

Regular Meeting – July 15, 2014

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, July 15, 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 due to illness. Staff present included Town Manager Linda Vause, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals. Others in attendance included Sarah Willets and several citizens.

Call to Order and Invocation

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

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Leak-McKenzie made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Evans 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 Evans and seconded by Commissioner McCallum, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following consent agenda item:

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, June 17, 2014, Budget Workshop, June 24, 2014, and Special Meeting, June 30, 2014.

Unfinished Business

Resolution 14-19 – Accepting bid and authorizing sale of North Walnut Street, Warehouse lot.

Mrs. Vause announced that no upset bids were received for the North Walnut Street warehouse lot, Mr. and Mrs. Harry and Denis Lyons had the highest bid at \$5,000. Commissioner McCallum made a motion to adopt Resolution 14-19 – Accepting Bid and Authorizing Sale of Real Property – Tax Parcel 300201007, North Walnut Street warehouse lot. 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 14-20 – Accepting bid and authorizing sale of 606 North Main Street.

Mrs. Vause announced that no upset bids were received for the 606 North Main Street property, Mr. Wayne H. Stevenson had the highest bid at \$1,500. Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Resolution 14-20 – Accepting Bid and Authorizing Sale of Real Property – Tax Parcel 300303003, 606 North Main Street. 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.

Resolution 14-21 – Accepting bid and authorizing sale of Iona Street lot.

Mrs. Vause announced that no upset bids were received for the Iona Street property, Mr. Wayne H. Stevenson had the highest bid at \$2,500. Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Resolution 14-21 – Accepting Bid and Authorizing Sale of Real Property – Tax Parcel 300504052, Iona Street lot. 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

Resolution 14-22 – Stevenson offer for 3 lots at Highway 41 and 130 Bypass.

Mrs. Vause stated the town has received an offer of \$7,500 from Mr. Wayne H. Stevenson 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 Evans made a motion to accept Mr. Stevenson's bid for the three lots at Highway 41 and 130 Bypass and to adopt Resolution 14-22 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.

NCLM Regulatory Technical Assistance Fund.

Mrs. Vause reported that the NC League of Municipalities is requesting voluntary contributions from their members to join the Regulatory Technical Assistance Fund (REG-TAF). REG-TAF is an annual joint action program created to protect North Carolina municipalities' collective interest by hiring external technical support for water quality and electric regulatory issues. The suggested contribution for the Town of Fairmont is \$607.97. Mrs. Vause asked the board to approve this request so the Town of Fairmont will benefit from this fund. Commissioner McLean made a motion to approve a contribution of \$607.97 to the NCLM Regulatory Technical Assistance Fund. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Separation of Police and Fire Departments.

Mrs. Vause stated that in June 2005 the police and fire departments were combined to form a department of public safety. The board approved this merger with the stipulation they could change it at any time. Mrs. Vause respectfully asked the board to approve the separation of the police and fire departments. She has spoken with employees in both divisions and they expressed a desire for the separation. The name change would be reflected on the purchase of NEW uniforms and equipment only since it is not necessary to replace every badge and uniform except on an as needed basis. Mrs. Vause plans to employ James Thompson as the part time fire chief. Mr. Thompson held this position until 2005 and has expressed a willingness to return to it. He is already familiar with and handling some of the duties associated with the position of fire chief. She proposed a salary of \$12.50 per hour based on a fifteen hour work week. This will equate to an annual salary of \$9,750.00. Commissioner McCallum made a motion to separate the police and fire departments. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Input

Commissioner Evans introduced Joseph Anderson, who is working on the re-election campaign of Senator Kay Hagan.

Commissioner Leak-McKenzie thanked the town for supporting her following the death of her husband Andrew. She appreciated the salute from the fire department during his funeral.

Commissioner McCallum suggested starting a community cleanup every other Saturday.

Manager's Input

Mrs. Vause announced that Commissioner Sealey is in the hospital due to an infection but should be coming home tomorrow.

Announcements

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

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

Thursday, August 7 - Back to School Celebration sponsored by the Public Schools of Robeson County, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. SENC Agricultural Center, Lumberton.

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Tuesday, August 12 - NCDMV Mobile Driver's License Unit, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.,
Town Hall parking lot.

Thursday, August 19 - Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m. Council Chambers.

Saturday, August 23 - 3rd annual Showin' Off for Autism, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.,
Fairmont Community Park. This is the 3rd annual bike show and the 1st year for cars
and trucks. All proceeds will go to the Robeson County Autism Society. This is a family
fun event with activities for kids. Show entry fee will be \$15.

Monday, August 25 - First Day of School.

Monday, September 1 - Town offices and schools closed in observance of Labor Day.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC
Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – August 19, 2014

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, August 19, 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 out of town and participated by telephone. Staff present included Town Manager Linda Vause, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Town Attorney Rob Price, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals and Recreation Director Mickey Williamson. Others in attendance included Bill Cowan, Jim Perry, Sarah Willets and several citizens.

Call to Order and Invocation

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

Approval of Agenda

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

Public Hearing – CDBG grant for sewer infrastructure

Commissioner Evans made a motion to go into public hearing to discuss a CDBG grant for sewer infrastructure at 6:01 p.m. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Bill Cowan, with McGill and Associates, informed the board and public about applying for the next round of CDBG grants for sewer infrastructure. Mr. Cowan stated the amount of funding available for 2014 is approximately \$26 million. The range of activities allowed include almost any type of infrastructure project but projects that mitigate problems causing regulatory actions and providing water and sewer service to unserved customers are the most favored projects. This project is requesting \$2,635,000 for 22,400 linear feet of sewer line rehabilitation. Mr. Cowan estimates that \$1,840,000 of the funds will benefit low to moderate income residents of the Town. The Town of Fairmont has a residential displacement and relocation assistance plan but this project will not displace or create a need for any relocation of any families. Mr. Cowan added that adopting an Asset Management Plan will give the town 4 points on the grant application. The grant applications are due October 2. Mr. Cowan informed the board that this is essentially the same grant the town applied for in the spring, except the higher income neighborhood of Collinswood has been removed. A representative from the Lumber River Council of Governments will be making door to door income surveys for the project area to identify homes with low to moderate income. Commissioners McCallum, Evans and McLean volunteered to assist with the survey. Commissioner Sealey made a motion to come out of public hearing at 6:20 p.m. 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 Sealey and seconded by Commissioner Evans, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following consent agenda item:

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

Unfinished Business

Resolution 14-23 – Accepting bid and authorizing sale of Highway 41 and Highway 130 Bypass lots.

Mrs. Vause announced that no upset bids were received for the Highway 41 and Highway 130 Bypass lots. Mr. Wayne Stevenson had the highest bid at \$7,500. Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Resolution 14- 23 – Accepting Bid and Authorizing Sale of Real Property – Tax Parcels 301201014, 301201016, and 301201017. 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 14-24 – Accepting bid and authorizing sale of Market & McDaniel Street lot.

Mrs. Vause announced than an upset bid was received for the Market and McDaniel Street property. Mr. Mickey Williamson bid \$1,100. This bid was advertised in the Robeson Journal for upset bids and no further bids were received. Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Resolution 14-24 – Accepting Bid and Authorizing Sale of Real Property – Tax Parcel 30060101801. 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

Asset Management Proposal – Mr. Jim Perry.

Mr. Jim Perry, of the LRCOG, presented a proposal for an asset management plan. This plan will create an inventory of assets to match infrastructure maps. It will assess the condition of the infrastructure in the inventory and create an operation and maintenance plan to ensure proper management. It will also develop a capital improvement plan with projected cost estimates for maintenance, repair and replacement. Mr. Perry said the maps would cost \$5,000 and the asset management plan is \$12,000 for a total of \$16,000. Mr. Perry added that the LRCOG will contribute \$1,000 toward the cost and the town could pay for the plan out of water and sewer funds, paying part now and the balance after January. Mrs. Vause recommended the board proceed with the asset management plan. Commissioner Sealey made a motion for the LRCOG to develop an asset management plan for the town at a cost of \$15,000. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Input

There was no commissioner input this month.

Manager's Input

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

Once again July has been a “cash strapped” month. The town’s property and liability insurance, along with the workers’ comp insurance, is paid in July. We did manage to delay the payment to the NC Department of Commerce for the Harger CDBG grant liability until August.

Mr. Kimothy Monroe has been hired as Administrative Chief of Police. This is a temporary position. Mr. Monroe is reorganizing parts of the police department. Some employees received a promotion due to this reorganization. Many of these changes are due to the separation of police and fire. Mr. Monroe will also guide us through the selection process to hire a full time chief.

We have purchased a 2008 Chevrolet Uplander minivan for inmate transportation. The van cost \$11,000.00. We budgeted for the van in the Sanitation Department.

Our current sewer rehabilitation project should be completed by the end of August. We are once again applying for a CDBG grant to continue with this project.

Mrs. Vause addressed the agenda packet delivery problem. Chief Monroe is creating a form where both the officer delivering the packet and the person receiving it will sign. The agenda is also scanned and emailed to each commissioner.

Announcements

Wednesday, August 20 – FHS JV Football vs. Pinecrest, HOME, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 21 - School Open House Schedule: Rosenwald Elementary, 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Fairmont Middle, 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Fairmont High, 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Friday, August 22 – FHS Varsity Football vs. East Bladen, AWAY, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 23 - 3rd annual Showin’ Off for Autism, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Fairmont Community Park. This is the 3rd annual bike show and the 1st year for cars and trucks. All proceeds will go to the Robeson County Autism Society. This is a family fun event with activities for kids. Show entry fee will be \$15.

Monday, August 25 - First Day of School.

Thursday, August 28 – FHS JV Football vs. Richmond, HOME, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 30 - Roy C concert, 5:00 p.m., Fairmont Community Park.

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Monday, September 1 - Town offices and schools closed in observance of Labor Day.

Thursday, September 4 – FHS JV Football vs. Ashley, HOME, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, September 5 – FHS Varsity Football vs. Ashley, AWAY, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 6 - Senior Bingo, 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m., Heritage Center.

Tuesday, September 9 - NCDMV Mobile Driver's License Unit, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Town Hall parking lot.

Friday, September 12 – FHS Varsity Football vs. Northside Jacksonville, HOME, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 16 - Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Council Chambers, Town Hall.

Friday, September 19 – FHS Varsity Football vs. South View, AWAY, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 25 – FHS JV Football vs. St. Pauls, HOME, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, September 26 – FHS Varsity Football vs. St. Pauls, AWAY, 7:30 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC
Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – September 16, 2014

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, September 16, 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, Carol Leak-McKenzie, Amelia McLean, Terry Evans and Monte McCallum. Staff present included Town Manager Linda Vause, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals. Town Attorney Rob Price was absent. Others in attendance included Vanessa Abernathy, Lois Baker, James Jones, Sarah Willets 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 Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance

Vanessa Abernathy – Robeson County Arts Council Arts Cruising Project

Ms. Vanessa Abernathy spoke on behalf of the Robeson County Arts Council Arts Cruising Project. Fairmont will host on February 12, 2015.

Lois Baker – Pit bulls on Rosewood St.

Mrs. Lois Baker complained about the excessive number of pit bulls at her neighbor's home on Rosewood Street. She is afraid to go outside because the dogs might attack.

Master James Jones – Martial Arts classes

Master James Jones, a martial arts instructor from Dillon, would like to start karate classes in Fairmont.

Consent Agenda

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

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, August 19, 2014.

Unfinished Business

Waste Management Contract

Mrs. Vause informed the board that Town Attorney Rob Price has reviewed the new Waste Management contract. Commissioner McCree made a motion to approve the contract with Waste Management effective August 1, 2014. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of this contract is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

New Business

Resolution 14-25 – NC Governor’s Highway Safety Program, Traffic Safety Grant

Mrs. Vause announced that this is the third year of the traffic safety grant and it is 50/50 with the state paying half of an officer’s salary, benefits and equipment. Commissioner Sealey made a motion to adopt Resolution 14-25 – NC Governor’s Highway Safety Program, Traffic Safety Grant. Commissioner McCree 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.

Fairmont ABC Board – nominate person for three year term.

