

**MINUTES
BOARD MEETING
TOWN OF ANDREWS
JULY 8, 2003
COMMUNITY SERVICES BUILDING
7:00 PM**

Mayor Rhinehardt called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Members present were: Alderman Reid, Alderman Jordan, Alderman Phillips and Alderman Hogsed.

Also present were Town Attorney M. Ellen Davis and Town Clerk Bill Green.

ITEM 2

Upon motion by Alderman Reid the agenda was amended by adding Shirley Carpenter to agenda and moving Executive Session to Item 6E. Second by Alderman Phillips.

Motion carried.

ITEM 3

Upon motion by Alderman Reid and Second by Alderman Phillips, the minutes of the previous meetings were approved as presented. Those meetings were: June 10, 2003, June 12, 2003 and June 23, 2003.

ITEM 4-REPORTS

Town Attorney M. Ellen Davis reported to the Board that the OMC Bankruptcy proceedings had dismissed a case involving the Town of Andrews and payments made by OMC to the Town in the ninety- (90) days preceding the bankruptcy filing. The Trustee for the Bankruptcy Court had filed a proceeding to recover payments made by OMC to the Town of Andrews for water and sewer service during this period of time. OMC had paid the Town of Andrews approximately \$11,000 in water and sewer service charges during this 90-day period and was willing to settle for approximately \$6,300.

Several attempts were made by the Town to explain that these payments were made on a regular and reoccurring basis and were therefore exempt from the recovery process. In researching the issue it was discovered that it could cost more than the amount at issue to retain a law firm in the Chicago area to present the Town's claim. It was decided by the Town's Finance Officer and Town Attorney to let the court take whatever action it was finally decided as prudent and fair. It was thought that the court would possibly issue a judgement against the Town. Town Attorney M. Ellen Davis reported that the case against the Town of Andrews had been dismissed.

ITEM 5-UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to discuss at this time.

ITEM 6 – NEW BUSINESS

- A. The first item of new business was to open bids received on a surplus lot located at Patton Homesites. One bid had been received by 5:00 PM on July 8, 2003, this bid being made by Mr. Mickey Griggs. The bid was opened by the Town Clerk and read aloud to the Board members and the citizens assembled in the meeting room. Mr. Griggs had bid \$16, 010.00 for the lot. Since the stated minimum bid was advertised at \$16,000.00 and this bid was in excess of the minimum, the price was deemed to be acceptable.

Motion by Alderman Jordan to accept the bid of \$16, 010.00 by Mr. Griggs.

Second by Alderman Reid.

Motion carried.

- B. Next was consideration of a Resolution of Support for a Certificate of Need document to be issued if the community group is successful in attracting a private hospital to the Andrews Area. With the closure of District Medical Center, the community lacks an acute care facility and a citizens group is actively searching for a private investment company to build such a facility in the Andrews area.

Motion by Alderman Jordan to approve such a resolution of support.

Second by Alderman Phillips.

Motion carried.

- C. Next was an agreement for the Hiawassee River Watershed Coalition to Work on an erosion problem that the Town is experiencing at the Recreation Park where Town Branch runs into the Valley River. This group will assist with erosion controls and planting of native shrubs to prevent streambank erosion.

Motion to enter into this agreement with the understanding that there will be no impact on the existing ballfields and fences by Alderman Reid.

Second by Alderman Phillips.

Motion carried.

- D. Next was a request by Shirley Carpenter for the Town to determine if any help can be given to her to prevent rain water from running onto her property and causing problems with her residence. Discussion concerning what could be done in the short-term and long term to prevent more problems from arising. Mr. Ronnie Brooks was instructed to review the situation and make whatever repairs are needed.

- E. Next was motion by Alderman Reid to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues.

Second by Alderman Hogsed.

During the break before the Executive Session began, Mayor Rhinehardt left the meeting. Upon the Mayor's leaving, Alderman Reid assumed the Chairmanship.

Upon Motion by Alderman Jordan and Second by Alderman Phillips, the Board returned to Regular session.

While in Executive Session, the Board reviewed three (3) applications for employment to replace David Holland who has left the employment of Town .

Motion by Alderman Hogsed to offer employment to Teresa Taylor to replace David Holland as Collections Clerk and Tax Collector for the Town of Andrews at the rate of \$9.00 per hour subject to a clean criminal history and successfully pass a drug screening test during the ninety (90) day probation period.

Second by Alderman Jordan.

Motion carried.

Next was a motion to expand the duties of the Town Finance Officer to include the supervision of employees with the exception of the Police Department. This would make the position of Town Administrator/Finance Officer a full time position with the duties of Town Clerk becoming a part-time position. Salary to be \$41,600 per year with \$200 per month in automobile allowance in lieu of a town owned automobile being provided. Motion by Alderman Jordan.
Second by Alderman Hogsed.
Motion carried.

With no further business to come before the Board and upon a motion by Alderman Reid and second by Alderman Jordan, the meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Mitch Rhinehardt, Mayor

Bill Green, Clerk