

TOWN OF MAXTON  
NORTH CAROLINA

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MARCH 13, 2007

The Maxton Board of Commissioners met with the following members present:

Mayor Lillie McKoy  
Mayor ProTem Geraldine McLaurin  
Commissioner Gladys Dean  
Commissioner Patsy Hamer  
Commissioner Sallie McLean  
Commissioner Ray Oxendine

Staff present: Interim Town Manager Katrina Tatum, Interim Clerk Jacqueline Roberson, Police Chief Paul McDowell, Wastewater/Water/Public Works Director Combs and Town Attorney Jessica Locklear.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Lillie McKoy declared a quorum present and called the March 13, 2007 work session meeting of the Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Hamer gave the invocation.

**WORK SESSION**

**1. Commissioner McLaurin motioned to add Jim Perry, LRCOG to Work Session.**

**Commissioner Hamer seconded. The vote was unanimous.** Mr. Perry stated that he was aware that the Town was interested in starting the permanent manager search. Stating that he will go as far as the Town wants him to go. Reference checks, background checks, etc. His interest is to make sure Maxton has a good manager. Mr. Perry stated that he will wait to hear from the Town. Mayor McKoy asked if there were any questions for Mr. Perry. There were no questions.

**2. Reschedule Annual Retreat:**

Mayor McKoy apologized and requested that the Board schedule the annual retreat to be held in April. The Lumber River Council of Governments' Informational/Board Meeting was already scheduled and she did not notice the conflict. As a Board member it was important that the meeting be held on March 15<sup>th</sup>. She also felt that this would allow staff more time to prepare their goals. It was the consensus of the Board that the retreat be held April 26<sup>th</sup> – April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007 to begin on Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

**3. Maxton Resource Center Fees:**

Mayor McKoy asked that the rates of the Maxton Resource Center be reviewed. Typically when the rooms are rented for the base rates and no additional fee is added for the use of the kitchen, the kitchen is still used. Mayor McKoy is recommended that the rates be increased in order to accommodate the use of the kitchen. Mayor McKoy recommended the fee of \$175.00 for the whole building without the use of the computer room. (The lobby, bathroom, two rooms and the kitchen).

**4. 2006-2007 Budget Ordinance - Correction**

Interim Manager Tatum reported that reviews of the 2006-2007 Ordinance showed some discrepancies that must be corrected. Some of the figures indicated in the approved ordinance reflect figures from the proposed budget, not the approved budget. The Powell Bill's budget approved ordinance figure and the approved expenditure figure reflected different figures. The figures should balance.

**5. STREET LIGHT FEES – ELM, AUSTIN AND FLORENCE STREETS**

Interim Manager Tatum stated that at last month's meeting the Board voted to approve the 17 locations on Elm, Austin and Florence Streets identified to be in need of street lights by Progress Energy of the Carolinas staff. At that time she was requested to render erection rates and monthly fees for the new lights. Attached is the breakdown of fees in the Street Lighting Service Schedule SLS8. According to the Progress Energy staff, most jurisdictions are replacing and

installing units of 16,000 lumen (this is a measure of foot candles, which is a reflection of how much light is hitting the ground) units or higher. If the 16,000 lumen is selected, Sodium Vapor units at a cost of \$12.25 per month will be installed. If the 20,000 lumen is selected, Metal Halide Units will be installed which are considered to be the better units. She stated that the town currently has either 7,000 lumen Mercury Vapor units or 9,500 lumen Sodium Vapor units. Most towns elect to install 16,000 lumen units. Please note that additional monthly erection fee of \$1.48 for new poles. Commissioner Dean expressed concern about the difference between the 16,000 lumens and asked if there were cities that could be visited at night. Interim Manager Tatum stated that it is double of what we have now. Commissioner Oxendine asked for Progress Energy's recommendation. Ms. Tatum replied, 16,000 lumens. Commissioner Hamer asked about the light posts. Ms. Tatum replied, there is a monthly erection fee for the poles. Commissioner McLean stated that the highest we are hearing is 20,000 lumen and 16,000 is not far from 20,000. Commissioner Dean stated that when the study was done before that there was a light every three or four poles. Commissioner McLaurin stated that we have updated beyond our ordinance. Ms. Tatum replied that there were some areas that were not upgraded to ordinance.