Commissioner Leak-McKenzie nominated Cynthia Dudley and Commissioner Terry Evans nominated Cassandra Gaddy. There being no further nominations, the board voted as followed:

For Cynthia Dudley: Commissioners Leak-McKenzie, Sealey, McCree and McLean

For Cassandra Gaddy: Commissioners Evans and McCallum

Ms. Cynthia Dudley was appointed to the Fairmont ABC Board for a three year term expiring September 2017.

Special Events discussion

Commissioner McCallum asked the board to consider starting a special events/tourism fund to generate revenue for the town. He stated the recent Roy C concert in the park was a huge success. Mayor Townsend was concerned about the risks involved. Commissioner Leak-McKenzie suggested holding a special meeting to discuss special events. Ms. Vause stated that discussion of special events could be added to the special meeting for adopting the asset management plan.

Commissioner Input

Commissioner Evans was upset that there was controversy over the Roy C concert when it turned out peaceful.

Manager’s 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. It has been very tight. This situation will improve later this month when we receive our first 2014 property tax check from Robeson County. The county had collected 41.47% of our 2014 taxes as of August 31st. Our auditor estimates our tax collection rate increased by 2% for FY 2014.

Mr. Kimothy Monroe has been busy with reorganization of the police department. He has worked out an agreement with Sherriff Sealey for county deputies to work part time for the town. Fifteen deputies have signed up so far.

Ms. Vause informed the board that a special meeting will need to be held before the end of the month to adopt the Asset Management Plan being developed by Jim Perry.

Announcements

Friday, September 19 – FHS Varsity Football vs. South View, AWAY, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 25 – FHS JV Football vs. St. Pauls, HOME, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, September 26 - After School Program, Hector MacLean Public Library, 4:00 p.m., Ages 6 & up. For more information, contact Lillian Blomely at 910-738-4859.

Friday, September 26 – FHS Varsity Football vs. St. Pauls, AWAY, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 2 – FHS JV Football vs. West Columbus, AWAY, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, October 3 – FHS Varsity Football vs. West Columbus, HOME, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 9 – FHS JV Football vs. East Columbus, HOME, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, October 10 – FHS Varsity Football vs. East Columbus, AWAY, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 11 – Fairmont Farmers Festival Pageant.

Thursday, October 16 – FHS JV Football vs. Red Springs, AWAY, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, October 17 – FHS Varsity Football vs. Red Springs, HOME, 7:30 p.m. HOMECOMING GAME.

Saturday, October 18 - Fairmont Farmers Festival.

Adjournment

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

Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC
Town Clerk

Special Meeting – September 29, 2014

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Monday, September 29, 2014 at 12:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were Wade Sealey, J.J. McCree, Carol Leak-McKenzie, 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 included Jim Perry, Jan Maynor, Jean Kline and several citizens.

Call to Order and Invocation

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

Approval of Agenda

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

Unfinished Business

Resolution 14-26 – Applying for CDBG grant for sewer rehabilitation

Town Manager Linda Vause stated this resolution is required for the CDBG grant application for the sewer rehabilitation project. Commissioner Sealey made a motion to adopt Resolution 14-26 – Applying for CDBG grant for sewer rehabilitation. 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.

Presentation and adoption of Asset Management Plan

Ms. Jean Kline, with the Lumber River Council of Governments, presented a slideshow on Fairmont's Asset Management Plan. An Asset Management Plan (AMP) describes how the town will manage the infrastructure assets of the drinking water and wastewater systems. It outlines maintenance, repair and replacement decisions that should be made and is a tool for combining technical, management and financial practices to ensure that the level of service required by the community is provided at the appropriate cost. The AMP is used for asset inventory and GASB accounting/auditing compliance, NCDENR compliance, improving operations and maintenance, future applications for state funds and updating job descriptions. The LRCOG found overall that the town's strengths are stable customer base, history of providing timely customer service, experienced staff and elected officials that have made difficult, but good, decisions for the utilities. The town's weaknesses are many assets are aged beyond their useful life, backlog of rehab and replacement needs and significant deferred maintenance and comparatively low user rates that do not generate the needed revenue to make the system more sustainable. Fairmont's sewer system has 64 inventoried assets. Of these, 29 (45%) are high risk/critical assets. Fairmont's water system has 47 inventoried assets. Of these, 36 (77%) are high risk/critical assets. Most of the water assets have not been replaced in the last 25 years and there are several assets that are 55 years and over which are still in service, including wells, which are in poor to fair condition. Current water and sewer rates are not sufficient to sustain the cost of repairs and replacements needed for both systems. Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt the Asset Management Plan. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Special Events discussion

Commissioner McCallum asked the board to consider setting up a special events/activities fund to generate revenue for the town. The revenue could be used for economic development and nuisance abatement. Having events in the park will attract people from out of town and could be used as a recruiting tool to bring entrepreneurs to Fairmont. Mrs. Vause questioned how many activities should be held a year in order to budget for staff payroll. Commissioners Sealey and Leak-McKenzie suggested forming a special events/activities committee.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:52 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC
Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – October 21, 2014

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, October 21, 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, Carol Leak-McKenzie, 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. Others in attendance included the Sarah Willets, 2014-2015 Fairmont Farmers Festival queens, their parents and several citizens.

Call to Order and Invocation

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

Mayor's Presentations

Mayor Townsend introduced the 2014-2015 Fairmont Farmers Festival Queens: Royal Ambassador Adriana Gay, Wee Miss KarLeigh Freeman, Little Miss Addyson Hunt, Tiny Miss Payton Gall, Junior Miss Madison Strickland, Teen Miss Margot Hunt, and Miss Yasmon Carter. Ambassador Hailey Hunt and Mini Ambassador Halona Locklear were unable to attend.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Evans asked to add saggy, baggy pants as item "c" under new business. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Sealey 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 Evans and seconded by Commissioner Leak-McKenzie, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following consent agenda item:

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, September 16, 2014 and Special Meeting, September 29, 2014.

Unfinished Business

Special Events

Mayor Townsend asked the board to make a decision about town sponsored special events. Commissioner Leak-McKenzie made a motion that the only town sponsored events should be the Fairmont Farmers Festival, Fantastic Fourth Fireworks and Twilight Christmas Parade and require any other events to get prior board approval two months in advance. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion. Commissioner McCallum disagreed, stating the May Day Festival was very successful and should be added as an annual event. Commissioner Sealey suggested 30 days prior approval for any new events. Commissioner McCallum made a motion to add an amendment to Commissioner Leak-McKenzie's original motion by adding the May Day Festival as an annual event and changing the time for approval of other events to 30 days. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 to 2 as follows:

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

The board then voted unanimously on the original motion amended to read that the only town sponsored events should be the Fairmont Farmers Festival, Fantastic Fourth Fireworks, May Day Festival and Twilight Christmas Parade and require any other events to get prior board approval 30 days in advance.

New Business

Resolution 14-27 – NCDOT Pedestrian Planning Grant

Mrs. Vause asked the board to consider applying for a \$28,800 NCDOT Pedestrian Planning Grant. This is not a project specific grant but will be used to develop a Comprehensive Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for the Town of Fairmont. The study will include public hearings to ask residents what they would like to see as far as walking trails, bike trails and sidewalks. The town will have a 10% local match which totals \$3,200.00. Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Resolution 14-27 – NCDOT Pedestrian Planning Grant. 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.

Removal of 501 Iona Street (Mercer House) from surplus property – request by Commissioner McLean

Commissioner McLean made a request to remove 501 Iona Street (Mercer House) from surplus property. She would like to turn the property into a temporary shelter for women and children. She is researching grants and has received favorable support for the project so far. However, the house is in need of extensive repair. Commissioner McCree clarified that the board is just voting to remove the house from surplus property and not agreeing to have any work done on it. Commissioner Evans made a motion to remove 501 Iona Street (Mercer House) from surplus property. Commissioner McCallum seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Evans request to ban saggy, baggy pants

Commissioner Evans wants the board to study banning “saggy, baggy pants” and suggested charging a small penalty fine for violators and giving the money to the Rosenwald Elementary School. He suggested Town Attorney Rob Price look into the legality of such an ordinance.

Mayor Input

Mayor Townsend suggested the board try and act more professional during board meetings.

Commissioner Input

Commissioner McCallum apologized for his outburst earlier in the meeting.

Commissioner Sealey thanked the town staff for their hard work putting on the Fairmont Farmers Festival.

Manager’s 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 payment from the Robeson County Tax Department for 2014 taxes. Current year taxes are now at 47% of the budgeted amount. The first half of our Powell Bill Allocation was received in September. As you can see from the attached Budget vs. Actual Report, most of the departments are on target for their budgets. Tax Department is at 47% but this is due to most of the county tax collection fee being collected in August and September. It should level out in October.

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Our current Sewer Rehab Project, Phase 1A, should be completed in October. This project should have been completed many months ago. The staffing changes at Hobbs Upchurch & Associates caused several delays. I hope to know about our current CDBG Sewer Rehab grant application soon. It was pretty obvious from our asset management report from the Lumber River Council of Governments that our water and sewer lines need a lot of repair.

The town staff, especially Jenny Larson and Ronnie Seals, has been very busy with preparing for the Farmers' Festival. This is one of those times that we can really feel the staff reductions in public works and administration. Everyone is pitching in to get the job done!

I will be out of the office from 12:00 noon, October 22nd thru October 29th. Jenny Larson can handle most situations that might arise. I will also be available by cell phone; but I may not be able to return calls as quickly as I like.

Announcements

Thursday, October 23 and Friday, October 24 - One Stop Early Voting, Fire Hall, 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Friday, October 24 and Saturday, October 25 - South Robeson Rescue Haunted Forest, 8:00 p.m. Admission \$7.00.

Thursday, October 30 and Friday, October 31 - One Stop Early Voting, Fire Hall, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Friday, October 31 – Teacher Workday, no school.

Friday, October 31 – FHS Varsity Football vs. South Columbus, HOME, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, October 31 - Halloween Trick or Treat hours, 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Mayor Townsend will be handing out candy on the front porch of Town Hall. Dr. Electrode will be handing out candy at the Border Belt Museum from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Friday, October 31 and Saturday, November 1 - South Robeson Rescue Haunted Forest, 8:00 p.m. Admission \$7.00.

Saturday, November 1 - Last day for One Stop Early Voting, Fire Hall, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 1 - Bethesda United Methodist Church Annual Bazaar & BBQ Plate Sale, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Plates are \$7.00 and will be sold starting at 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday, November 4 - Election Day, Fire Hall, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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

Tuesday, November 11 - Veteran's Day Social, 8:30 a.m., Border Belt Museum and Veteran's Day Program, 11:00 a.m., Heritage Center. Guest speaker Melvin Peterson.

Saturday, November 15 - Trinity United Methodist Church Food Fair, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 16 - Fairmont Woman's Club Chicken Bog, 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Fairmont Masonic Lodge on Gertrude Street, \$6.00 a plate.

Tuesday, November 18 - Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m. Town Hall Council Chambers.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC
Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – November 18, 2014

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, November 18, 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, Carol Leak-McKenzie, Amelia McLean, Terry Evans and Monte McCallum. Staff present included Town Manager Linda Vause, Town Attorney Rob Price, and Town Clerk Jenny Larson. Others in attendance included Sarah Willets, Andy Grimsley, Mary Bruce Grantham, Susie Swenson, Buzz Homer, Charlie Grantham, Melissa Lennon, Victoria Wallace, Gaines Grantham, Lois Baker, Sam Johnson, Butch Lennon, David Rich, 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.

Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance

Andy Grimsley, Women's Shelter

Mr. Andy Grimsley was concerned that a women's shelter would drop his property value.

Susie McDaniel Swenson, Women's Shelter

Mrs. Susie McDaniel Swenson lives near the Mercer House. She said the property is single family residential and hasn't been rezoned for a group home for abused women. She is concerned that this type of shelter will require an increased need for police, increase traffic in the area, and be a danger to the students at Fairmont Middle School.

Buzz Homer, Women's Shelter

Mr. Buzz Homer lives next to the Mercer House. He is concerned about leaving his wife home alone because of the violent people this type of home could draw.

Charlie Grantham, Women's Shelter

Mr. Charlie Grantham lives two houses down from the Mercer House. He pointed out that a group home is not allowed in a residential area. He added that any potential rezoning would require all property owners to be notified by certified mail.

