

# Regular Meeting of the Town of Highland Lake, Alabama

The Highland Lake Town Council held its regular meeting on Monday, April 6, 2015 at the Anchor. Mayor Bailey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Skip Davis gave the invocation. The Mayor led the pledge of allegiance.

## **ROLL CALL:**

Present: Mayor Gail Bailey  
Council members Skip Davis, Donna Hanby, Shani Ort, Tim Peek and Connie Vice

Absent:

Town Attorney Alex Smith was also present.

**March 2, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes** – Ort made a motion to approve the minutes, as written. Vice seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

**March 16, 2015 Special Meeting/Work Session Minutes** – the Town Clerk read the minutes. Davis made a motion to approve as read. Peek seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

**Financial Report** – Council member Vice gave the monthly financial report. Hanby made a motion to approve the financial report. Davis seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Lake** – Chairman Davis reported the committee met March 9 and continued discussions regarding buoy replacement with permanent signs. The following costs were presented and discussed:

Pilings \$125.00 each (20' pole)  
Signs \$ 75.00  
Lights \$100.00 (solar lights on top)  
Total Each - \$300.00

Total Required – 7 (includes danger/warning sign for spillway)  
Total Estimated Cost - \$2100.00

Davis announced the Lake Safety Committee will meet Thursday, April 9 @ 7:00 PM to transition responsibilities since Larry Binder is moving out of town.

**Ordinances** – Chairman Ort reported the committee met March 26 and continued discussing the zoning ordinance. Attorney Alex Smith provided the model ordinance from the Birmingham Regional Planning Commission for our review. Discussion took place regarding a Zoning Board of Adjustments and their responsibility to review variances. The role of a Planning Commission was also discussed. The Ordinance Committee will continue to work on updating the town's zoning ordinance.

**Roads** – Tim Peek stated he had no report.

# Regular Meeting of the Town of Highland Lake, Alabama

**Buildings & Grounds** – Chairman Donna Hanby reported the committee did not meet in March. The meeting for April will need to be rescheduled. A diaper changing station and a mirror have been installed in the Ladies restroom in the Anchor.

Mayor Bailey stated that she had talked with Commissioner Dean Calvert. The county is on schedule to pave roads affected by last year's storms by the end of April/first of May. Prep work is currently being done.

## **SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Bill Rush reported that Tetra Tech updated their latest proposal regarding a dredging feasibility assessment for Sand Creek and Brasher Creek bays. The update is based on input from the council and is located on page 4 of the proposal, item 4, which reads:

*Investigate creating dry peninsula extension from east side of Brasher Creek confluence into Brasher Creek Bay.*

The cost of the dredging feasibility assessment is \$22,500.00 and is estimated to be complete within 12 weeks of Notice to Proceed. Discussion took place.

Davis made a motion to accept the April 6, 2015 proposal from Tetra Tech for a dredging feasibility assessment, for the cost of \$22,500.00 for Brasher Creek and Sand Creek bays. This assessment should include an outline of steps to follow in order to ensure successful project completion, by either someone hired or appointed, by the Town Council. This is to ensure each step is completed properly throughout the completion of the project. Hanby seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

It was agreed by all that funds for this assessment will be taken from the Special Projects account.

The town spent \$21,000.00 last year on a hydrographic survey and sediment thickness evaluation of Brasher and Sand Creek bays. A lake-wide hydrographic survey was also done. These tasks established a baseline for the entire lake (which has never been done before) and will provide valuable information to assist this and future councils, with decisions regarding dredging.

## **OFFICER REPORT**

The Mayor announced that Chief Kon was back on full duty. Police Chief Scott Kon reported that the fuel line on the police boat will be replaced this week.

# Regular Meeting of the Town of Highland Lake, Alabama

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**Buoy Replacement & Permanent Signs** – Discussion continued on replacing some of the buoys with permanent pilings & signs. The locations for the proposed seven pilings would be:

- 1 to 2 – Slough that goes to Sugarland
- 2 – Sand Creek
- 2 – Town boat launch area
- 1 – dam

The buoys being replaced can be positioned in other locations on the lake where needed, such as Long Hollow.

The two pilings in the town boat launch area would include channel markers.

The piling at the dam would include a warning sign and a light.

Reflective material would be placed on the pilings. Lights can be added later, if necessary.

Estimated cost is \$1800.00.

Davis made a motion to replace seven buoys with permanent pilings and signs for an estimated cost of \$1800.00. Hanby seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

Everyone agreed that this project will be funded by the Special Projects account.

**Report on complaints from last council meeting** – Mayor Bailey provided the following status:

- 1) Property on Lakeshore Drive which appears to be a commercial construction business – the Mayor talked with the property owner and he plans to have everything cleaned up and materials moved by June 1, 2015.
- 2) Property on Skyview Road next to Lakeview Baptist Church that needs to be cleaned up – The Mayor will talk to the property owner this week.
- 3) Property on CR27 and Lake Highland Drive looking unsightly with junk and other items – this property is not located in the town limits; however, the Mayor did discuss this issue with Judge Green. The county has no zoning regulations. There is a Blount County Commission work session this Thursday where this location will be discussed to see if anything can be done. The county administrator is also going to look at it. This property is located in the town's police jurisdiction (1.5 miles outline town limits) and the town can enforce police and sanitary regulations. However, there is concern on whether we wish to do this.

Paige Cutcliffe questioned the technique for enforcing the zoning regulations. The Mayor responded that generally a letter is written to the property owner based on the ordinance.

Paige Cutcliffe also questioned how annexation is handled without a planning commission. Attorney Alex Smith responded that to annex property, a petition has to be signed and the council votes, or property can be annexed by a legislative act. The area to be considered for annexation must actually be contiguous to the corporate limits of the municipality.

# Regular Meeting of the Town of Highland Lake, Alabama

## NEW BUSINESS

**Introduce HL-11-05 Amendment – Regulate Construction of Docks, Piers, Boathouses - Sections 7 & 8** – Ort introduced proposed updates to Sections 7 (Derelict Docks, Piers, Boathouses and Seawalls) and 8 (Penalty). It was suggested that the property owner also be allowed to bring the boathouse into compliance with building code. The ordinance will be updated and re-introduced next month.

**Kenny Branch – add concrete driveway and boat ramp next to property line** – died due to lack of motion. It was suggested that a better drawing be provided.

**Lost in the Woods Event on April 15** – the Mayor stated that this event will be held for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders of Appalachian. Teaching both children and adults what to do when they find themselves in unfamiliar territory is the purpose of the Lost in the Woods program. If this event goes well, another one will be scheduled for the community. The Lady Lakers will provide a portion of the food but requested that the town fund approximately \$100.00 for the hotdogs. Hanby made a motion for the town to spend approximately \$100.00 for the hotdogs for this event. Vice seconded. Roll call. All voted yes. Motion carried.

### **The Mayor opened the meeting to the public.**

Bill Rush reported the street light is out at the entrance to the parking lot. The town clerk stated she had reported this, but will call Alabama Power to check on the status.

Bill Rush questioned if the piling at the dam was included in the motion. The response was yes, total of 7 pilings.

Bill Rush also suggested that we have residents sign a document regarding potential liability regarding the pilings/buoys when lake use permits are obtained.

With no other business to come before the council, Peek made a motion to adjourn. Davis seconded. All said I. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Submitted 5-4-15

Approved 5-4-15

---

Cheryl Storey, Town Clerk

---

Gail S. Bailey, Mayor