## **6. GREASE ORDINANCE**

Interim Manager Tatum stated that in 2006, the Department of Environmental Health and Natural Resources mandated that Grease Ordinances be adopted in all towns managing wastewater facilities. One of the primary reasons for this mandate is that it costs a town a considerable amount of money to treat oil wastewater. It also increases the risk of oil and grease contamination of the streams and lakes. In addition, it can damage your wastewater equipment. In order to properly administering the ordinance DEHNR required that surveys be done for facilities likely to generate an excess of grease or oil. An ordinance has been drafted for Board approval. Once adopted, the grease and oil producing wastewater customers will have one year to comply with the requirements. Commissioner Dean expressed concern about the expense to homeowners. Ms. Tatum said that most customers of the ordinance will not be homeowners. Mayor McKoy stated that she remembers a discussion in the past concerning garbage disposers. Ms. Tatum stated that most of the trouble is in large complexes and that she has never seen enforcement on homeowners. Commissioner Dean stated that oil being put down the drain was a concern. Commissioner McLean stated that the citizens were urged not to put grease down their drains.

## **7. TOWN OF MCDONALD – PETITION TO BECOME A LRCOG MEMBER GOVERNMENT**

Interim Manager Tatum stated that the Town of McDonald has petitioned the Lumber River Council of Governments to become a member government effective May 1, 2007. All existing Member Governments must vote to accept the petition of any entity wishing to become a Member Government. A majority vote to accept or reject a petition is the deciding factor.

## **8. LONG TERM DEBT ANALYSIS**

Interim Manager Tatum stated that it is very important for a governing body to be aware of their long term debt obligations. It allows the Board to make informed decisions when obligating tax dollars and user fees. It also important to understand what the acceptable standard of long term debt obligation is for a town. Maxton's long term debt obligation going into fiscal year 2007-2008 is \$706,275. According to appropriate calculations that determine acceptable levels of long term debt, the town can legally borrow up to \$5,873,951.88 more if it is faced with a drastic need. Ms. Tatum said that prior to any decision to borrow on a long term basis; the town would

need to determine where the funds will come from to cover the debt. It is preferable to have little or no long term debt other than bond debt. A town's credit status is calculated considering existing debt. She asked this Board to keep in mind that each Board that makes a decision to borrow on a long term basis is obligating that debt to future generations of tax payers. She stated that there are some alternatives to spending under a long term debt basis. One example is purchasing demonstration cars or repossessed cars that remain under warranty as opposed to factory issue vehicles. Purchase of these vehicles can result in a savings of \$10,000 or more per vehicle while the vehicle is under partial or full warranty. In addition, since the Highway Patrol is required to retire vehicles after a certain mileage is achieved, after which they are declared surplus, municipalities can purchase these vehicles. While the Highway Patrol vehicles are not under warranty, many are in excellent condition. The six new vehicles approved for purchase in 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 cost approximately \$150,000 plus interest. If the better Highway Patrol vehicles were purchased in the same number, the cost would have been approximately \$54,000 with no additional costs other than vehicle preparation. She informed that Board that a list of your long-term debt is included the attachments.

#### **9. MOSQUITO GRANT**

Interim Manager Tatum informed the Board that the town sprays for mosquitoes annually. The Board has the option of using exclusively town funds or getting assistance from the State Aid for Mosquito Control. The benefits of applying for State Aid are that in addition to the \$1,500 to \$4,000 in grant funds received, they help with compliance issues, share data relative to new chemicals, techniques to reduce breeding, etc and provide data relative certification requirements. The State will also send a representative to help your staff study for the certification test. Arrangements have been made at this time to train three at a time including herself. The grant assistance is a shared grant fund that varies according to the number of applications received each year. A resolution designating an official to sign papers and to otherwise represent the Board in connections with mosquito control is attached for your approval. She suggested that the Mayor be designated to sign all documents at this time.

#### **10. POWELL BILL – NOTICE OF INTENT TO CHANGE STATE MAINTAIN STREET SYSTEM**

Interim Manager Tatum informed the Board that each year municipalities are required to state their intent to request additions or deletions to the state maintained street system by March 30, 2007. The Board of Commissioners is charged with deciding whether or not a municipality desires to take over state maintained streets. She found an indication in the file that the town was interested in taking Brandi Lane, Central and Wilmington Streets into the towns system as long as Department of Transportation (DOT) performed certain resurfacing work and gave certifications that the roads would last for 5 years. DOT **does not** certify the condition of its roads. However, they have paved Brandi Lane and have plans to pave Central Street. They are to contact us with a status on Wilmington Street. She suggested that the Town takes in each street after DOT improvements are made. Therefore, we do need to declare our intent to take in Brandi Lane at this time and indicate a future desire to take the other two streets, again, stressing certain prior actions by DOT. Ms. Tatum stated that if these roads are taken over by the Town, additional funds come to the Town. Mayor McKoy stated that "No Parking" signs have been put up on Third Street going out toward Martin Luther King. She stated that enforcement needs to take place.