Melissa Lennon, Women's Shelter

Mrs. Melissa Lennon was nervous for herself and her children since her husband travels a lot. Her biggest concern is the safety of the school.

Mary Bruce Grantham, Women's Shelter

Mrs. Mary Bruce Grantham was concerned about the abused women being stalked and the safety of the students at Fairmont Middle.

Mrs. Victoria Wallace, Women's Shelter

Mrs. Victoria Wallace lives across the street from the Mercer House. She suggested looking for a better place to have the shelter. The house has no parking, is completely rotten and infested with rats and roaches. She lives alone and is worried about the riff raff coming up and down Pittman Street, which is dark and needs a streetlight.

Mr. David Rich, Women's Shelter

Mr. David Rich's biggest concern was the location and the traffic. He stated there was no parking at the house.

Mr. Butch Lennon, Women's Shelter

Mr. Butch Lennon is concerned with the danger element that a shelter for abused women would draw as well as the school and traffic congestion.

Mr. Gaines Grantham, Women's Shelter

Mr. Gaines Grantham inspected the house for insurance purposes over two years ago. He said that it was uninsurable, uninhabitable and a fire hazard.

Mrs. Lois Baker – Pit bulls

Mrs. Lois Baker would like the town to follow up on the pit bull dogs in her neighborhood. She said the neighbors hid the dogs from animal control and she can still hear them.

Mr. Sam Johnson – Fairmont Rotary Club Auction

Mr. Sam Johnson invited the board to attend the Fairmont Rotary Club Auction on Tuesday, November 25 at 6:00 p.m. in the Heritage Center. Barbecue plates are \$8 and \$5 of the plate cost can go toward an auction purchase.

Consent Agenda

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

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, October 21, 2014.

Unfinished Business

Draft Ordinance on sagging clothing

Town Attorney Rob Price presented the following draft ordinance on sagging clothing:

ORDINANCE 14-158

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF FAIRMONT, ROBESON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, ADDING SECTION 132.05 TO CHAPTER 132, OFFENSES AGAINST PUBLIC PEACE AND ORDER, OF TITLE XIII, GENERAL OFFENSES, OF THE FAIRMONT CODE OF ORDINANCES

NOW THEREFORE, be it ordained by the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Fairmont, North Carolina, as follows:

Section 1. That Section 132.05 of Chapter 132, Offenses Against Public Peace and Order, of Title XIII, General Offenses, of the Fairmont Code of Ordinances, is hereby added to read in its entirety as follows:

“§ 132.05 Sagging Clothing.

It shall be unlawful for any person in any public place or in view of the public to wear pants, shorts, or a skirt more than 3 inches below the hip (crest of the Ilium) exposing the skin, undergarments or underwear. For the purpose of this section, the term “underwear” shall include any article of clothing worn under the outer garments and next to the skin. If an officer believes that a person is violating this section, the officer shall warn that person to comply with the ordinance. If the person complies, the warning shall be the only consequence for violation of this section. If a person continues to act in violation of this subsection after warning by an officer on the same day, that person shall be cited for violation of this subsection. Each day of activity in violation of this subsection shall be considered a separate and distinct offense.

The punishment for violation of this section shall be a fine of up to \$50.”

Section 2. That this ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

Mr. Price said the ordinance should withstand judicial scrutiny. He said there were only a handful of these ordinances in the country because it has been shot down in many places. The NAACP usually goes after these kinds of ordinances because of discrimination, civil rights infringement and violation of freedom of speech. Commissioner McCree asked if Chief Monroe had been consulted on the ordinance.

Town Manager Linda Vause was concerned that the officers would not have time to enforce it. Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Ordinance 14-158, Sagging Clothing but withdrew his motion in order to get advice from Chief Monroe. The ordinance was tabled until the December board meeting.

Women's Shelter update – Commissioner McLean

Commissioner McLean thanked the citizens for coming out tonight and showing their concern. She wanted to assure them that the house would not be used as a shelter for abused women or as a group home. She would like to see it used as temporary housing, 7 to 14 days, for low income women and children in need. Commissioner McLean said that anyone staying in the house would be screened first and people with criminal records or drug problems would not be allowed. Temporary housing would not violate the residential zoning of the property. Town Attorney Price said the temporary housing would be similar to the Salvation Army shelter in Fayetteville and the Lumberton Christian Care Center. He added that if the shelter were to be run by the town that it would have to be open to everyone. More research will have to be done before moving forward including contractor/rehab costs, answering zoning questions, conducting property line survey, who will run the shelter and who to donate the property to if it will be handled by a non-profit.

New Business

Set date for special meeting on proper board meeting procedure

Mayor Charles Townsend would like to schedule a special town board meeting to discuss proper board and meeting procedures. Jan Hester Maynor, Executive Director of the Lumber River Council of Governments, will facilitate the meeting. After discussion, the board agreed to set a special town board meeting to discuss proper board and meeting procedures for Monday, December 1 at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Town Hall.

Mayor Input

Mayor Townsend asked the board to move the December 16 regular board meeting to 5:00 p.m.

Mayor Townsend invited everyone to a candlelight prayer vigil on Wednesday, November 19 at 6:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church on North Main Street to pray for the families of the four teenagers recently killed in a car accident.

Mayor Townsend also invited everyone to a community Thanksgiving dinner on Saturday, November 22 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church on North Main Street.

Commissioner Input

Commissioner Leak-McKenzie was upset that food prices at Food Lion are higher in low income Robeson County but lower in wealthier places like Nags Head.

Commissioner McCallum suggested parking the town bus next to the ABC store to collect Christmas toys for needy kids.

Commissioner Evans suggested forming a committee to help bring industry to town.

Manager's Input

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

Our budget versus actual report shows our revenues and expenditures pretty much on target. John Masters, CPA with S. Preston Douglas & Associates is in the process of submitting our audit report to the North Carolina Local Government Commission. Mr. Masters hopes to have their approval soon so that he can present the audit to you in December. I will let you know now that our undesignated fund balance as of June 30, 2014 was extremely low. Fiscal year 2013-2014 was a year of many cuts and adjustments to staffing and services. I hope that 2014-2015 will be a better year due to these cuts.

We will have our annual Thanksgiving luncheon for the staff November 26, 2014 at Noon in the fire hall. This is a simple lunch of pizza and soft drinks. Town offices will close for the luncheon and remain closed until Monday, December 1st. Please join us if you can!

Announcements

Saturday, November 22 - Lumberton Christmas parade, 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, November 22 - Bone Marrow Drive in memory of Kenny Floyd, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., Fairmont Masonic Lodge on Gertrude Street. Sponsored by the Fairmont Woman's Club and the Order of the Eastern Star.

Saturday, November 22 - Photos with Santa, 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Borderbelt Museum. Discount coupons are available from any Farmers Festival Queen or Angie Lovin. Photos will be taken by Joann Lewis.

Wednesday, November 26 - Schools closed, teacher workday.

Thursday, November 27 - Friday, November 28 - Town offices and schools closed in observance of Thanksgiving.

Saturday, November 29 - Breakfast with Santa, sponsored by the HANDS Junior Civitan Club, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Fairmont Civitan Hut. Tickets are \$10.00 for 1 adult and 1 child. Each child after that is an additional \$2.00 each. If another adult comes that is an additional \$5.00.

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Friday, December 5 - Holiday on Main Twilight Christmas Parade at 6:00 p.m., downtown Fairmont followed by tree lighting ceremony in the community park.

Saturday, December 6 - Marietta Christmas Parade, 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, December 6 - Lake View Christmas Parade, 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 9 - North Carolina DMV Mobile Driver's License Unit, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Town Hall parking lot.

Tuesday, December 16 - Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Town Hall Council Chambers.

Monday, December 22, 2014 to January 2, 2015 - Schools closed for Christmas break.

Wednesday, December 23 to Friday, December 26 - Town offices closed in observance of Christmas.

Thursday, January 1, 2015 - Town office closed in observance of New Year's Day.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC
Town Clerk

Special Meeting – December 1, 2014

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Monday, December 1, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were Wade Sealey, J.J. McCree, Carol Leak-McKenzie, Amelia McLean, Terry Evans and Monte McCallum. Staff present were Town Manager Linda Vause and Town Clerk Jenny Larson. Jan Maynor of the LRCOG was also in attendance.

Call to Order and Invocation

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

Presentation by Jan Maynor on proper board and meeting procedures

Mrs. Jan Hester Maynor, Executive Director of the Lumber River Council of Governments, presented a PowerPoint on “Running a Meeting, Local Government Style”. She encouraged the board to use the book “Suggested Rules of Procedure for a City Council” written by Fleming Bell of the School of Government. The book details 34 Rules of Procedures for a local government board, which are based on Robert’s Rules of Order and North Carolina law. Mrs. Maynor gave an overview of the rules in the PowerPoint presentation. She pointed out that special meetings require 48 hours notice to the press and the board should only talk about what is specified in the special meeting notice. For regular meetings, she advised the board to be careful about adding items to the agenda because it could upset citizens, especially if the topic is controversial. She explained the purpose of public comment periods is to give citizens a chance to talk to the board and for the board to listen but not engage in conversation. Mrs. Maynor also went over public hearings, ordinances, motions, action, debate and the duty to vote. The board also has the power to establish and appoint committees and boards. She suggested the board refer to the town charter and code of ordinances to see what rules of procedure the town already follows.

Set date for board retreat

The board agreed to hold a retreat on Thursday, December 11 at 6:00 p.m. in the conference room of Gaston Sealey Company, Inc. on South Main Street.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC
Town Clerk

Board Retreat – December 11, 2014

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a board retreat on Thursday, December 11, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were J.J. McCree, Carol Leak-McKenzie, Amelia McLean, Terry Evans and Monte McCallum. Commissioner Wade Sealey was absent. Staff present were Town Manager Linda Vause and Town Clerk Jenny Larson.

Mayor Charles Townsend called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. and gave the invocation. Mayor Townsend stated the purpose of the retreat is for the board to share ideas to make Fairmont a better place for everybody.

Commissioner Leak-McKenzie suggested setting up economic development and recreation committees that would report back to the board with ideas and suggestions. Commissioner McLean stated there were many economic development resources available to the board including Dr. Patricia Mitchell of the Rural Economic Development Center. Commissioner McCallum is working with a youth self-improvement group. He added that hiring a grant writer would also be beneficial.

Commissioner McCallum suggested writing letters to delinquent taxpayers threatening foreclosure as well as charging for lot cutting. Commissioner McCallum proposed the town host A.U. tournaments and video game contests as fundraising ideas.

Commissioner Evans is worried about the letter from the Local Government Commission concerning the town's low fund balance. He talked with several officials and the LRCOG is willing to help craft a response letter.

Commissioners McLean and McCallum advised contacting the School of Government to present the board with the budget board game exercise that was part of the school for newly elected officials.

Commissioner McCallum asked about the possibility of extending sewer to East Side Park. Commissioner McCree suggested contacting Representative Garland Pierce to see if there is grant money available to extend the lines. Town Manager Linda Vause said it would be beneficial if the county were to bill sewer for the East Side Park residents since the town cannot block a sewer line for nonpayment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC
Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – December 16, 2014

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, December 16, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were Wade Sealey, J.J. McCree, Carol Leak-McKenzie, Terry Evans and Monte McCallum. Commissioner Amelia McLean and Town Attorney Rob Price were absent. Staff present included Town Manager Linda Vause, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals and Interim Police Chief Kim Monroe. Others in attendance included Sarah Willets, John Masters and several citizens.

Call to Order and Invocation

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

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 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 18, 2014 and Special Meeting, December 1, 2014.

Unfinished Business

Ordinance 14-158 – Sagging Clothing

Commissioner Evans asked to remove Ordinance 14-158, Sagging Clothing from the agenda and table it until the January meeting.

New Business

2013-2014 Audit Report – presented by John Masters of S. Preston Douglas & Associates.

Mr. John Masters, with S. Preston Douglas and Associates, presented the 2013-2014 audit report. 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 4.24%, which is below the state Local Government Commission's recommendation of 8%. The town's tax collection rate is 91%. Mr. Masters stated the town's garbage, water and sewer revenue are up and payroll costs are down. Mr. Masters commended the board for making the hard decision to eliminate retiree health insurance for new hires, which has reduced the town's OPEB liability.

