

MINUTES OF AUGUST 14, 2007
TOWN OF TALTY
BOARD OF ALDERMEN

- I. The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Todd Hutton at the Trinity Family Church, and a quorum was announced. Aldermen members present were Frank Garrison, Larry Farthing, Barbie Kraig and Carla Milligan. Brad Davis was absent. Also present were Connie Goodwin, Town Administrator, and Sherry Bagby, Town Secretary.

Mayor Hutton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

- II. Richard Alexander addressed the Board during citizen participation and expressed his concerns regarding road repair on CR216 "Bunny Run" to fix the pot holes on the 1641 approach. Mr. Goodwin will contact TxDOT about repairs. Mr. Alexander would also like a speed limit sign to reduce the speed. He was informed that without a speed limit sign posted, the presumed speed limit is 30 mph. Mr. Alexander also suggested that he would like to see a full-time police officer hired.

III. Action Items

1. Chief West requested three more reserve officers be added to the police force. Mayor Hutton noted that Chief West can appoint reserve officers subject to Board approval. Anthony Williams was introduced to the Board to be approved as a reserve officer. Chief West has already done a background check and spoke with previous employers. He is currently self-employed. He already has his own vest. Barbie Kraig requested seeing a schedule for the reserve officers and West said this was difficult to show because he is not always aware of the time they will work. Mayor Hutton expressed concerns over publishing police schedules. Carla Milligan stated that she is concerned about the officers speeding when responding to a call.

A Motion was made by Carla Milligan to approve Anthony "Tony" Williams as a reserve officer.

Seconded: Frank Garrison.

Vote: All in favor, motion carried.

2. The Board reviewed the Minutes of July 24, 2007.

A Motion was made by Frank Garrison to approve the Minutes of July 24, 2007 as submitted.

Seconded: Larry Farthing

Vote: All in favor, motion carried.

3. Mayor Hutton went over the year-to-date financial reports submitted by Murrey & Company ending June 30, 2007. The financial report includes April, May, and June financials as they were merged into the year-to-date totals. In addition, a check register was given to the Board for these three months. A check in the amount of \$216 needs to be voided, payable to Things Remembered, since a second check was issued to them when the order was changed.

A Motion was made by Larry Farthing to accept the financial report submitted by Murrey & Company, through June 30, 2007.

Seconded: Frank Garrison

Vote: All in favor, motion carried.

IV. Discussion Items

1. Police Report: A police report was distributed to the Board stating police activities for the month. Chief West and Officer Greg Tapp were in attendance to answer questions.
2. Sign Ordinance: At the request of Carla Milligan a discussion item for the recently amended sign ordinance was placed on the agenda. The Board was mailed Article 7 of the ordinance prior to the meeting in preparation for review and the discussion. No discussion ensued.

As an aside, there are various signs around town that the Mayor and Mr. Goodwin are trying to have removed.

3. Mayoral Committee Updates: Mayor Hutton asked if anyone had anything to report on their appointed committees. Mayor Hutton, Connie Goodwin and Barbie Kraig attended a CERT (“Community Emergency Response Team”) meeting on Saturday, August 11, 2007 in Rowlett. Training classes are scheduled for October and May at \$15 per person on two Saturdays (10 hours per day). Barbie Kraig suggested waiting to attend training until May when a game plan is in place. Mayor Hutton wants to move forward now. Frank Garrison stated that he met with Chief West to prioritize. Subdivisions are requesting police presence and Frank suggested charging the HOA to offset the cost of a police department. Mayor Hutton stated that the HOA must go through the petition process first.
4. 07-08 Fiscal Budget: A preliminary 2007-2008 fiscal budget was distributed to Board members and certain items, as set forth below, were discussed at length. Mayor Hutton wanted to discuss the budget at this meeting to avoid a “budget workshop” and he would like to finalize the budget at the September regular meeting.

Committees:

Annexation and the other committees are allotted separate funds to further their respective missions. The Police Committee will work within the Police budget

Election:

The cost of election was based on population and last year's amount.

Fire Protection:

Mayor Hutton stated that his long-term goal for Talty is to have our own fire protection instead of paying Forney \$30,000+ annually. He suggested asking residents to pay for fire protection because currently the Town pays it for them. Other citizens already pay approximately .03% of their property value if they are outside Talty's town limits. Although not required, Mayor Hutton wants this issue to be put to a vote of the residents on the May ballot. At about \$5 per home per month, when combined with what we are paying Forney, this would build cash to create a fire department. A fire truck could possibly be donated. Greg Tapp suggested cross-training the police officers for emergency medical service. Heath does this with their police force. Frank Garrison suggested that many fire officers or retired fireman live in Talty and they are willing to donate their time for training volunteer firemen.