#### **11. WEEKLY PICKUP OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS**

Interim Manager Tatum stated that currently the town picks up household goods such as furniture, washer, dryers, refrigerators, singles, residentially generated building debris, tires, etc. When these items are taken to the Robeson or Scotland County landfills, there are charges to the town. She stated that Mayor McKoy informed her that the residents complained when the town considered charging for this type of pickup. During the spring and fall clean-up weeks, landfills in North Carolina do not charge, therefore it is more practical to allow free clean-up during these weeks. Ms. Tatum checked with several other jurisdictions whose policy is to pick up these goods from residents twice per year during the free weeks at no charge for pick-up. All other times, there is a charge. She suggested that the residents be given a year to transition to this type of system. With the state entertaining the idea of allowing increased fees at the landfills, we need to transition to a system that will be less costly to the Town. Ms. Tatum also stated that non-citizens are bringing their items to Town because they know we will pick them up. Commissioner Dean asked if we were prepared for pickup because there were problems. Ms. Tatum stated that we did not go the fall/spring clean up route. Mayor McKoy stated that the State is proposing a \$2.00 surcharge on fees.

## **12. RESOLUTION – ROBESON COUNTY SPRING CLEAN-UP WEEK**

Interim Manager Tatum stated that we have received the Litter Sweep Spring 2007 campaign notice from the North Carolina Department of Transportation. The notice for Clean-up Week which is usually sent during this time has not been received. We received a flyer and pen in the mail. If the Town wishes to a part of this effort the resolution must be approved. The resolution is attached for your review.

## **13. TRADEMARK CONSTRUCTION COMPANY – REQUEST TO PURCHASE 202 MCCASKILL AVENUE**

Interim Manager Tatum informed that Board that Mr. Willie B. Hunt is requesting that he be allowed to present a proposal to purchase the Old Police Station located on 202 McCaskill Avenue, Robeson County Parcel ID number 3306-01-043. She informed him that the Board voted to permanently use the building as storage and decline any requests for rental and attached a copy of the minutes reflecting this decision. Mr. Hunt would like to purchase the building for \$7,000, close within 30 days of acceptance by the board, and renovate within 120 days of closing. He included a proposed floor plan in his proposal. One or more commissioners suggested that he draft the proposal and schedule a time to address the board. Ms. Tatum stated that the Board may want to consider the following in making this decision:

1. This building is in fair to poor condition.
2. Long term storage of files without renovation would cause rapid deterioration of the files.
3. There is an alternative storage space. The resource center has two small rooms that can be used for storage, one for confidential files and the other for regular files.
4. If purchased by a for profit business, the property would generate tax dollars.
5. If the town renovates the building itself, the close proximity of the files is preferred.
6. Mr. Hunt estimates renovation at a cost of \$31,020, which includes items other than hard costs.
7. If the town decides to keep the building, a phased renovation should be considered.
8. The tax value of the property is listed at \$52,700.

## **14. POLICE RECRUITMENT**

Interim Manager Tatum informed the Board that the Police Department is losing officers for a variety of reasons, most of which have to do with low salaries and less benefits. Some time ago,

the Board made a decision to discontinue the take home policy for police vehicles. She stated that with low salaries, it is much more attractive for an officer to go to a jurisdiction that allows take home. Also the town's entry level salary for a police officer is \$24,380, the high is \$35,311. The majority of the other jurisdictions including the counties have a take home policy in place. The revised report that has been submitted to you includes Robeson and Scotland counties.