Request to co-sponsor Fairmont Heritage Days by the Borderbelt Historical Society.

Mr. Larry C. Floyd, Jr., President of the Borderbelt Historical Society, wrote a letter asking the board to consider co-sponsoring Fairmont Heritage Days, scheduled for April 24-26, 2015. The museum would like the town to co-sponsor the event so it will be covered under the town's liability insurance. After no motion was made by the board, Mayor Townsend announced that the request was denied.

Mayor Input

Mayor Townsend wants the citizens to know that the town had made some cuts and is recovering and is on the path to being financially safe.

Commissioner Input

Commissioner Sealey commended Town Manager Linda Vause and her staff for their work in managing the town's finances and maintaining services without raising taxes or rates.

Commissioner Evans was concerned about the letter from the Local Government Commission.

Manager's Input

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

Included in your packet this month is our 2013-2014 audit along with the Local Government Commission's unit letter in response to the audit. As I stated in my email to everyone on November 25, 2014, some tough decisions will need to be made. We have made several cuts in the past few years. The budget for 2014-2015 is 15.5% less than the 2010-2011 budget and is 2.5% less than the 2013-2014 budget. I would like to trim our current budget even more. However, I am at a loss as to how to do this. These decisions need to be made by the board.

I had to amend the budget in several departments in the General Fund. This amendment is due to hiring a part time fire chief and overtime in the Public Buildings Department. I was able to transfer the funds from the Sanitation Department due to the savings in our current Waste Management Contract. I hope I will not have to ask for further budget amendments. However, there are some factors out of my control such as equipment failures. This amendment did not affect the total budget.

The department budget adjustments were done in accordance with the 2014-2015 Budget Ordinance. The following are the increased (decreased) budget amounts:

Public Buildings	\$5,990.00
Fire Department	5,850.00
Sanitation Department	(11,840.00)
Total:	\$ 0.00

The Public Works Monthly Report now includes a report on overtime. This will give a clearer picture of when overtime occurs.

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Town Offices and Public Works will close at Noon on Tuesday December 23rd. We will have a Christmas lunch at the Heritage Center and would love to have you attend. The offices will remain closed until Monday, December 29th. We will be closed January 1st for New Year's Day. We will also be closed January 2nd. This will not be a paid holiday but will come from employee's comp and/or vacation time. Public works will have an on-call person and I can normally be reached by cell phone if the need arises.

Announcements

Saturday, December 20 - Christmas Dinner, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Fairmont Fire Hall. Serving a warm meal and holiday cheer!

Monday, December 22, 2014 to January 2, 2015 - Schools closed for Christmas break.

Wednesday, December 24 to Friday, December 26 - Town offices closed in observance of Christmas.

Thursday, January 1 and Friday, January 2, 2015 - Town offices closed in observance of New Year's Day.

Friday, January 2 - Fairmont High School Basketball vs. East Columbus, 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 6 - Fairmont High School Basketball vs. Red Springs, 6:00 p.m.

Friday, January 16 - Fairmont High School Basketball vs. South Columbus, 6:00 p.m.

Monday, January 19 - Town Hall and schools closed in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Tuesday, January 20 - Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Council Chambers.

Tuesday, January 20 and Wednesday, January 21 – Schools closed, teacher workdays.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC
Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – January 20, 2015

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were Wade Sealey, J.J. McCree, Carol Leak-McKenzie, Terry Evans, Amelia McLean and Monte McCallum. Staff present included Town Manager Linda Vause, Town Attorney Rob Price, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals and Interim Police Chief Kim Monroe. Others in attendance included Sarah Willets, Dixon Ivey, John Jackson, Gaines Grantham, Gerald Homer 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 Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance

John Jackson

Mr. John Jackson commended the town employees for doing multiple duties. He asked how the fund balance had dropped from 30% when he was a commissioner to 4% now.

Gaines Grantham

Mr. Gaines Grantham spoke on the dilapidated condition of the Mercer House on Iona Street. He stated the house is standing open and there is water inside the house. He added that it would cost a fortune to bring the property up to code.

Gerald Homer

Mr. Gerald Homer was concerned about the Mercer House because it is next to his house. He would be afraid to leave his wife alone if it is turned into a shelter.

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 – Special Meeting, December 11, 2014 and Regular Meeting, December 16, 2014.

Unfinished Business

Ordinance 14-158 – Sagging Clothing

Commissioner Evans feels sagging clothing is a moral issue and that the culture needs to change in order to save our kids. Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Ordinance 14-158, Sagging Clothing. The motion died due to the lack of a second. Commissioner Sealey suggested tabling the ordinance to a later date to research how many towns in North Carolina have a similar law. Commissioner Leak-McKenzie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Discussion of Mercer property, 501 Iona Street.

Commissioner McLean requested discussion on the Mercer property located at 501 Iona Street. Robeson County Inspections Director Dixon Ivey made inspected the property and stated that there is a lot of structural damage and old wiring. The property would have to be brought up to commercial-residential code in order to be used as a halfway house. Commissioner McLean thanked Mr. Ivey for the information he provided. She wanted the citizens to know that things got blown out of proportion and that she never intended the house to be used for a battered women's shelter or a group home. She just wanted to discuss the future of the property since it has been sitting empty for several years with no buyers. Commissioner Evans made a motion to put the property back on the surplus property but his motion died for lack of a second. Commissioner Sealey suggested Town Manager Linda Vause and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals look into the cost of demolishing the house since the town may have a better chance of selling it as an empty lot.

New Business

LGC Response letter.

Town Manager Linda Vause presented the town's response letter to the Local Government Commission regarding the town's fiscal condition:

The General Fund budget for 2014-2015 is \$45,459.00 less than the 2013-2014 budget. The current year budget is \$75,391.00 less than the 2012-2013 budget. We made several changes in staffing for last year's budget. However, these changes were reflected in part of the year ended June 2014. The current year's budget is the first to reflect all of the changes we've made.

There was a 2.65% improvement in our tax collection rate for fiscal year ending June 2014 verses fiscal year 2013. Our staff continues to work closely with the Robeson County Tax Department. The manager requests and receives periodic accounts receivable reports from the county. Our staff reviews these reports so that we can assist in the collection process. Examples of this include the staff being aware of where the tax payer is employed and also, as you suggested, obtaining bank account information when payments are received in the Water/Sewer departments.

A new contract was negotiated with Waste Management, Inc. for solid waste services. The new contract reduces the monthly expense by about \$3,000.00. We also have obtained reductions in employee health insurance and telephone expenses.

We have eliminated a couple of service contracts in the sewer department. Our public works director has worked closely with the NC Rural Water Association. They provide several free services that we were unaware of. We allow the NCRWA to hold training classes in our community building. This is beneficial to the town in that our staff does not have to travel for the classes required for continuing education certifications.

Water and sewer maintenance and repairs continue to cause problems in the Water and Sewer Fund. We just completed a million dollar sewer rehab project and have just been approved for almost \$2,000,000.00 in grant funds to continue the rehabilitation project. The town is working with the Lumber River Council of Government on an asset management plan for the Water/Sewer Fund. Hopefully, Fairmont can do more maintenance than repairs in the future. We have two more payments to make to the NC Commerce Department for a sewer project with Harger Grounding and Lightning that did not provide the jobs that were proposed. This payment is approximately \$62,000.00 per year.

In summary, we feel we are making progress toward greater financial stability. As you know, we are constrained in revenue production due to our small population to which we must spread the costs of operation of our government. This is compounded by the high poverty rate and high unemployment rate of our town. We feel we have cut expenditures to the point it could be dangerous to cut further. Yet, we understand we have a fiduciary responsibility we must meet. We are enclosing our December financial reports. Close attention is paid to these reports each month. We have not amended our current year budget at this time. Some revenues are currently under budget as some departments are running close to budget. However, several revenues are over current projections and expenses are being monitored closely by the board and staff.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the letter. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of the letter is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Consider changing age of mobile homes allowed in town from 7 to 15 years old and allowing modular homes in all residential zoning districts.

Commissioner McCallum would like the board to consider changing the age of mobile homes allowed in town from 7 to 15 years old and allowing modular homes in all residential zoning districts. Mr. Dixon Ivey said the county is planning to revise their ordinance regarding age of mobile homes but currently allows any mobile home dated 1976 and newer with a HUD sticker. He stated that state law recognizes modular homes as the same as stick built homes and thus are allowed in any residential zoning district. Town Attorney Rob Price will research the process for changing the age of mobile homes allowed in town and will report back at the next meeting.

Set date for second annual May Day Fun Festival.

Commissioner McCallum suggested holding the second annual May Day Fun Festival on Saturday, May 2, 2015. Mrs. Vause recommended that the board pick a permanent date for the festival since the other town events have set dates, i.e. the third Saturday in October for the Farmers Festival. Commissioner Evans made a motion to set the first Saturday in May as the date for the annual May Day Fun Festival with May 2, 2015 being the date for this year's festival. Commissioner McCallum seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Discuss possible community clean-up schedule for second Saturday of each month.

Commissioner McCallum suggested scheduling a community clean-up for the second Saturday of each month, with each month targeting a different section of town. He hopes to involve the community by getting volunteers to help pick up trash. It was the consensus of the board to move forward with the community clean-up plans.

Mayor Input

Mayor Townsend announced that the RCMA meeting will be held on Thursday, January 29 in Proctorville with former Senator Michael Walters as the guest speaker.

Commissioner Input

Commissioners McCallum and Leak-McKenzie would like to see an increased police presence in the Old Field neighborhood after an elderly woman's home was recently shot up.

Manager's Input

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

December was a relatively quiet month. We received lots of good comments about the Twilight Christmas parade. Staff is already coming up with ideas to make the 2015 parade even better.

Phase 1A of our sewer rehab project is complete! Hopefully, we will receive the acceptance forms for the new CDBG grant from the NC Department of Commerce before our meeting on the 20th. The signing of these documents will be the first step in the new project. It will probably be next fiscal year before the project can actually begin. First, we will need to obtain engineering services and I am sure there will be legal work to be completed.

Former police detective Tina Rhodes Seals passed away January 5th. Detective Seals was the town's first female officer. I am sure you join me in extending our condolences to her family.

Department Head Reports

Police Department

Interim Police Chief Kim Monroe informed the board that he is making progress in the police department. He is in the process of hiring three veteran police officers to help train the department's younger officers. He has also purchased new car and body cameras for the officers.

Public Works Department

Public Works Director Ronnie Seals stated there have been some problems at the old sewer plant and the repairs could cost between \$7,000 and \$10,000.

Announcements

Friday, January 23 - Fairmont High School Basketball vs. St. Pauls, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 28 - Fairmont High School Basketball vs. West Bladen, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, February 6 - Fairmont High School Basketball vs. Whiteville, 6:00 p.m.

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

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

Thursday, February 12 - Robeson County Arts Council “Arts Cruising” presents a tribute to Joseph Mitchell, 5:30 p.m., The Stage.

Friday, February 13 - Fairmont High School Basketball vs. South Robeson, 6:00 p.m.

Monday, February 16 - Presidents Day, Schools Closed, Teacher Workday.

Tuesday, February 17 - Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Council Chambers

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC
Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – February 17, 2015

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were Wade Sealey, J.J. McCree, Carol Leak-McKenzie, Terry Evans, Amelia McLean and Monte McCallum. Staff present included Town Manager Linda Vause, Town Attorney Rob Price, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals and Interim Police Chief Kim Monroe. Others in attendance included Sarah Willets, Bill Lester, Kelly Johnson, Huel Faulk 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 with the addition of closed session personnel. Commissioner Leak-McKenzie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance

Huel Faulk - Budget

Mr. Huel Faulk commended the board for doing a good job. He would like to hear a budget summary of where we were in the past and where we are at now.

Consent Agenda

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

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, January 20, 2015.

Unfinished Business

Mobile Homes zoning code update

Town Attorney Rob Price has done extensive research and review of our code and determined that:

- Mr. Ivey is right, the Planning Board has to review any zoning amendment, but that is stated in Section 154.102 of our code.
- Neither the Town nor the County can regulate a mobile home's placement based upon age of the unit.
- Modular homes are not required to be treated as stick-built homes.
- Our code doesn't treat a mobile home as such if it is permanently attached to a foundation.

