

**MINUTES
TOWN OF ANDREWS
BOARD MEETING
COMMUNITY SERVICES BUILDING
AUGUST 10, 2004
7:00 PM**

Mayor Rhinehardt called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Members present were: Alderman Hogsed, Alderman Phillips, Alderman Reid and Alderman Jordan joined the meeting a few minutes late. Also present were Town attorney M. Ellen Davis and Town Clerk Bill Green.

ITEM 2

Upon Motion by Alderman Reid and second by Alderman Hogsed, Item H –Check signing was added to the Agenda.

ITEM 3

Upon Motion by Alderman Hogsed and second by Alderman Phillips, the Minutes of the July 22, 2004 meeting were approved as presented.

ITEM 4 – REPORTS

There were no Reports to be presented at this time.

ITEM 5 – UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to take up at this time.

ITEM 6 – NEW BUSINESS

- A. First on the agenda was a presentation from Mr. Glenn Tatum of the Andrews Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Tatum spoke concerning a meeting that had recently been held concerning the construction of a Welcome Center by the North Carolina Department of Transportation. In a meeting that was attended by Chamber of Commerce officials from Graham County, Clay County and Cherokee County, no opposition was voiced concerning construction of the Welcome Center somewhere in the Andrews area. Preliminary talks have centered on the new Welcome Center to be constructed near the intersection of NC 141 and US 19/74. Town officials asked that the current NC DOT Rest Area also be considered for the Welcome Center.

Mr. Tatum then asked that the Board allow Mr. Iain Black, of the Appalachian Highland Games to speak to the Board concerning the upcoming Games to be held in Andrews at the Recreation Park on September 11, 2004. Mr. Black told the Board of Aldermen and Mayor that the entire Highland Games staff appreciated the assistance and willingness of the entire Town of Andrews to help make the coming games a success. Mr. Black presented a list of repairs or changes that the Highland Games group felt is needed to help make the experience a safe and enjoyable outing for the public. The Board accepted the list and assured Mr. Black that they would do their best to comply with the requested changes and repairs.

- B. Next was Mr. Jeff Bishop of McGill Associates to address the Board concerning the work still remaining to be done at the Dan Holland water impoundment. Mr. Bishop reported that Mr. Ray Hobby had been in Andrews earlier in the day and had examined the installation site and the work remaining to be done and had assured the Town that work would be started on Monday, August 16, 2004 or Tuesday, August 17 at the latest. Mr. Bishop stated that he believed a one-(1) month timeline for finishing of this project was sufficient. The Board of Aldermen told Mr. Bishop that they would hold Mr. Hobby to this timeline with penalties for failure to comply.
- C. Next was approval of a contract with Mr. Ben Gibson to perform grass mowing services at the Valleytown Cemetery. Bids had been requested and opened at the August 3, 2004 Work Session. This contract was to begin August 15, 2004 and run through October 15, 2004 with two (2) mowings per month at a price of \$1875.00 per month. Motion to approve by Alderman Hogsed with a Second by Alderman Reid. Motion carried.
- D. Next was a Motion by Alderman Reid and a Second by Alderman Hogsed to establish that the parking areas around Ferebee Park be restricted to parking for patron of the Park from the hours of 8:00 AM through 9:00 PM. Included in this motion was the directive to procure and post signs stating the restricted parking. Motion carried.
- E. Next was establishing the old red dump truck, an International truck as surplus equipment and to advertise for bids. Minimum bid was set at \$2,000 and bids would be opened at the September 14, 2004 meeting. Motion to declare the International dump truck as surplus and to set the sales price aside for a new garbage truck by Alderman Reid with a second by Alderman Phillips. Motion carried.
- F. Next was Mr. Hugh Rayburn reading from a prepared statement concerning the Andrews Housing Authority. In this statement, Mr. Rayburn addresses the Mayor and asks that Mayor Rhinehardt accept the settlement offer from the former Andrews Housing Authority Board of Commissioners:
1. Mayor Rhinehardt offer a written apology to these Board members.

2. Mayor Rhinehardt put in writing that there is no evidence of wrong doing by this former Board.
3. Mayor Rhinehardt reappoint the old Board to the Housing Authority Board of Commissioners.
4. Pay all legal expenses the former Board members have incurred to date.

Mr. Rayburn also made the statement that as of September 30, 2004, the Andrews Housing authority will cease to operate as it currently is and that management of the housing units will be transferred to another entity.

Mr. Rayburn stated that the former Board had no problem with any competent authority performing an investigation of the previous administration.

Alderman Reid along with Alderman Jordan, Alderman Phillips and Alderman Hogsed asked Mayor Rhinehardt to work with the old Board members and set this issue behind the Town.

Mayor Rhinehardt told the Aldermen and Mr. Rayburn that he would take no action until the active investigation is completed. Mr. Rayburn again expressed that no member of the previous Board of Commissions would object to an investigation by a competent authority.

- G. Next was a discussion of a cleanup program to cleanup the “junked” autos in the Town. It was decided that the Town would start with a voluntary program. This program would start with residents calling Town Hall and asking that their old automobile be placed on a list for removal. When the list has sufficient numbers, a hauler will be contacted for the removal. Motion by Alderman Reid to start this voluntary program with a second by Alderman Hogsed. Motion carried.
- H. This item was tabled until the September meeting by a Motion from Alderman Reid and second by Alderman Hogsed. Motion to table carried.

Next was a question from Mr. Steve Mashburn concerning an account for water service for a mobile home he owns in Town. Mr. Mashburn had requested that water service be turned on at this mobile home again in his name. When the Town's staff performed the necessary steps, they found an outstanding balance dating from November 2001. Mr. Mashburn stated that he was sure that he had paid all balances for service, but that he was unable at this point to find receipts. Motion by Alderman Jordan and second by Alderman Reid to waive any old balance due to the problems encountered with payments from this time period. Motion carried.

Mr. Larry Dailey then asked the Board the status of the repairs needed at the railroad crossings. Alderman Hogsed told Mr. Dailey that he was in contact with the Railroad Division of NC DOT and that repairs were being planned and coordinated by the DOT and railroad workers with work to start in four to six weeks.

More comments were made from the assembled citizens concerning the Andrews Housing Authority, the old Board, lawsuits, budgets, who authorized what, who sued who, etc were made with nothing new being said by any member of the assembled citizens.

With no further business to come before the Board and upon Motion by Alderman Reid and second by Alderman Hogsed, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Mitch Rhinehardt, Mayor

Bill Green, Clerk