Lumberton	\$29,422 - \$39,569	Take Home Vehicle
Laurinburg	\$30,144 - \$44,546	Take Home Vehicle
St. Pauls	\$24,380 - \$29,350	No Take Home Vehicle
Red Springs	\$26,438 - \$36,739	Undocumented Policy for Take Home Vehicle
Fairmont	\$24,197 - \$34,190	Take Home Vehicle
Pembroke	\$29,773 – No high given – No Take Home (Considering for next Fiscal Year)	
Rowland	\$29,500 – No high given – Take Home Any Where in U.S.	
Hope Mills	\$28,873 - \$40,799	Take Home Radius After Working One Year
Hamlet	\$24,457 - \$34,557	Take Home Detectives & Highway Safety
Raeford	\$26,125 - \$40,726	Take Home Detectives & Administrators
Fayetteville	\$32,500 - \$55,700 – (\$32,000 No Experience) – Take Home (Inside City Limits)	
<u>Robeson County</u>	<u>-\$26,800 - \$28,800 Starting Salary Only - \$26,800 Reflects No Experience/\$28,800 Reflects Some Experience. Take Home Inside County</u>	
<u>Scotland County</u>	<u>-\$28,000 - \$30,000 Starting Salaries Only - \$28,000 Reflects No Experience/\$30,000 Reflects Some Experience. Take Home Vehicles</u>	

Ms. Tatum stated that Chief McDowell is requesting a starting salary of \$27,000, plus \$1,000 sign-on bonus for police officers with no experience and \$1,000 sign-on for all other levels. Sign on bonuses would only be for officers who make a 2-year commitment. She asked that Council keep in mind that the existing officers' salaries would have to be adjusted in line with experience levels. Chief McDowell is also requesting a take home policy for officers within a 35 mile radius.

**15. PRESENTATION – TRAVAUGHN D. MCARTHUR – MAXTON YOUTH CENTER**  
Interim Manager Tatum stated that Mr. McArthur will be in attendance to describe the goals of the Maxton Youth Center. They would like to discuss these efforts and how the town may be able to contribute to their mission.

**16. PRESENTATION – JAMECIA C. MCNEILL – NATHANIEL COX OUTREACH MINISTRIES**

Interim Manager Tatum stated that Mr. Nathaniel Cox will be in attendance to describe the work of Nathaniel Cox Outreach Ministries. They would like to introduce themselves, discuss their vision for Maxton and inform you of their upcoming events.

## **REGULAR MEETING - MARCH 13, 2007 - 7:30 P.M.**

*Welcome by Mayor Lillie McKoy*

**Invocation – Commissioner McLean gave the invocations.**

**Mayor McKoy distributed to the Board members and read the following memorandum:** “I would like to ask the Board to consider hiring Interim Manager Katrina Y. Tatum as the permanent manager. In my view, she has demonstrated her capability to perform the duties of manager. I am asking that this request be entertained in the March 13, 2007 closed session

portion of the Town meeting. If agreed upon, I recommend that the other candidates be promptly notified of your decision.”

### **Consent Agenda**

#### **1. Board Minutes**

Regular Board Meeting: February 13, 2007

Special Board Meeting: February 21, 2007

Correction: Regular Board Minutes for December 12, 2006

Commissioner McLean motioned approval of minutes listed in the consent agenda. Mayor Pro Tem McLaurin seconded. The vote was unanimous.

#### **2. Tax Adjustments**

Mayor Pro Tem McLaurin motioned approval of the tax adjustments listed in the consent agenda. Commissioner Dean seconded. Questions? Commissioner Dean stated that the parcel referencing her has come before the Board before and she doesn't know what to do at this point. Interim Manager Tatum stated that Staff is working on a system to flag issues of this sort. Commissioner Dean asked if we could contact the county each time find an error. The vote was unanimous.

### **Special Presentation**

Robert Fisher and Rusty Livermore were present for the Presentation of Print – Robeson County Library. Mr. Fisher passed out shoe strings and a pencil to Council. They presented to print to Mayor Lillie McKoy and Commissioner Ray Oxendine. The print is from the State Library Association.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Reschedule Annual Retreat** – Commissioner Oxendine motioned that the Annual Retreat be held April 26 – 28, 2007 at the Library. The retreat will start on Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. It will continue on April 27<sup>th</sup> and April 28<sup>th</sup> as needed and if needed. Commissioner Dean seconded. The vote was unanimous.

**2. Street Light Fees – Elm, Austin and Florence Streets** – Commissioner McLean motioned that street lights be ordered for Elm, Austin and Florence Streets as discussed and that we order 16,000 Lumen Sodium Vapor units in accordance with approved Progress Energy of the Carolina's recommendations. Commissioner Oxendine seconded. The vote was unanimous.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Pro Tem McLaurin motioned to remove one Grease Ordinance due to duplication and to add Trademark Construction Company in New Business. Commissioner McLean seconded. The vote was unanimous.