Based on those things, Mr. Price suggested that:

- The language regarding age of mobile homes be removed from the code without any of the amendment procedure as a simple matter of complying with state law.
- If the Board wants to regulate mobile homes which are on permanent foundations differently from any other home (which most towns do), we'll need to follow the amendment process, unless the Town wants to take the position that the foundation language was merely a matter of writer's error.
- No change is needed to our regulation of modular units vis-à-vis stick-built homes (but keep in mind that we are more restrictive with them than with mobile homes which are permanently attached).
- Since being more restrictive on modular housing would appear to be inappropriate, our code may have to be amended to treat them at least as well as mobile homes; so, we probably should change the code to require that mobile homes be permanently attached, rather than saying that mobile homes which are permanently attached are treated as stick-built homes (it doesn't literally say that, but that is the net effect).

Mr. Price asked if the Board would you like him to draft a motion for the Board to request the Planning Board to consider the matter or would they like him to prepare an Ordinance correcting the previous errors of law and writing. Commissioner Evans made a motion to have the town attorney prepare an ordinance correcting and clarifying the language regarding mobile homes in the town code. Commissioner McCallum seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

New Business

Audit contract for Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

Town Manager Linda Vause presented the audit contract for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 with S. Preston Douglas and Associates. The audit cost will be \$12,900 and the contract must also be approved by the Fairmont ABC Board. Commissioner Sealey made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 audit contract with S. Preston Douglas and Associates. Commissioner Leak-McKenzie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Request Robeson County to handle 911 addressing for the town.

Mrs. Vause presented the following information to the board:

We have had many problems with addresses within our borders. One of the worst streets is Industrial Drive. As I am sure most of you are aware, there are frequent problems with emergency services reaching the correct address. The house numbers are not in any consecutive order. This is just one of several streets with this problem.

I'm asking that you request the Robeson County Board of Commissioners and the Robeson County Tax/GIS Department to take care of 911 addressing for the Town of Fairmont. They currently handle all towns within the county with the exception of Red Springs and Pembroke. There is NO FEE for this service. We may have to deal with some address changes for our town, but I had rather deal with that than emergency services not reaching our citizens when they need it. We also experienced problems with the last municipal election due to incorrect addresses.

I respectfully ask your permission to formally request that the Robeson County Tax/GIS Department begin addressing services for the town immediately. If you approve this action, I will ask Mayor Charles Townsend to sign a letter and send it to the Robeson County Board of Commissioners for their approval.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to formally request that the Robeson County Tax/GIS Department begin handling 911 addressing for the Town of Fairmont immediately. Commissioner McLean seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Choose engineer for Administrative and Engineering services for CDBG Sewer Rehab Phase II.

Mrs. Vause presented the following information about choosing an engineer for administrative and engineering services for the CDBG Sewer Rehab Phase II Project:

The Town advertised for Requests for Proposal (RFPs) to provide administration and engineering services for the Phase II Sewer Rehab Project. Mayor Townsend, Public Works Director Ronnie Seals, Town Clerk Jenny Larson and I met to review the proposals.

Administrative Services

We received proposals from two firms: Martin-McGill, Inc. and LKC Engineering, PLLC. The scores were very close. However, LKC Engineering has more experience with CDBG projects and their staff is very familiar with Fairmont. The scores are as follows: Martin-McGill, Inc. 80 points and LKC Engineering 100 points. Our recommendation for administrative services is LKC Engineering, PLLC.

Engineering Services

We received proposals from four firms. We did not consider the proposal from Koonce, Noble & Associates, Inc. as they failed to follow instructions. They did not submit the appropriate number of packets as requested in the advertisement or follow the proposal guidelines. We reviewed proposals from The Wooten Company, McGill & Associates and LKC Engineering, PLLC. The total scores are as follows: The Wooten Company 65, McGill and Associates 80, and LKC Engineering 95. The Wooten Co. scored low because they did not address customer service in their proposal. McGill & Associates wrote the CDBG grant but LKC staff did the initial study for the sewer rehab project, is very familiar with Fairmont and has plenty of experience working with CDBG grants. Our recommendation for engineering services is LKC Engineering, PLLC.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to award administrative services for the CDBG Sewer Rehab Phase II project to LKC Engineering, PLLC. Commissioner Leak-McKenzie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to award engineering services for the CDBG Sewer Rehab Phase II project to LKC Engineering, PLLC. Commissioner Leak-McKenzie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Input

Mayor Townsend introduced Mr. Kelly Johnson as the new chairman of the Fairmont Farmers Festival. Mr. Johnson appreciates the confidence to continue the festival and looks forward to organizing it.

Commissioner Input

Commissioner McCallum would like to plan a summer concert series in park as a possible source of revenue for the town and is working on finding sponsors to help with expenses.

Commissioner Evans went on record to state that Town Manager Linda Vause was not to blame for the Harger CDBG repayment and that the blame should fall on the previous manager and mayor.

Manager's Input

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

We closed out the Sewer System Rehabilitation Phase I project in January. This project was funded by USDA Revenue Bonds and a Clean Water Management Trust Fund grant. This project should have been completed at least one year ago. The main culprit in the delay was the many staffing changes within the engineering firm that handled the grant.

We received our Letter of Intent to Fund from NCDENR for the CDBG-Infrastructure Grant for 2014. This grant is for our Sewer System Rehabilitation Phase II Project. The first step, attendance at the EA/PER Workshop has been completed. Request for engineering and administrative services for the grant were properly advertised in January.

The majority of the departments within the General Fund and the Water/Sewer Fund are at or within budget. The Fire Department is currently over budget, but is on track to complete the fiscal year within the budget. The annual fire payroll was completed in November. Public Buildings is over budget due to maintenance and repair and over-time; both of which are hard to control. I may have to request a budget amendment at the next board meeting. I will also present the budget calendar at the March meeting.

Closed Session – Personnel G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6).

Commissioner Sealey made a motion to go into closed session at 6:23 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 personnel as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6). Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

Commissioner Evans made a motion to come out of closed session at 6:30 p.m. Commissioner Leak-McKenzie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mayor Townsend announced that information was shared with the board but no action was taken in closed session.

Announcements

Wednesday, February 18 - Duke Energy is providing a Weatherization Assistance Program for low-income, elderly and handicapped residents. Applications for service will be taken on

Wednesday, February 18, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Town Hall. For further information call 910-223-0116 or visit <http://www.ccap-inc.org/housing>.

Saturday, February 28 - Book 'Em NC, 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., A.D. Lewis Auditorium, Robeson Community College.

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

Saturday, March 7 - Last day for baseball signup, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, Town Hall Courtroom.

Sunday, March 8 - Daylight Savings Time begins, move clocks ahead one hour.

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

Friday, March 13 - Schools closed for a teacher workday.

Friday, March 13 - After School Program, 4:00 p.m., Hector MacLean Public Library. Ages 6-12.

Page 6 – Regular Meeting, February 17, 2015

Saturday, March 14 - Fairmont is starting a community clean-up event to be held the second Saturday of each month and targeting a different neighborhood each month. Our first community clean-up date is Saturday, March 14 from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in the Old Field neighborhood followed by a hot dog lunch in the Fire Hall. Please make plans to volunteer and help make our town a clean place to live!

Tuesday, March 17 - Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Council Chambers.

Saturday, March 28 - Easter Egg Hunt for ages 0-12, 10:00 a.m., Fairmont Community Park.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC
Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – March 17, 2015

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, March 17, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were Wade Sealey, J.J. McCree, Carol Leak-McKenzie, Terry Evans, Amelia McLean and Monte McCallum. Staff present included Town Manager Linda Vause, Town Attorney Rob Price, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals. Others in attendance included Sarah Willets, Kelly Johnson, Ashley Berdeau, Fairmont Middle School Cheerleaders, Fairmont Middle School Battle of the Books Team, Fairmont High School Men's Basketball Team and several citizens.

Call to Order and Invocation

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

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of new business – abandoned/dilapidated property. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Presentations

Mayor Townsend recognized the Fairmont Middle School Cheerleaders for winning the Christmas Classic.

Mayor Townsend recognized the Fairmont Middle School Battle of the Books Team for winning first place in the 6, 7 & 8th grade division.

Mayor Townsend recognized the Fairmont High School Junior Varsity Basketball Team for finishing first in the Three Rivers Conference.

Mayor Townsend recognized Coach McNair and the Fairmont High School Varsity Men's Basketball Team for making it to the Eastern Regional Finals.

Mayor Townsend presented FHS Art Teacher Ashley Berdeau with a proclamation honoring Youth Art Month. A copy of the proclamation is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance

There was no public comment this month.

Consent Agenda

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

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, February 17, 2015.

Unfinished Business

Ordinance 15-158 – Amending Sections of Chapter 154, Zoning, of Title XV, Land Usage: Section 154.002, Definitions, and Section 154.010, Mobile Homes or Modular Homes.

Town Attorney Rob Price presented the following ordinance:

ORDINANCE 15-158

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF FAIRMONT, NORTH CAROLINA, AMENDING THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 154, ZONING, OF TITLE XV, LAND USAGE, OF THE FAIRMONT CODE OF ORDINANCES: SECTION 154.002, DEFINITIONS, AND SECTION 154.010, MOBILE HOMES OR MODULAR HOMES.

WHEREAS, the Town Attorney has informed the Board of Commissioners that the current language of the Town Code indicates that mobile homes which are permanently attached to a foundation are treated as if those mobile homes were stick-built homes, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners is certain that the language used was a writer’s error, because no reasonable Board of Commissioners would have intended the result that mobile homes might be treated the same as stick-built homes, and

WHEREAS, the Town Attorney has informed the Board of Commissioners that state law doesn’t allow local governments to regulate the zoning of mobile homes based upon the age of the mobile homes, yet the Town Code does just that, and

WHEREAS, the Town Attorney has informed the Board of Commissioners that the Code applies different standards to mobile homes which are on land not owned by the mobile home owner, which is a violation of equal protection provisions of the state and federal constitutions, and

WHEREAS, the Town Attorney has informed the Board of Commissioners that subparagraph (A)(7) of Section 154.010 is a duplicate of subparagraph (A)(6);

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Fairmont, North Carolina, as follows

Section 1. Section 154.002 DEFINITIONS, of Chapter 154, Zoning, of Title XV, Land Usage, of the Fairmont Code of Ordinances, is hereby amended so that the definition of the term “Mobile Home” shall read in its entirety as follows:

MOBILE HOME. A structure that consists of a single unit, or of two or three principle components (single-wide, double-wide or triple-wide, respectively) totally assembled at the factory and joined together at the building site; is designed so that the total structure, or principle component thereof can be transported on its own chassis; must be at least 50 feet long and 10 feet wide; is designed to be used as a dwelling and provides complete, independent living facilities for 1 family, including permanent provision for living, sleeping eating, cooking and sanitation, and is actually being used, or is held ready for use as a dwelling.

Section 2. Section 154.010, MOBILE HOMES OR MODULAR HOMES, of Title XV, Land Usage, of the Fairmont Code of Ordinances, is hereby amended by removing subparagraph (7) from Paragraph (A).

Section 3. Section 154.010, MOBILE HOMES OR MODULAR HOMES, of Title XV, Land Usage, of the Fairmont Code of Ordinances, is hereby amended so that paragraph (E) shall read in its entirety as follows:

(E) Inspection: The Fairmont Code Enforcement Officer or the Robeson County Building Inspector shall inspect each mobile home prior to placement in the Town to assure compliance with the requirements of the Code.

Section 4. Section 154.010, MOBILE HOMES OR MODULAR HOMES, of Title XV, Land Usage, of the Fairmont Code of Ordinances, is hereby further amended by removing paragraphs (D) and (F) in their entirety.

Section 5. This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED after first and only reading this 17th day of March, 2015.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Ordinance 15-158 – Amending Sections of Chapter 154, Zoning, of Title XV, Land Usage: Section 154.002, Definitions, and Section 154.010, Mobile Homes or Modular Homes. Commissioner McCallum seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of the ordinance is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

New Business

Abandoned/dilapidated property

Commissioner Evans would like Town Attorney Rob Price to look into abandoned and dilapidated properties and get advice from Robeson County. He would like the town to be able to tear down dilapidated homes and recoup the cost by selling the vacant lots. Commissioner Sealey said he would like to see hazardous buildings like the old Hi-Dollar Warehouse removed as well.

