kids are involved. Commissioner McCallum responded that alcohol is sold people aged 21 and over at Lumberton's Alive after Five concert series where parents bring their children and they have had no problems. Town Attorney Rob Price stated that any alcohol controlled event must be open to the public. Commissioner McCree suggested that when an alcohol event is scheduled that no other event be held at the park that day. Town Attorney Rob Price suggested the following language changes to the ordinance: no children served alcohol and no other event on the same day as alcohol controlled event.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Ordinance 14-155 - Alcohol in the park as amended. Commissioner McCallum seconded the motion and it passed with a vote of 4 to 1 as follows:

For: Commissioners Evans, McCallum, McCree and Sealey  
Against: Commissioner McLean  
Absent: Commissioner Leak-McKenzie

A signed copy of this ordinance is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

### **New Business**

Planning Board reappointments – Phostenia McCrimmon, Dennis Hicks and Willie Grissett for a three year term expiring May 2017.

Mrs. Vause stated that Phostenia McCrimmon, Dennis Hicks and Willie Grissett are willing to serve another three year term on the Planning Board. Commissioner Sealey made a motion to reappoint Phostenia McCrimmon, Dennis Hicks and Willie Grissett to the Planning Board for a three year term expiring May 2017. Commissioner McCallum seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Resolution 14-18 – Agreement to continue participation in the North Carolina Small Town Main Street Program 2014-2015.

Mrs. Vause informed the board that it will cost \$250 annually to continue participation in the North Carolina Small Town Main Street Program. Commissioner Sealey made a motion to adopt Resolution 14-18, agreement to continue participation in the North Carolina Small Town Main Street Program 2014-2015. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of the resolution is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

### **Closed Session – Attorney-Client Privilege and Personnel G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3,6).**

Commissioner Evans made a motion to go into closed session at 6:34 p.m. to prevent the disclosure of information that is deemed privileged or confidential as determined under General Statue 143-318.10(e) and to discuss attorney-client privilege and personnel as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3,6). Commissioner McCallum seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Townsend, Commissioners Sealey, McCree, McCallum, McLean and Evans along with Linda Vause, Jenny Larson and Rob Price were in attendance during closed session.

Page 5 – Regular Meeting, June 17, 2014

Commissioner Evans made a motion to come out of closed session at 7:39 p.m. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mayor Townsend announced that no action was taken in closed session and that the closed session would be continued at the June 24 budget workshop.

**Announcements**

Thursday, June 19 - Fairmont Budget Workshop (if needed), 6:00 p.m., Council Chambers.

Tuesday, June 24 - Fairmont Budget Workshop (if needed), 6:00 p.m., Council Chambers.

Sunday, June 29 - Fairmont's Fantastic Fourth Fireworks, 5:00 to 10:00 p.m., Fairmont Community Park. Featuring a concert by the beach band Gary Lowder and Smokin' Hot. Food and kids amusements. Huge fireworks show at 9:30 p.m.!

Monday, June 30 - Fairmont Special Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Council Chambers. Adoption of FY 2013-2014 Amended Budget and FY 2014-2015 Budget.

Friday, July 4 - Town offices closed in observance of Independence Day.

Saturday, July 5 - Senior Bingo, 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

Tuesday, July 15 - NCDMV Mobile Driver's License Unit, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Town Hall parking lot.

Tuesday, July 15 - Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m. Council Chambers.

Saturday, July 19 - Lumber River Day Festival, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Lumber River State Park, 2819 Princess Ann Road.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

## **Budget Workshop – June 24, 2014**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a budget workshop on Tuesday, June 24, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were Wade Sealey, Carol Leak-McKenzie, J.J. McCree, Amelia McLean, Terry Evans and Monte McCallum. Staff present included Town Manager Linda Vause, Town Attorney Rob Price, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals.

### **Call to Order and Invocation**

Mayor Charles Townsend called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and gave the invocation.

### **Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget Workshop**

Town Manager Linda Vause informed the board that no changes have been made to the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget since the public hearing on June 17, 2014.