**1. MAXTON RESOURCE CENTER FEES** – Commissioner Dean motioned to amend the Maxton Resource Center rental fee to include an all inclusive fee to include A,B,C corridor, kitchen, bathroom, less the computer rooms. Commissioner Oxendine seconded. Question?

Commissioner McLean asked if that means that the lobby furniture cannot be moved around. Mayor McKoy stated that we can include that. Mayor Pro Tem McLaurin stated that we can say that by including it in the agreement. Commissioner McLean stated that there was a time that Mr. Pearson and Mrs. Gallman came over when the furniture had been moved around. Mayor Pro Tem McLaurin stated that she is concerned that someone may not want to use the kitchen and they may not want to use both rooms. Commissioner Dean withdrew the motion. Commissioner Dean motioned that we aggregate all the cost for the lobby, bathroom and kitchen and that the areas not in use be locked off. Mayor Pro Tem McLaurin seconded. The vote was unanimous.

**2. FISCAL YEAR 2006-2007 BUDGET ORDINANCE CORRECTION** – Commissioner McLean motioned approval of the Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Budget Ordinance Amendments. Commissioner Dean seconded. The vote was unanimous.

**3. GREASE ORDINANCE** – Commissioner Dean motioned to delay approval of the Grease Ordinance for clarity from the State. Commissioner Hamer seconded. The vote was unanimous.

**4. TOWN OF MCDONALD – PETITION TO BECOME A LRCOG MEMBER GOVERNMENT** – Mayor Pro Tem McLaurin motioned to accept the petition from the Town of McDonald to become a member of the Lumber River Council of Governments. Commissioner Oxendine seconded. The vote was unanimous.

**5. MOSQUITO GRANT** – Commissioner Dean motioned approval of submission of the Mosquito Grant and to appoint Mayor McKoy as the designee to sign all documents. Commissioner McLean seconded. The vote was unanimous.

**6. POWELL BILL – NOTICE OF INTENT TO CHANGE STATE MAINTAINED STREET SYSTEM** – Commissioner McLean motioned to render notice of intent to accept Brandi Lane into the Town's system and re-state future intent to accept Central and Wilmington Streets under the discussed conditions. Commissioner McLaurin seconded. The vote was unanimous.

**7. WEEKLY PICK-UP OF HOUSEHOLD GOODS** – Commissioner Oxendine motioned to approve spring and fall two week periods for free pick up giving a transition period for residents to comply. Commissioner McLean seconded. The vote was 3-for: Commissioner(s) Oxendine, McLean & Dean. 2-against: Commissioner Hamer and Mayor Pro Tem McLaurin.

**8. RESOLUTION – ROBESON COUNTY SPRING CLEAN-UP WEEKS** – Commissioner McLean to approve Resolution 27-03-02 A Resolution Designating the Weeks of April 14, 2007 – April 28, 2007 as Keep Robeson County Clean and Green 2007. Mayor Pro Tem McLaurin seconded. The vote was unanimous.

**9. POLICE RECRUITMENT** – Commissioner Dean motioned to do a salary review of all employees and bring in line with competitors and a sign-on of \$1,000 to officers with no experience, and sign-on of \$1,000 to officers that commit to 24 months, and approval of a take

home policy for officers within a 35-mile radius. Commissioner Hamer seconded. The vote was unanimous.

#### **10. TRADEMARK CONSTRUCTION CO. – REQUEST TO PURCHASE 202**

**McCASKILL AVENUE** – Mayor Pro Tem McLaurin asked can the Town discuss the sell of the building without putting it to bid. Interim Manager Tatum replied that the Town cannot sell without putting it out to bid. Commissioner McLean proposed that the issue requires further discussion and suggested that it be tabled. Mayor Pro Tem McLaurin stated that currently we need the building for storage and right now it is not safe for employees. Commissioner McLean motioned to wait and further discuss the issue. Commissioner Oxendine seconded. The vote was unanimous.