Commissioner Input

Commissioner McCallum presented a plan for a summer concert series to increase revenue for the town. The concert series will begin on May 30th and include Blues, Gospel, Country, R&B, and Jazz. The concerts will be paid for through sponsors, ticket sales and donations. The first concert will be by the band “Cameo” and their cost is \$5,000. Cost per ticket will be \$15 in advance and \$20 at the gate. The park easily holds 1,500 people. Five hundred people at \$15 a

ticket brings in \$7,500 and \$20 a ticket brings in \$10,000. Advertising will be done through sponsorship of Beasley Broadcasting 107.7. Any alcohol or food vending to be done through the town and to be collected for the town. With the right cooperation, this one show will pay for the rest of the concert series. The concert series should bring in a minimum increase of revenue of \$20,000 and provide major exposure to Fairmont.

Commissioner Evans announced that Sanderson Farms is coming to Robeson County, which will create many needed jobs.

Manager's Input

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

The weather in February created several problems in the water and sewer departments. At one point our sewer plant treated twice as much sewage as permitted for. The abundant water also caused sewage spills at a couple of manholes. The public works department worked many hours due to alarms at the lift stations. The NC Department of Natural Resources was properly notified of these situations. Fairmont was definitely not alone with these sewer related problems. They were pretty much state wide. Phase II of our Sewer Rehabilitation Project will help alleviate some of these problems in that storm water will be separated from sewage. We have also had a few water line breaks. This is normal in the winter when the temperature drops below freezing. Some of these breaks do not show up until the temperature rises and the lines thaw.

The department heads are working on the budget for fiscal year 2015-2016 and are being told to keep spending levels at or below this current year.

Closed Session – Personnel G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6).

Commissioner Sealey made a motion to go into closed session at 6:33 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 personnel as permitted under General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6). Commissioner Evans 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 7:01 p.m. Commissioner Leak-McKenzie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mayor Townsend announced that information was shared with the board but no action was taken in closed session.

Town Attorney Rob Price stated that Town Manager Linda Vause is currently serving as Town Manager/Finance Officer. She would like to change her title to Finance Officer/Acting Town Manager effective May 16, 2015. Commissioner McLean made a motion to change the title of Linda Vause to Finance Officer/Acting Town Manager effective May 16, 2015. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Announcements

Friday, March 20 - FHS Varsity Baseball vs. Red Springs, HOME, 5:00 p.m.

Friday, March 27 - FHS Varsity Baseball and Softball vs. South Columbus, HOME, 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 28 - Easter Egg Hunt for ages 0-12, 10:00 a.m., Fairmont Community Park.

Sunday, March 29 - Fairmont Women's Club dinner, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Fairmont Masonic Lodge. Grilled Chicken plates \$7.00.

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

Friday, April 3 - Town offices closed in observance of Good Friday.

Friday, April 3 - Friday, April 10 - Schools closed for Easter/Spring Break.

Saturday, April 11 - Fairmont is starting a community clean-up event to be held the second Saturday of each month and targeting a different neighborhood each month. Our second community clean-up date is Saturday, April 11 from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in the area of Leesville Road, Liberia Street and Griffin Apartments, followed by a hot dog lunch in the Fire Hall. Please make plans to volunteer and help make our town a clean place to live!

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

Friday, April 17 - After School Program, 4:00 p.m., Hector MacLean Public Library. Ages 6-12.

Friday, April 17 - FHS Varsity Baseball and Softball vs. East Columbus, HOME, 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 21 - Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Council Chambers.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC
Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – April 21, 2015

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were Wade Sealey, J.J. McCree, Carol Leak-McKenzie, Terry Evans, Amelia McLean and Monte McCallum. Staff present included Town Manager Linda Vause, Town Attorney Rob Price, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals. Others in attendance included Sarah Willets, Kelly Johnson, Jamie Burney, Chris Lewis, Elizabeth Epps, Fairmont Middle School Cheerleaders, Fairmont Middle School Junior Beta Club, Fairmont Middle School Band, Jim Perry, Charles Britt, Cindy Lowery, Helena McPhatter and several citizens.

Call to Order and Invocation

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

Approval of Agenda

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

Mayor Presentations

Mayor Townsend recognized Mr. Jamie Burney and the Fairmont Middle School Junior Beta Club for the awards they won at the State Beta Club Convention.

Mayor Townsend recognized Mr. Chris Lewis and the members of the Fairmont Middle School Band who participated in the Robeson All County Band. Mayor Townsend also recognized the Fairmont High School Band for participating in the Robeson All County Band.

Mayor Townsend recognized Ms. Elizabeth Epps and the Fairmont Middle School Cheerleaders for winning the National Championship at Canam.

Mayor Townsend read a proclamation honoring Mr. Horace Stacy for his contributions to the Robeson County Library Board of Trustees. A copy of the proclamation is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance

There was no public comment this month.

Consent Agenda

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

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, March 17, 2015.

Unfinished Business

Fairmont Farmers Festival report – Kelly Johnson

Fairmont Farmers Festival Chairman Kelly Johnson informed the board that the next festival committee meeting will be Tuesday, May 5 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall courtroom. He is still looking for volunteers and new ideas. He wants to bring new things to the festival that will appeal to everyone.

Water/Sewer Asset Management Plan update presentation – Jim Perry

Mr. Jim Perry of the Lumber River Council of Governments presented a PowerPoint and a set of paper maps detailing the work that went into mapping the town's water and sewer assets. The maps show where manholes are located, what type of pipe the line is made of and when it was laid, repaired, etc. Mr. Perry would like to do some additional map work that would assign identification numbers to all the water/sewer assets (line segments, manholes, fire hydrants, valves, etc.). The town's current contract with the LRCOG for the Asset Management Project is scheduled to end June 30, 2015. There is \$6,665.94 left to be spent on the original contract amount of \$15,790. Mr. Perry asked the board to extend the contract to December 31, 2015 to utilize the remaining funds and complete the additional map work. Commissioner Evans made a motion to extend the contract with the LRCOG for the Asset Management Project until December 31, 2015. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Robeson County 911 addressing report – Charles Britt

Mr. Charles Britt, Robeson County General Services Manager, informed the board of the difficulties involved with readdressing town streets. Citizens would have to change their mailing address on everything from insurance and bills to driver's licenses. The county is willing to do the work to correct the addressing problems but the town would have to handle the complaints from disgruntled residents. The town opted out of having the county handle 911 addressing years ago and annexations since then have caused addressing confusion in certain areas such as Happy Hill, Industrial Drive and Golf Course Road. Mr. Britt advised the town to adopt an addressing policy before proceeding. Ms. Helena McPhatter stated the Happy Hill section of town is a problem area and needs to be readdressed. Commissioner McLean suggested adopting an addressing policy/ordinance first and then meeting with the public before dealing with the troubled areas.

Dilapidated/Abandoned properties report – Town Attorney Rob Price

Town Attorney Rob Price gave a report on dilapidated and abandoned properties. The town can board up a building to make it safe from the outside. The town can direct and enforce a requirement to repair the property. Enforcement of a repair or demolition can be made by tax foreclosure, attachment or garnishment of bank accounts or wages, debt set-off collection and levy, seizure and sale of tangible personal property. The town could also ask the attorney to pursue a court order directing the property owner to abate the violation but this is costly and difficult to prove the property owner is in contempt of court. The town could enter into an interlocal agreement with the County to gain their assistance with code enforcement but no town in Robeson County currently has an agreement like this. There are currently no state funds available for demolition work. In the past, there have been voluntary demolition agreements where the owners would pay the town to demolish the buildings. However, the town currently does not have the equipment to demolish buildings plus it is expensive to identify and deal with asbestos. If a property is free of asbestos, the fire department may be willing to burn a structure as part of a training exercise. The town can also pursue “summary demolition” for properties that pose an imminent threat of personal injury. Commissioner Sealey had concerns about the Hi-Dollar Warehouse property located on South Main Street. It is made of wood and tin, has no asbestos, the roof is falling in, it is an eyesore with vagrants living in there as well as a safety hazard to children. Commissioner Evans made a motion to have Town Attorney Rob Price contact the owner of the Hi-Dollar Warehouse about tearing down the building. Commissioner McLean seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

New Business

Resolution 15-01 – Disposition of surplus police vehicles by sealed bid.

Town Manager Linda Vause presented the following resolution to the board:

Resolution 15-01
Authorizing the Sale of Certain Personal Property by Sealed Bid Auction

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Fairmont desires to dispose of certain surplus property of the Town;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners that:

1. The following described property is hereby declared to be surplus to the needs of the Town:

<u>Year/Make/Model</u>	<u>VIN Number</u>	<u>Mileage</u>	<u>Condition</u>	<u>Value</u>
2003 Ford	2FAFP71W03X110964	131,930	Poor	\$1,904.00
2003 Ford	2FAFP71W33X111008	141,500	Poor	\$1,738.00
2004 Chevrolet	2G1WF55KX49362275	150,000	Poor	\$1,592.00
2002 Ford	2FAFP71W63X111066	164,836	Poor	\$1,123.00
1990 Mitsubishi	JA3CU24X7LU042911	126,000	Poor	\$1,020.00

2. The Town Manager is authorized to receive on behalf of the Board of Commissioners sealed bids for the purchase of the above-described vehicles, being rolling stock of the Police Department. Receipt of bids shall be made on or before 12:00 noon on Thursday, May 7, 2015, at Town Hall, 421 South Main Street.

3. Terms of the sale shall be “sold as is” with no express or implied warranties; payment by cash or certified check shall be required by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, May 11, 2015; vehicle must be removed from the premises by 12:00 noon on Tuesday, May 12, 2015.

4. The highest bid, if it complies with the terms of sale, may be accepted by the Town Manager and the sale consummated.

5. The Town Clerk shall cause a notice of the sealed bid auction to be published in accordance with G.S. 160A-270(b).

PASSED AND ADOPTED after first and only reading this 21st day of April, 2015.

Town Attorney Rob Price suggested amending paragraph four to read “The highest bid for each vehicle” for clarification. Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Resolution 15-01 – Disposition of surplus police vehicles by sealed bid as amended. 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.

Commissioner Input

Commissioner Evans encouraged the board to send our state representatives letters encouraging them to raise the minimum wage.

Commissioner McCallum announced that Fairmont’s American Legion Post 548 will be accepting their charter on Saturday, April 25 at 1:00 p.m. in the courtroom of Town Hall.

Commissioner McCallum also invited everyone to attend the second annual May Day Fun Festival on Saturday, May 2.

Manager’s Input

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

I had to amend the budget in several departments in the General Fund and in the Water/Sewer Fund. These amendments are mainly due to budgeting health insurance. We were not aware of the “age banding” aspect of the Affordable Care Act. Premiums range from \$328.21 a month for a “young” employee to \$984.36 a month for an “older” employee. The Town is still paying about 10% less than we were paying last year. These changes do not affect the total budget.

The department budget adjustments were done in accordance with the 2014-2015 Budget Ordinance.

SECTION XI SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION - BUDGET OFFICER

A. The Budget Officer shall be authorized to reallocate departmental appropriations among the various OBJECTS of expenditures as she believes necessary.

B. The Budget Officer shall be authorized to execute interdepartmental transfers, in the same fund, not to exceed 10% of the appropriated monies for the department whose allocation is reduced. Notation of all such transfers shall be made to the Board on the next succeeding financial report.

C. She may make interfund loans for a period of not more than 60 days.

D. Interfund transfers, established in the budget document, may be accomplished without recourse to the board.

The following are the increased/decreased budget amounts:

GENERAL FUND

Administration	\$4,595.00
Clerk	(700.00)
Finance	(5,500.00)
Buildings	4,000.00
Police	(11,680.00)
Hwy Grant	(1,900.00)
Dispatch	4,680.00
Garage	<u>6,505.00</u>
BALANCE	\$ 0.00

WATER/SEWER FUND

Administration	\$ 19,800.00
Water Treatment	(12,020.00)
Water Maintenance	20.00
Sewer Maintenance	<u>(7,800.00)</u>
BALANCE	\$ 0.00

The Department heads are busy planning their 2015-2016 budget requests. They have been instructed to keep their requests to a minimum.

