

Village of Cedar Rock

Minutes

The regular meeting of the Village of Cedar Rock was held at Cedar Rock Country Club at 11:30 a.m. on May 21, 2024.

Call to Order: Mayor Bob Floyd called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Attendance: Present were Mayor Bob Floyd, Ernie McAteer, Bill Griffin, Daniel Odom, Mike McClinton, Pamela Mayberry, Mike Shows.

Adoption of Agenda: Mike Shows made a motion to adopt the agenda; Ernie McAteer seconded the motion; agenda adopted.

Approval of Minutes: Pam Mayberry made a motion to approve the minutes; Mike McClinton seconded the motion; minutes approved.

Committee Reports: Administrative: Pam Mayberry stated she completed the application for insurance renewal. The application was received but renewal has not been confirmed yet. Kings Creek Fire Department will be manned 24 hours, 7 days a week. **Finance:** Bill Griffin stated the Village currently has \$617,564.72 as stated on the ending balance of the April bank statement. Bill Griffin stated Turn Key audio was due \$3,200.00 and account 1746 only has a balance of \$1849.00. Bill Griffin made a motion to move funds from account 2695 for legal and professional fees in the amount of \$2000.00 and move \$100 to account 1746 from account 765 from travel. Mike McClinton seconded, motion approved. Bill Griffin stated the Village received a letter from the State and Local Government Finance division that we were in non-compliance with the FY 23 audit that is past due. In conversations with Steve Huntley and Stephanie the audit must be completed by July 1st. Steve Huntley said it is being worked on now and the audit should be completed by the July 1st deadline. The State requires a written explanation on why the audit is late and the State could hold state money and taxes. Mayor Bob Floyd said Bill Griffin have been diligent in fixing this matter since October. On another matter Bill Griffin said the Village did have a cost estimate on the culvert replacement proposed by Volkert on the culverts starting to fail. Volkert, Inc. estimated a sum of \$825,000.00 to repair all the critical culverts. Samuel E Bingham, PE, conducted a preliminary report. Bill Griffin said he has been in conferences with representatives about possible funding from the General Assembly. Mayor Bob Floyd and Daniel Odom assisted in drafting letter to see if funds may be available. Mayor Bob Floyd also stated that Volkert estimate is an approximate number because there is no way to get a definite number at this point in the process. **Transportation:** Ernie McAteer stated that the sod in the right of way where the culvert the Village replaced on Mountain Circle last year is located is caving in. Mike Willis has repaired the roadside sod. Ernie McAteer said that he and Mike Willis utilized a camera loaned by the City of Lenoir to view the culvert on Cedar Rock Estates drive and the culvert appears to be clear but there is a lot of debris in the culvert. The culverts are usually 5ft long and joined together every 5ft. Mike McClinton stated his concerns in digging around the culvert and making it worse until the Village has the funding secured for a complete repair. Mayor Bob Floyd suggest said this culvert should be part of the

assessment. Mike Shows said he had received an email from Cindy Story about erosion of the roadway near her property. Michael Shows said that Ms. Story's biggest complaint is the Duke Power trucks going in and out and eroding the ditch. Council discussed the integrity of the road. Ernie McAteer is going to discuss potential solutions with Tyler Sime, namely about getting more rock to support the ditch integrity. Pam Mayberry said there is an issue at the West entrance with large trucks parked in the turning lane. A vehicle pulling out of the Village cannot see past the truck to pull out of the Village and it is very dangerous. Pam Mayberry proposed a "no parking" sign. Mayor Bob Floyd asked if that would be a DOT responsibility since it is on the highway or if the Village could install a no parking sign. Ernie McAteer is going to call Action Sign for a sign. **Code Enforcement Report:** Mike Shows spoke to code enforcement the lot owned by Eddie Waters has been cut and nothing more to report. **Planning Board:** Mike McClinton stated he had noticed property owners building a deck at 2712 Lakeview and asked if they had contacted the planning board and submit request. Daniel Odom responded that they did request permit and since they are just repairing deck they do not need a variance as long as it is in within setbacks. **Staff Report:** Daniel Odom stated the 2023 and 2024 ARP report was completed. He also said the daily progress on the audit is being monitored. Daniel Odom also stated that the Village's report for the Unifour Hazard Mitigation Plan had been completed. Odom reviewed the contract proposal from Volkert Inc. for a Culvert Assessment. Odom said there is no rush to sign the contract with Volkert however, they are ready to go to work once the Village makes a decision. Daniel Odom said he had also reached out to West and McGill to get proposals and has not heard back from them. John Marshall with Volkert but will be here in June. Daniel Odom said there are no procurement requirements being the cost is less than \$50,000.00, pursuant to a Mini-Brooks Act Exemption. On another note, Daniel Odom stated that WPCOG had released its 2024-2025 Assessment Scheduled. The Village was assessed \$489.98 which is billed in July. West Consultants have been contacted to prepare for the upcoming Powell Bill reporting. Daniel Odom requested action on the draft of the Planning Board Bylaws. Mike McClinton made a motion to approve the Bylaws and Pam Mayberry seconded, motion approved.