#### **11. PRESENTATION – TRAVAUGHN D. MCARTHUR – MAXTON YOUTH CENTER**

Mr. McArthur stated that his concern was the youth of Maxton, but he also wants to include the middle-aged and the elderly. He is employed at the Youth Center across from MYDO. He is the son of Ms. Betty Cox, a graduate of Louisburg College and Fayetteville State University. He stated that he grew up here and that all here is not bad, there is a lot of good. He feels that the kids are really trying hard, as he has a case load of students that want to be doctors and lawyers. The center is open Monday – Thursday until 6:30 p.m. and is concerned about what the kids do after the closes. Mayor McKoy invited him to join the NCSTEP Youth Group. She spoke with Mrs. McIntyre and suggested she get in touch with Chief McDowell about the PALS Program. Mrs. Brenda Wright is also working with the PALS Program. Mayor Pro Tem McLaurin suggested they work with the Recreation Department. Mr. McArthur thanked the Board for allowing him to speak.

#### **12. PRESENTATION – NATHAN COX OUTREACH MINISTRIES.**

Mr. Cox stated that Nathaniel Cox Outreach Ministries is a campus ministry affiliated with Franklin Chapel AME Zion out of Laurinburg, NC. They are formally here to introduce themselves and share the vision God has given them for the Town of Maxton. They operate on Sundays at 7:00 p.m. on the UNCP campus. They are planning “The Breakout Crusade” for Saturday, April 21, 2007 at Rob Henderson Park from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. The affair will consist of praise & worship, mime & praise dance and preaching of the word of God. Mr. Cox thanked the Board for their time and bid them God’s blessings.

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### **REPORTS**

#### **1. Commissioner's Reports**

Commissioner Oxendine discussed water backing up near the interchanges. He called Ricky Harris about the Beaver Management Assistance Program. Mr. Harris sent a form that would need to be completed and returned to him. Mayor McKoy suggested that we send the County Commissioners a letter. Commissioner Oxendine stated that the County said that it was a State Road.

Commissioner McLean stated that she would like to thank Mayor McKoy, Mayor Pro Tem McLaurin, Interim Manager Tatum and Police Chief McDowell for coming out to the Robeson Community College Enterprise Class graduation. The class project was a dinner that they prepared for everyone. Their class project venture was "Fat Mama's Restaurant". Mayor McKoy stated that the graduates did a great job.

Commissioner Dean stated that a long-term citizen of the community has an illness. An emergency was dispatched. Our police assisted and waited on rescue as long as they could before taking the patient to hospital. She stated that the family is at this meeting. Ms. Tatum stated that Staff is looking for the agreement between the Town and the Rescue. Ms. Tatum also stated that the County cannot fund a person for 24 hours a day and even after the rescue building is completed, we still will not have a person here 24 hours a day. Commissioner Dean stated that most Towns are continuing their NCSTEP event/festivals this year. She stated that she will not do the event this year, because she will focus on the Collard Festival.

## **2. Manager's Report**

**A. NC Step:** The regular NC Step full session meeting was held March 1, 2007. Most of the committees were represented. Reports were given for all committees. We have received most of the narrative reports from chair persons.

**B. CERTIFIED INDUSTRIAL SITES**

The county is preparing maps for staff to review for ownership. We have already received the aerial maps.

**C. URGENT REPAIR**

Maxton/Fairmont has been approved for another round of Urgent Repair Funds. Staff has attended the required workshop and is preparing compliance documents. If you did not receive \$5,000 worth of repairs for the first round, you can go up to that this round.

**D. INDUSTRY**

According to Gregory Cumming, Director of the Robeson County Industrial and Economic Development Office, the prospective industry for the Old Twist and Drill building has backed out.

**E. BUDGET**

Most of the information for the auditor to prepare the 2005-2006 audit report is ready for review. Corrections are being made to the fiscal year 2006-2007 budget, some of which will require budget amendments. Discussions are taking place to work with Southern Software to modify the existing system to conform to GASB 34.

**F. EMPLOYEES QUARTERLY TAX RETURN**

As you know, the September report was not filed on time. I have requested that our account be frozen for 6 weeks to allow for the preparation of a request for a waiver of penalty and interest fees.

**G. AMERICAN PROJECT GROUP CORPORATION**

The Mayor and I were invited to discuss the plans of the American Project Group Corporation. We have discussed the possibility of the Town sponsoring an RBEG (Rural Business and Economic Grant) and Golden Leaf grant. We have been invited to a planning session being organized by the company in which the non-profit entity connected with this business will make a presentation to their board.