Mrs. Vause announced the Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant that Commissioner McLean has been working on has been awarded to the town by the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

Mrs. Vause is working with Duke Progress Energy to convert the streetlights to LEDs. The estimated cost is \$9,000 but will save the town \$12,000 a year in energy costs.

Mrs. Vause may have to amend the budget to purchase a new truck for Public Works Director Ronnie Seals. He was involved in a car accident that totaled his truck.

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Mrs. Vause introduced new Police Officer Robert Skipper and Detective Gyivan Collins-Jackson.

Announcements

Friday, April 24 - FHS Varsity Baseball and Softball vs. South Columbus, HOME, 6:00 p.m.

Friday, April 24 - Fairmont Heritage Days Country Dinner, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center. Music, Square Dancing and Storytelling. \$15 per plate or 2 for \$25.

Saturday, April 25 - Fairmont Heritage Days festival, 8:30 to 4:00 p.m. on the grounds of the Border Belt Museum featuring country, gospel & blue grass music, country arts and crafts, food, antique cars & farm equipment, pound cake baking contest and BBQ pig cookoff. From 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. you are invited to "Drag Main" from Town Hall to the Snak Shak.

Friday, May 1 - FHS Varsity Baseball vs. South Robeson, HOME, 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 2 - Second annual May Day Fun Festival.

Saturday, May 2 – No Senior Bingo this month.

Tuesday, May 5 and Thursday, May 7 - Breaking the Chains - The Party, 6:00 p.m., Heritage Center. Prizes, Free Food and Music. Public Welcome.

Tuesday, May 12 - NCDMV Mobile Driver's License Unit, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Town Hall parking lot.

Friday, May 15 - After School Program, 4:00 p.m., Hector MacLean Public Library. Ages 6-12.

Tuesday, May 19 - Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Council Chambers.

Monday, May 25 - Town offices and schools closed in observance of Memorial Day.

Tuesday, May 26 - Budget Workshop, 6:00 p.m. Council Chambers.

Friday, May 29 and Saturday, May 30 - Robeson County Relay for Life, Fairgrounds.

Saturday, May 30 - Cameo in concert, Fairmont Community Park. Gates open at 3:00 p.m. and the show begins at 5:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the gate

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC
Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – May 19, 2015

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, May 19, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were Wade Sealey, J.J. McCree, Carol Leak-McKenzie, Terry Evans, Amelia McLean and Monte McCallum. Staff present included Acting Town Manager Linda Vause, Town Attorney Rob Price, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals. Others in attendance included Sarah Willets, Vanessa Abernathy, Tyrone Watson and several citizens.

Call to Order and Invocation

Mayor Charles Townsend called the meeting to order at 6:01 and gave the invocation.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner McCallum asked for the addition of surplus property bids under new business. Commissioner Sealey made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance

Vanessa Abernathy, upcoming events at The Stage

Ms. Vanessa Abernathy, with The Stage, thanked the town for posting information about their events on the town sign and Facebook. Upcoming Wednesday morning lectures, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. will feature the topics of a living will and community gardens. They are also sponsoring movie nights on Tuesdays and are working with SWEY to host an open mic night on May 29 at 7:00 p.m.

Tyron Watson, Ministerial Alliance city wide revival

Mr. Tyron Watson represents the Fairmont Ministerial Alliance, whose purpose is to bring ministers together for the common goal to seek and save the lost. They are planning a city wide revival for June 11-13 and would appreciate the town's support in helping get the word out.

Consent Agenda

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

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, April 21, 2015

Unfinished Business

Dilapidated/Abandoned properties report – Town Attorney Rob Price

Town Attorney Rob Price sent a letter to Mr. Jadallah Abdil, owner of the Hi-Dollar Warehouse, asking for his plan and timeline to demolish the warehouse. Mr. Price gave Mr. Abdil until June 1 to reply. If he doesn't reply, Mr. Price will consult with staff to discuss alternatives to condemn and remove the warehouse.

New Business

Planning Board reappointments

Town Clerk Jenny Larson informed the board that the following Planning Board members' terms expire in May 2015: Dorothy McCormick, Fitzhugh Sealey and Ronald Hughes (out of town member). Mr. Fitzhugh Sealey and Mr. Ronald Hughes have agreed to serve again for another three year term expiring May 2018. Ms. Dorothy McCormick has asked not to be reappointed due to medical reasons. She was originally appointed in 1982 and has spent 33 years on the Planning Board. The board needs to appoint one in town member to replace Ms. McCormick. The new appointee will have a three year term expiring May 2018. Commissioner Evans nominated Mr. Melvin Ellison. There being no further nominations, Commissioner Sealey made a motion to appoint Melvin Ellison and reappoint Fitzhugh Sealey and Ronald Hughes to the Fairmont Planning Board for a three year term expiring May 2018. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Bids for 309/319 South Main Street

Commissioner McCallum presented a bid of \$500 each for 309 and 319 South Main Street from Mr. Legusta Floyd, Sr. with Fairmont Arts & Culture Center, LLC. Commissioner McCallum made a motion to advertise the offers for 309 and 319 South Main Street for upset bids. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Input

Commissioner Sealey said several citizens had come to him upset with the way Duke Energy is trimming the trees next to power lines.

Commissioner Evans is working with Representative Richard Hudson's office to try and get natural gas to Fairmont.

Commissioner McCallum thanked everyone who attended the May Day Fun Festival.

Commissioner Leak-McKenzie wanted to thank the police for interacting with the citizens in a positive manner during the May Day Fun Festival. She cited Officer Ryan Gibson as an example for participating in a line dance.

Mayor Input

Mayor Townsend invited everyone to the Memorial Day ceremony on Monday, May 25 at 12:00 noon in the Heritage Center.

Manager’s Input

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

April was a busy month for the budget process. Jenny Larson has been working on health insurance quotes along with helping me with property & liability and workers’ compensation insurance. Interim Police Chief Kimothy Monroe has been busy with trying to cut maintenance contracts where possible. Our contract with the company that handles our GPS services will be entirely cut by October 2015. Most of the contract will be eliminated this month. The cameras that are in the police vehicles have GPS capabilities. Public Works Director Ronnie Seals is continuing to look for a new (used) truck. Ronnie works in the General Fund, the Water/Sewer Fund and in the Powell Bill Fund. I am hopeful the vehicle can be purchased from these three funds without requiring a budget amendment.

All of the surplus vehicles have been sold. These sales generated \$1,675.00 for the Federal Drug Fund and \$1,400.00 for the General Fund. The money had to go back to the fund the vehicle was purchased from.

<u>Year/Make/Model</u>	<u>VIN Number</u>	<u>Sale Amount</u>	<u>Fund</u>
2003 Ford	2FAFP71W03X110964	\$ 325.00	General Fund
2003 Ford	2FAFP71W33X111008	\$ 275.00	Federal Drug Fund
2004 Chevrolet	2G1WF55KX49362275	\$ 800.00	Federal Drug Fund
2002 Ford	2FAFP71W63X111066	\$1,075.00	General Fund
1990 Mitsubishi	JA3CU24X7LU042911	\$ 600.00	Federal Drug Fund

Announcements

Monday, May 25 - Town offices and schools closed in observance of Memorial Day.

Tuesday, May 26 - Budget Workshop, 6:00 p.m. Council Chambers.

Friday, May 29 and Saturday, May 30 - Robeson County Relay for Life, Fairgrounds.

Saturday, May 30 - Cameo in concert, Fairmont Community Park. Gates open at 3:00 p.m. and the show begins at 5:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the gate.

Tuesday, June 2 - Budget Workshop, 6:00 p.m. Council Chambers.

Wednesday, June 10 - Last day of school.

Page 4 – Regular Meeting, May 19, 2015

Tuesday, June 16 -Regular Town Board meeting and Public Hearing on FY 2015-2016 Budget, 6:00 p.m. Council Chambers.

Thursday, June 18 - Budget Workshop, if necessary, 6:00 p.m. Council Chambers.

Tuesday, June 23 - Budget Workshop, if necessary, 6:00 p.m. Council Chambers.

Sunday, June 28 - Fairmont's Fantastic Fourth Fireworks.

Tuesday, June 30 - Special Meeting, Approval of Amended FY 2014-2015 Budget and adoption of FY 2015-2016 Budget, 6:00 p.m. Council Chambers.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC
Town Clerk

Budget Workshop – May 26, 2015

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a budget workshop on Tuesday, May 26, 2015 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 Acting Town Manager Linda Vause, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, and Interim Police Chief Kimothy Monroe.

Call to Order and Invocation

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

Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget Workshop

Town Manager Linda Vause presented the following information to the board about the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget:

There are no increases in fees or charges or any salary increases in the proposed 2015-2016 budget.

GENERAL FUND

Last year's tax valuation for real, personal and public utility properties was \$93,217,439.00. We have not received the current valuation from the county yet. Our tax rate of .73 per hundred remains the same. The amount billed will be approximately \$680,487.30. I estimate a 91% collection rate for total estimated revenue of \$620,000.00. This is subject to increase and or decrease depending on the values from the county. State revenues were estimated using the NC League of Municipalities' estimates and past history. I have projected a 6% increase in sales tax. The League is estimating a 4% increase. However, I under estimated sales tax revenue for 2014-2015 by 6%. I prefer giving a conservative estimate for this revenue source. There is an anticipated 1% decrease in video programming tax, so I decreased my estimate by 4%. The League is estimating a 2% increase in Utilities Franchise Tax but I increased our amount to the current year's actual. Privilege License Tax has been eliminated in North Carolina. The \$200.00 budgeted in that line item is for beer and wine license tax.

Our health insurance is increasing by 7.5% but it is still the best rate we can find. Our workers' compensation insurance is increasing by about 25% because of our claims experience rating for the past two years. This is really down-heartening as we had gotten our rates down in the prior five years.

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

Administration/Finance: We have budgeted \$26,650.00 for one half of the fiscal year for a town manager. This amount is assuming a manager would not begin employment until much later in the year. One possibility could be the employment of a part time manager, which would save on salary and benefits. Once a manager is hired, the salary line item in the Finance Department would be reduced.

Police Department: Interim Police Chief Kimothy Monroe requested \$20,000.00 for the purchase of a used vehicle for when we hire a full time chief. Mr. Monroe has agreed to stay with us for a while longer. We are saving money by continuing to staff with him. His rate of pay is less and we do not have to pay for any benefits. We will make our last payment for the Dodge Chargers in 2015-2016. The Town will need to plan for the purchase of new police vehicles in the next couple of years.

Fire Department: The last payment for the Volvo fire truck will be made in 2015-2016. We increased the Fire Department's budget to include turn-out gear. Turn-out gear is only good for so many years, much like police bullet-proof vests.

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. We did include capital outlay in the Powell Bill for equipment purchase. Only equipment used specifically for streets can be paid for out of Powell Bill funds.

Sanitation Department: We have once again requested \$30,000.00 for chipping of the landfill. This is an area that NCDENR inspects annually. We need to plan for this each year. There is also \$15,000.00 in capital outlay. This is for the purchase of a used truck.

WATER/SEWER FUND

Water/Sewer Administration: There are no increases in Water/Sewer Administration other than health insurance and workers' compensation.

Water Treatment Department: The request for \$10,000.00 for a well casing is included again this year. There is also \$20,000.00 in capital outlay for the replacement of the Andover System. This monitors the water levels in the wells. Our current system is so old that it is difficult to find parts for repair.

Water Maintenance Department: This department is much the same as Water/Sewer Administration. Ronnie Seals requested \$135,000.00 for a new backhoe. It is NOT included in this budget. The last payment for the flusher truck will be made this fall. That will be a good time to explore financing options for equipment needed in public works.

Sewer Treatment Department: The budget includes funds to do maintenance and repairs to the chlorine room.

The next budget workshop is scheduled for June 2nd and we will present a budget with any changes you propose at that meeting. I am required by law to present you, the media and the public with a balanced budget by June 1, 2015. My plan is to do this on May 29, 2015. Changes to the budget can be made up until June 30, 2015. State law mandates a final balanced budget before July 1.