Police Department:

Mayor Hutton stated that the budget is written with the expectation of five reserve officers, which explains the increase in insurance and other items. The public funds entry equals a transfer of cash on hand. He suggested transferring \$33,000 in public funds to pay cash for a new police car. He and Chief West have checked into a new 2007 Dodge Charger from Dallas Dodge, which would be fully equipped and include a cage. Other Police Expenses are separately budgeted items. Greg Tapp explained it would be more efficient to have a laptop in the car to check license plate, current registration, and drivers. There is a \$500 yearly usage fee through Kaufman County to connect to its network. The car would need a docking station and an antenna mounted, which is standard for wireless connection. The computer issue will be explored further.

Barbie Kraig wants to see the Town hire a full-time police officer. Frank Garrison will look into grants to pay reserve officers for their time. Officer Greg Tapp stated that the city of Rice pays their reserve officers between \$12 and \$15 per hour, and allows them to work up to 34 hours a week. Their officers work 8 to 12 hour shifts and their full-time officers have gone through class for EMS and fire training. Frank Garrison wants a meeting to get help with grants.

Larry Farthing stated that the budget reflects 8% increase for revenue and spending reflects 21% increase on expenses. Mayor Hutton suggested that the purchase of a new Police car, along with the proposed office expansion might tend to skew this analysis. Larry Farthing suggested that we need to look at the last three years and get an average on engineering fees. Larry Farthing also suggested \$50,000 on road repairs and budget for capital expenditures on roads. Mayor Hutton stated that road repairs have already been increased by 50% in the proposed budget as would be discussed shortly. Larry Farthing suggested \$90,000 on payroll and \$16,000 on payroll taxes so as to allow for overtime if needed. Larry Farthing would like to see the road repair account increased to resurface the roads, not just patch them. Mayor Hutton advised that redoing CR 213 alone would cost at least \$1M and that these types of capital improvements are typically done through municipal bonds which require property taxes that we don't have.

Office Expansion:

Mayor Hutton proposed a build-out of the back space behind the current office – approximately 75'. This new space could be used for board meetings, as well as court and will keep us from having to use the Church and the associated burden on its facility and utilities. The rent would increase from \$500 to \$1,000 monthly. To build out the space, a \$15,000 estimate was used, which includes another air conditioning unit, two new office spaces, electrical and other items. Daedelus has offered Mayor Hutton a payout of 36 months at zero interest for the build-out work raising the monthly rent to about \$1,400. Larry Farthing has a referral to give the town a bid on the office build-out.

Frank Garrison would like to see an escape clause on the rental agreement. Talty has currently finished their first year in a three year lease. August 2008 would be the “option period.” Mayor Hutton explained that this would be another part of the negotiations should the Board approve the proposal. Office furniture would also need to be purchased for the conference room and to hold court and Board meetings. Frank Garrison suggested purchasing another desk as well. Mayor Hutton said it would be nice to have his own desk at the office but that it was not necessary at this time. The Mayor’s primary objective is a self-contained town office. Carla Milligan stated that she is against expanding the office.

Office Supplies:

Mayor Hutton would like the town to purchase a laser printer for the office. We cannot keep using an ink-jet fax machine as our printer and copier.

Road Repairs:

In addition to the roads discussion above, it was noted that Forney I.S.D. intends to build a school on CR 213. It is possible that 213 will be improved at that time. Again, Talty cannot do bonds without a property tax and Mayor Hutton said he would only entertain the idea of property taxes via a

referendum. TxDOT is scheduled to repair FM 1641 in the year 2012. Carla Milligan would like to see road repairs increased for next year's budget.

5. Update on Development in and around Talty: The Layden Farms development has not yet started any houses. Mr. Goodwin stated that he is still waiting on the bond and the financials to support the bond. Carla Milligan asked if we have received the HOA rules from Amber Meadows. Mr. Goodwin stated that he has requested them, but they have not been received yet.

Barbie Kraig asked about the landscaping at the Sonic. Tatari was given a reprieve during the drought, but now the weather has improved. Tatari will begin his strip soon, and he intends to give the Exxon a face lift.

Frank Garrison asked about the status of the website with Sprocket Data. Mr. Goodwin stated that Jeffrey Johnson has come into the office and discussed the problem with him. Mayor Hutton is handing the issue over to the town attorney.

Carla Milligan asked Mayor Hutton to put P&Z alternates on the next agenda. Mr. Goodwin stated that this has already been done. Carla Milligan also stated that Mayor Hutton "refused" to put the item on the current agenda. Mayor Hutton replied that he never refused but that the item had been overlooked at the time the agenda was posted and that he had even offered to post a supplemental agenda if Mrs. Milligan was prepared to present the action item to the Board. Mayor Hutton stated that he was too busy working with the budget and other priority items to do the research – related to the legality/necessity of P&Z alternates – for her. Mayor Hutton is open to items being placed on the agenda upon request so long as the requestor has done their homework and is ready to present the item to the Board prior to the agenda being posted.

6. Alderman Updates: None

V. Adjourn

A Motion was made by Frank Garrison to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded: Larry Farthing

Vote: All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned @ 10:35 p.m.

Approved:

Todd W. Hutton, Mayor

Sherry Bagby, Town Secretary