## **H. GRASS ROOTS GRANT**

I have requested applications for the Grass Roots Grant. This grant would be an excellent source of funds for the Collard Festival. Copies of the application will be shared with the Library. This grant has a separate category for libraries.

## **I. RECENT DOG POISONINGS**

A meeting was held with owners of poisoned dogs to update them on the status of the investigation and introduce them to Katherine Floyd and Bryon Lashley, Robeson County Animal Cruelty Investigators who will be launching an in depth investigation to help the town come to a speedy resolution of the investigation. They will keep us informed of progress.

## **J. FREIGHT BUILDING**

I have had conferences with three prospective restaurant operators. I have asked each to prepare proposals complete with qualifications and financial support data. An RFP is being prepared for your review along with research that will assist you in determining a rental rate. Mayor Pro Tem McLaurin stated that the rates were already set.

Commissioner Dean stated that we need to re-evaluate.

**3. Police Report** – Chief McDowell distributed the reports. In reference to the item bought up by Commissioner Dean. He stated that they did receive a call. The dispatcher told them to hold on while he dispatched them with the County. The Town sent an officer. Rescue was paged out. Rescue was canceled because the officer called back that the patient was transported by car. Concerning the Animal poisonings, a new team on the State level is going around because of the poisonings. He also reported that the police department is four officers down. Recruitment measures are being taken. He stated that the department has signed an agreement with the County; they will assist Maxton Police until we get fully staffed. We will pay for their gas. Diane Dixon spoke concerning the Rescue Squad. The 911 function is there. It has been changed. It once went to the County, now it goes to Maxton. They call Rescue and dispatch. She stated that there once was a person in Maxton, but that person had no where to stay while here. She went on to say that we hope that we will be able to get them back.

**4. Water/Wastewater/Public Works Reports** – Public Works Director Larry Combs reported that 95% of the pot holes have been fixed. Both cemeteries have been cleaned twice with help from the Correctional Facility. Gene McKeithan, RC Engineer is to repair potholes also. Interim Manager Tatum stated that the fire hydrants are being looked at again. They will be done on a needed basis.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. The LRCOG Informational Briefing will be held on Thursday, March 15, 2007 at the Southeastern Agricultural Center, 1027 Highway 74 East, Lumberton NC at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be serviced.

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

1. Iris Drake McLee – 709 McCaskill Avenue: Ms. McLee stated that she lives in White Plain, NY. She was born here and has roots here and is thinking about retiring here. Her concern is about the 911 call and the response that was taken concerning the rescue squad. She said that maybe we need our police officers EMS certified. She was told that our only certified police officer was on

maternity leave. She also stated that she will be in touch with Elizabeth Dole and our other representatives. Maxton is a nice place and we really need to do something.

2. Diane Dixon – 402 N. Patterson Street: Mrs. Dixon stated that the McCormick's who live across from her lost a dog last night. Chief McDowell stated that he was not aware of their lost. Mrs. Dixon stated that she has outside dogs, but she is afraid to put them out. Ms. Tatum stated that we have three jurisdictions working on this; the State, Robeson County and our police department. Mrs. Dixon stated that she had hoped to see an item on the agenda concerning the paving of the track. Ms. Tatum informed Mrs. Dixon that the information is being research.
  3. Nellie Norton – Austin Street: Mrs. Norton expressed concern about the dispatchers. She also expressed concern about the traffic flying down Austin Street and concerns about 4-wheelers.
  4. Mayor Pro Tem McLaurin invited the citizens to attend the Lent Services at 7:30 p.m. each Sunday in area churches.
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### **CLOSED SESSION**

Mayor Pro Tem McLaurin entertained a motion to go into Closed Session to discuss personnel issues pursuant to NCGS 143.318.11A(1)(6). Commissioner Dean seconded. The vote was unanimous. The Board proceeded to go into Closed Session. Discussion. The Board returned to Open Session. Commissioner Dean motioned that we proceed with the personal interview for the three remaining candidates for the Town Manager position. Commissioner Hamer seconded. The vote was 4-for: Commissioner(s) Oxendine, Hamer, McLean and Dean. 1-against: Mayor Pro Tem McLaurin.

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### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor McKoy entertained a motion to adjourn at 10:00 pm. So moved by Commissioner Dean, seconded by Commissioner Hamer. The vote was unanimous.

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Mayor Lillie A. McKoy

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Jacqueline B. Roberson, Interim Town Clerk