Commissioner McCree was concerned about the \$20,000 budgeted for the sale of fixed assets. The town always projects a high amount for revenue that never comes in at the end of the year. He stated that holding off on hiring a manager and keeping a part time police chief would save the town money and makeup for any shortfalls at the end of the next budget year. Commissioner Evans suggested contacting the LRCOG for assistance in taking some of the burden off Mrs. Vause. Commissioner McCree also suggested increasing the amount budgeted for nuisance abatement so the town can try to remove at least one or two dilapidated properties in the coming year.

It was the consensus of the board to cancel the budget workshop scheduled for June 2 and continue the budget discussion at the regular town board meeting on June 16.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC
Town Clerk

Regular Meeting – June 16, 2015

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, June 16, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were Wade Sealey, J.J. McCree, Carol Leak-McKenzie, Terry Evans and Monte McCallum. Commissioner Amelia McLean was absent due to illness. Staff present included Acting Town Manager Linda Vause, Town Attorney Rob Price, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals. Others in attendance included Sarah Willets, and several citizens.

Call to Order and Invocation

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

Public Hearing – Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget

Commissioner Sealey made a motion to go into public hearing at 6:01 p.m. to discuss the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget. Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Acting Town Manager Linda Vause presented the following information on the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget:

The proposed 2015-2016 budget for the Town of Fairmont is enclosed. There are no increases in fees or charges in this budget. This budget proposal is much the same as last year.

GENERAL FUND

The most current estimated value for real, personal and public utility properties is \$93,217,439.00. Our tax rate of .73 per hundred remains the same. The amount billed will be approximately \$680,487.30. I estimate a 91% collection rate for a total estimated revenue of \$620,000.00. This is subject to increase and or decrease depending on the values from the county. State revenues were estimated using the NC League of Municipalities' estimates and past history. I have projected a 6% increase in sales tax. The League is estimating a 4% increase. However, I under estimated sales tax revenue for 2014-2015 by 6%. I prefer giving a conservative estimate for this revenue source. There is an anticipated 1% decrease in video programming tax, so I decreased my estimate by 4%. The League is estimating a 2% increase in Utilities Franchise Tax but I increased our amount to the current year's actual. Privilege License Tax has been eliminated in North Carolina. The \$200.00 budgeted in that line item is for beer and wine license tax.

Our health insurance is increasing by 7.5% but it is still the best rate we can find. Our workers' compensation insurance is increasing by about 25% because of our claims experience rating for the past two years. This is really down-heartening as we had gotten our rates down in the prior five years.

Administration/Finance: We have budgeted \$26,650.00 for one half of the fiscal year for a town manager. This amount is assuming a manager would not begin employment until much later in the year. One possibility could be the employment of a part time manager, which would save on salary and benefits. Once a manager is hired, the salary line item in the Finance Department would be reduced.

Planning/Codes & Zoning: We have included \$10,000.00 in the nuisance abatement line item so we can begin demolition of dilapidated properties.

Police Department: Interim Chief Kimothy Monroe has agreed to stay with us for a while longer. We are saving money by continuing to staff with him. His rate of pay is less and we do not have to pay for any benefits. We will make our last payment for the Dodge Chargers in 2015-2016. The Town will need to plan for the purchase of new police vehicles in the next couple of years.

Fire Department: The last payment for the Volvo fire truck will be made in 2015-2016. We increased the Fire Department's budget to include turn-out gear. Turn-out gear is only good for so many years, much like police bullet-proof vests.

Sanitation Department: We have once again requested \$30,000.00 for chipping of the landfill. This is an area that NCDENR inspects annually. We need to plan for this each year. There is also \$15,000.00 in capital outlay. This is for the purchase of a used truck.

The total General Fund budget is \$1,756,630.00. This is a reduction of \$7,330.00 from the 2014-2015 budget and is \$38,294.00 less than the 2013-2014 budget.

WATER/SEWER FUND

Water/Sewer Administration: There are no increases in Water/Sewer Administration other than health insurance and workers' compensation.

Water Treatment Department: The request for \$10,000.00 for a well casing is included again this year. There is also \$20,000.00 in capital outlay for the replacement of the Andover System. This monitors the water levels in the wells. Our current system is so old that it is difficult to find parts for repair.

Water Maintenance Department: This department is much the same as Water/Sewer Administration. The last payment for the flusher truck will be made this fall. That will be a good time to explore financing options for equipment needed in public works.

Sewer Treatment Department: The budget includes funds to do maintenance and repairs to the chlorine room.

The Water/Sewer Fund budget is for \$1,119,600.00. This is a reduction of \$9,500.00 from the 2014-2015 budget and \$38,294.00 less than the 2013-2014 budget.

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 Sealey made a motion to come out of public hearing at 6:10 p.m. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Leak-McKenzie made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Sealey 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 Evans and seconded by Commissioner Sealey, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following consent agenda items:

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, May 19, 2015 and Budget Workshop, May 26, 2015.
- b. Resolution 15-02 – Fairmont Arts offer for 309 South Main Street.
- c. Resolution 15-03 – Fairmont Arts offer for 319 South Main Street.

Copies of the signed resolutions are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Unfinished Business

Warehouse removal report – Town Attorney Rob Price

Mr. Price has had no response to the letter he wrote to the owner of the Hi-Dollar warehouse. Mr. Price plans to determine what assets the property owner has and then talk to town staff on how best to proceed.

New Business

Ratify CDBG Sewer Infrastructure Grant Contract, Project 14-I-2657.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to ratify the CDBG Sewer Infrastructure Grant Contract for Project 14-I-2657 signed by Mayor Charles Townsend on June 10, 2015. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of this contract is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Resolution 15-04 – Requisition and Check Signatures and Administration of the Town of Fairmont CDBG Project 14-I-2657.

Mrs. Vause asked the board to approve Mayor Townsend, Town Clerk Jenny Larson and herself as the authorized signatures for the CDBG Sewer Infrastructure Grant Project 14-I-2657. Commissioner Sealey made a motion to adopt Resolution 15-04 – Requisition and Check Signatures and Administration of the Town of Fairmont CDBG Project 14-I-2657. Commissioner McCree 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.

Agreement – NCDOT Bike & Pedestrian Planning Grant.

Mrs. Vause asked the board to approve the agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation for the Bike & Pedestrian Planning Grant. A motion was made and seconded to approve the NCDOT Bike and Pedestrian Planning Grant agreement and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of the agreement is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Agreement to continue participation in the North Carolina Small Town Main Street Program 2015-2016.

Mayor Townsend asked the board to approve the agreement to continue participation in the North Carolina Small Town Main Street Program 2015-2016. Mayor Townsend will serve as Small Town Main Street Coordinator and Commissioner Leak-McKenzie will serve as the Small Town Main Street Committee Chair. Commissioner Leak-McKenzie made a motion to approve the agreement to continue participation in the North Carolina Small Town Main Street Program 2015-2016. Commissioner McCallum seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Input

Mayor Townsend is pleased with the town's budget. The town is not using a fund balance this year but putting money in contingency to increase the town's fund balance percentage and please the state.

Mayor Townsend would like to get a Main Street committee together to work on ideas to improve our downtown. He said it would take a public/private collaboration, time and persistence to bring life back to downtown.

Mayor Townsend invited everyone to attend the annual Fairmont Fantastic Fourth Fireworks on June 28.

Commissioner Input

Commissioner Evans thanked Commissioner McCallum for his work in organizing the Cameo concert.

Commissioner McCallum noticed that many area fire departments recently received equipment grants and wondered why Fairmont did not. Mrs. Vause replied that the town did not apply because it requires a 50/50 match.

Manager's Input

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

I am very pleased with the cash balance in the Water/Sewer Fund as of May 31, 2015. We closed the month with a cash balance of \$121,290.29. This was the balance after bond payments totaling \$181,457.00 were made. The Water/Sewer Fund cash balance as of May 31, 2014 was \$31,075.07. The General Fund also has a much healthier balance. The balance May 31, 2015 was \$164,069.07 versus \$20,501.21 for May 31, 2014.

Ronnie Seals will soon have a new truck to drive. We are purchasing a 2012 GMC Sierra 1500. This truck has about 50,000 miles on it and the purchase price is \$24,000.00. Ronnie has checked out the truck and is pleased with it. We have already purchased the tool box and necessary emergency lights for the truck. The truck will be paid for with funds from the General Fund, Water/Sewer Fund and Powell Bill Fund. This is completely legitimate as Ronnie works in all three funds.

We currently have budget workshops scheduled for June 18th and June 23rd. These workshops can be cancelled if you so choose. Approval of the 2014-2015 Amended Budget Ordinance and the 2015-2016 Budget Ordinance is scheduled for June 30th.

The board agreed by consensus not to hold any further budget workshops.

Announcements

Thursday, June 18 - Budget Workshop, if necessary, 6:00 p.m. Council Chambers.

Tuesday, June 23 - Budget Workshop, if necessary, 6:00 p.m. Council Chambers.

Sunday, June 28 - Fairmont's Fantastic Fourth Fireworks.

Tuesday, June 30 - Special Meeting, Approval of Amended FY 2014-2015 Budget and adoption of FY 2015-2016 Budget, 6:00 p.m. Council Chambers.

Friday, July 3 - Town offices closed in observance of Independence Day.

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

Saturday, July 18 - Lumber River Day Festival, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Lumber River State Park.

Tuesday, July 21 - Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Council Chambers.

Saturday, July 25 - Project Hope "Cry Out for the Youth", 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Fairmont Community Park. Food and Music.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC
Town Clerk

Special Meeting – June 30, 2015
Budget Adoption

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Tuesday, June 30, 2015 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 Acting 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 and gave the invocation.

Administrative Matters

Resolution 15-05 – Accepting Bid and Authorizing Sale of Real Property – Tax Parcel 300801008, 309 South Main Street.

Mrs. Vause announced there were no upset bids for the 309 South Main Street property. Fairmont Arts and Culture Center, LLC bid \$500. Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Resolution 15-05 – Accepting Bid and Authorizing Sale of Real Property – Tax Parcel 300801008, 309 South Main Street. Commissioner McCallum 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 15-06 – Accepting Bid and Authorizing Sale of Real Property – Tax Parcel 300801011, 319 South Main Street.

Mrs. Vause announced there were no upset bids for the 319 South Main Street property. Fairmont Arts and Culture Center, LLC bid \$500. Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Resolution 15-06 – Accepting Bid and Authorizing Sale of Real Property – Tax Parcel 300801011, 319 South Main Street. Commissioner McCallum 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.

Write Off Uncollected Water Accounts for 2014-2015 in the amount of \$3,763.78

Commissioner Evans made a motion to write off uncollected water accounts for 2014 - 2015 in the amount of \$3,763.78. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of the 2014-2015 uncollected water accounts is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Write Off 2004 Property Taxes in the amount of \$1,632.17.

Commissioner Sealey made a motion to write off the 2004 property taxes in the amount of \$1,632.17. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of the 2004 property tax accounts are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Ordinance 15-159 - Amended Fiscal Year Budget 2014-2015

Commissioner Leak-McKenzie made a motion to adopt Ordinance 15-159 - Amended Fiscal Year Budget 2014-2015 in the amount of \$3,437,809.70. Commissioner Sealey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of the 2014-2015 amended budget ordinance is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Ordinance 15-160 - Fiscal Year Budget 2015-2016

Mrs. Vause added \$10,000 to nuisance abatement to the budget since the last meeting. The budget keeps the same tax rate and fees. Commissioner Evans made a motion to adopt Ordinance 15-160 - Fiscal Year Budget 2015-2016 in the amount of \$3,009,755.00. Commissioner Leak-McKenzie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of the 2015-2016 budget ordinance is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Discuss possible cancellation of July regular board meeting

Mayor Townsend asked the board to consider cancelling the July regular board meeting. Commissioner Evans made a motion to cancel the July regular board meeting. Commissioner Leak-McKenzie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Townsend asked the board to appoint an Economic Development Committee. He asked each board member to contact a citizen who would be willing to serve and report back at the August board meeting. Commissioner Sealey suggested picking citizens who have business sense and are willing to meet with local legislators.

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

Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC
Town Clerk