New Business:

Wildlife Management: Guest James Tomberline, with the NC Wildlife Resource Commission spoke regarding Whitetail Deer population management. Pam Mayberry reached out about to Mr. Tomberline regarding overpopulation and destruction of the residents' landscape. Mr. Tomberline state that regulated hunting is the best tool for management of wildlife. It is a safe activity. In areas where hunting is not typical, wildlife gets very comfortable with humans and landscape. Other alternatives are landscaping yards with deer resistant plants to mitigate damage. Mr. Tomberline said he will provide that information to send to residents. He also explained that it is the loss of fear of people that keeps deer around houses. For a typical season, hunting opens September 7 and continues to January 1. Hunters get 6 tags for deer. The commission provides programs for additional tags, based on deer population. If village applies the tags are sent to the Village and the village supplies the tags to owners. Habitat management would provide information on how to manage woods in the Village to provide additional forage to keep deer out of properties. Mike McClinton stated that 20 years ago residents could plant on their property and nothing would bother the plantings but now, they do not get past bloom stage. Bill Griffin said a program could be designed for hunting in the Village on a trial basis. Mayor Bob Floyd asked Mr. Tomberline if the Village was in control of the hunting and if there could be an

extended season. Mr. Tomberline said yes and that the Village is responsible to apply at no cost and the Village hands out tags for hunters. Pam Mayberry says there needs to be a committee to handle this. Mr. Tomberline also stated that feeding deer that is a real problem should be addressed. Bill Griffin asked Mayor Bob Floyd if this could be put on a forum for thought. Mayor Bob Floyd said that the Village needs to get this information out the community first and get the community's input. He said a community meeting with Mr. Tomberline there to answer questions would be ideal.

Kings Creek Fire Department Updates: Chief Burke with the Kings Creek Fire Department stated he is still working on grants and funds to provide turnout gear for firefighters, which costs approximately \$4000 per person. He mentioned that electric vehicles pose a new challenge when they are on fire because it takes more water than Kings Creek can supply and basically the car will just have to burn down.

Interbasin Transfer: Daniel Odom reviewed the WPCOG's Briefing Sheet in regards to the Charlotte Interbasin Transfer request transferring water from our area to the Charlotte area. Mike Shows made a motion to approve WPCOG's resolution opposing the transfer request, Ernie McAteer seconded. Motion Approved.

WPCOG Contract Proposals: Mayor Bob Floyd discussed the 2 contract proposals from WPCOG and recommended approval of increasing WPCOG's services to 20 hours a month. Mayor Floyd stated that WPCOG performs financial services for several towns in our region and the WPCOG Finance Department can do for the Village what they do for other municipalities. Mayor Floyd said right now the Village is paying \$4,800.00 a year for accounting service and the WPCOG would provide services for \$7,500.00 a year and the WPCOG system is more up to date to allow more access to Council to see financial transactions. Bill Griffin believes it is an essential move for council going forward. The North Carolina League of Municipalities offered services similar to the WPCOG in late 2023, but at a higher cost.

Public Comment: George Robinson expressed to Council that they should feel free to call on him.

Mike Shows made a motion to go closed session, pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a), to discuss a personnel matter. Bill Griffin seconded, motion approved.

Closed Session:

Council exited closed session and Mayor Bob Floyd informed Daniel Odom that council approved to move forward with 20 hours a month with WPCOG and thanked Daniel Odom for all that he does. Mayor Floyd then moved on to the budget asking if there were any further changes to the budget based on the penciled in items listed in the last budget meeting. No changes were mentioned. Mayor Floyd told Daniel Odom Council would like him involved in strategic planning meeting. Pam Mayberry suggested that planning begin following the Culvert Assessment. Mayor Floyd confirmed with Daniel Odom that the Village would like to move forward with Volkert. Mayor Floyd quickly mentioned to Council that the property previously

owned by Barrett Veit that was sold recently has grown up. Mayor Floyd requested that the possibility of ETJ be revisited.

Meeting adjourned 1:11 pm

Respectfully Submitted.

Beth Bess

Beth Bess, Village Clerk