Mrs. Vause informed the board that the bid opening for sanitation services was held on Friday, June 20, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. in the council chambers. There were bids from three companies: All Points, Waste Industries and Waste Management. All Points submitted a “no bid”, Waste Industries had a bid of \$10.58 per cart and Waste Management had the lowest bid with \$7.04 per cart. Mrs. Vause stated Waste Management’s bid is \$2,000 a month cheaper than current prices with no fuel surcharge allowed. The contract will be for five years with a renewal option and the only increase will be the annual CPI. Mrs. Vause will ask the board to accept the bid at the budget adoption meeting on June 30, 2014.

### **Closed Session – Attorney-Client Privilege and Personnel G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3,6).**

Commissioner Sealey made a motion to go into closed session at 6:15 p.m. to prevent the disclosure of information that is deemed privileged or confidential as determined under General Statute 143-318.10(e) and to discuss attorney-client privilege and personnel as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3,6). Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Townsend, Commissioners Sealey, Leak-McKenzie, McCree, McCallum, McLean and Evans along with Linda Vause, Jenny Larson and Rob Price were in attendance during closed session.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to come out of closed session at 6:42 p.m. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mayor Townsend announced personnel was discussed and no action was taken in closed session.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk

**Special Meeting – June 30, 2014**  
**Budget Adoption**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Monday, June 30, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were Wade Sealey, J.J. McCree, Carol Leak-McKenzie, Amelia McLean, Monte McCallum and Terry Evans. Staff present included Town Manager Linda Vause, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals. Robesonian reporter Sarah Willets also attended the meeting.

Mayor Townsend called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and gave the invocation. Town Manager Linda Vause asked the board to add Police Department Evidence Control to the agenda as “Item F”.

**Administrative Matters**

**Acceptance of Waste Management bid for sanitation services.**

Mrs. Vause stated that Waste Management had the lowest bid for sanitation services with \$7.04 per cart. Mrs. Vause stated Waste Management’s bid is \$3,000 a month cheaper than current prices with no fuel surcharge allowed. The contract will be prepared for the attorney’s review and official board approval in August with an effective date of August 1. Commissioner Sealey made a motion to accept Waste Management’s bid for sanitation services. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Write Off Uncollected Water Accounts for 2013-2014 in the amount of \$2,356.22**

Commissioner McCree made a motion to write off uncollected water accounts for 2013 - 2014 in the amount of \$2,356.22. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of the 2013-2014 uncollected water accounts is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

**Write Off 2003 Property Taxes in the amount of \$1,514.22.**

Commissioner Evans made a motion to write off the 2003 property taxes in the amount of \$1,514.22. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of the 2003 property tax accounts are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

**Ordinance 14-156 - Amended Fiscal Year Budget 2013-2014**

Mrs. Vause said the estimated fund balance usage is \$51,548.00. Commissioner Leak-McKenzie made a motion to adopt Ordinance 14-156 - Amended Fiscal Year Budget 2013-2014 in the amount of \$4,103,638.40. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of the 2013-2014 amended budget ordinance is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Ordinance 14-157 - Fiscal Year Budget 2014-2015

Mrs. Vause said no changes were made to the budget since the last budget workshop. The budget includes a 2.5% cost of living raise for employees and keeps the same tax rate and fees. Commissioner Leak-McKenzie made a motion to adopt Ordinance 13-154 - Fiscal Year Budget 2014-2015 in the amount of \$3,495,965.10. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed with a vote of 5 to 1 as follows:

For: Commissioners Leak-McKenzie, McCallum, McCree, McLean and Sealey  
Against: Commissioner Evans

A copy of the 2014-2015 budget ordinance is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Police Department Evidence Control

Mrs. Vause talked with District Attorney Johnson Britt about the town's policy on Evidence Control. The current policy states that no officer below the rank of lieutenant is allowed to handle evidence. Mrs. Vause would like the board's permission to allow Detective Darren Jones to handle evidence processing and control with the assistance of Veronica Hunt, who was trained to enter evidence into the computer. Commissioner McCree made a motion to allow Detective Darren Jones to handle evidence processing and control. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Closed Session – Attorney-Client Privilege and Personnel G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3.6).

The Board did not go into closed session as planned due to the absence of Town Attorney Rob Price.

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk