

**TOWN OF HUNTERSVILLE
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
MINUTES**

**September 19, 2011
6:30 p.m. – Town Hall**

The Regular Meeting of the Huntersville Board of Commissioners was held at the Huntersville Town Hall at 6:30 p.m. on September 19, 2011.

GOVERNING BODY MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Jill Swain; Commissioners Danae Caulfield, Charles Jeter, Ron Julian, and Sarah McAulay.

Mayor Swain called for a moment of silence.

Mayor Swain led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MAYOR AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS/STAFF QUESTIONS

Mayor Swain

- No report from MTC or North Meck Management Team.
- The next ASC Board meeting is this week.
- The next Huntersville Connection meeting is tomorrow at Rural Hill.

Commissioner Caulfield – No report.

Commissioner Jeter – No report.

Commissioner Julian

- The Lake Norman Chamber will have Focus Friday on September 23 – Focus on Education. The Chamber will be honoring the outstanding police, firefighters and EMS from Cornelius, Davidson and Huntersville on October 20.

Commissioner McAulay

- The next MPO meeting is this Wednesday.
- The next Visit Lake Norman Board meeting is September 26.

PUBLIC COMMENTS, REQUESTS, OR PRESENTATIONS

Ken Holtje, 14535 Highway 73, said I would like to enter into the record a brief statement this evening. On behalf of the more than 500 residents living along NC 73 from Henry Lane to the Catawba River, we would like to express our appreciation to the Planning Board and members of the Town Board for supporting and endorsing the concept of Option 3 as presented in the Northwest Huntersville Transportation Study and approved on September 6, 2011. Your action will help protect the water quality of Lake Norman, provide greater safety to the faculty and students of Southlake School and eliminates the threat of an estimated \$12 million of property value loss.

AGENDA CHANGES

Commissioner Caulfield made a motion to add Item A under Other Business – Consider adopting ordinance to reduce the speed from 45 mph to 40 mph on Stumptown Road between US 21 and Hugh McAuley Road. Commissioner McAulay seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner McAulay made a motion to add Item B under Consent Agenda – Receive Tax Collector's Settlement for Fiscal Year 2011. Commissioner Caulfield seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner McAulay made a motion to adopt the agenda, as amended. Commissioner Julian seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

OTHER BUSINESS

Ordinance to Reduce Speed Limit. Consider adopting ordinance to reduce the speed limit from 45 mph to 40 mph on Stumptown Road between US 21 and Hugh McAuley Road.

Commissioner McAulay said I would like to ask why are we not just going ahead and taking it down to 35 mph.

Max Buchanan, Public Works Director/Town Engineer, said it's still a NCDOT road and they did a study. It was actually very difficult for us to convince them that it needed to go to 40 mph. And actually part of the reduction is they consented on lowering it to 40 mph, however they would not post a speed school zone there in front of St. Marks Church.

Commissioner McAulay made a motion to adopt ordinance to reduce the speed limit from 45 mph to 40 mph on Stumptown Road between US 21 and Hugh McAuley Road.

Commissioner Caulfield seconded motion.

Commissioner Julian said that road, is that a DOT state road or is it now a Town road.

Mr. Buchanan said the section between 115 and 21 is a Town road. The section between 21 and around the roundabout to Hugh McAuley and further back around to NC 73 is still a state maintained road.

Commissioner Caulfield said thank you to you and Justin. I know you have been working very hard on getting this done for several months. I wanted to know, because I know we've been talking about the progression and once they lower this speed limit then getting that part of that road maybe brought over to the Town....the other part of Stumptown, if you could explain that and then are we waiting for that to happen to pursue getting a school zone in that area.

Mr. Buchanan said part of the reclamation project that was just completed in that area was part of an agreement that we had with NCDOT that we would eventually take that onto our Town system from 21 around to Hugh McAuley. That's probably several months away. We will probably try to add that around the spring of next year. We wanted to go ahead and get as much reduction as we could. When we do take it over, we will be in ultimate control and I think you will find favor from our traffic engineers that we'll probably support lowering it to 35 mph.

Commissioner Caulfield said I know St. Marks has been trying to work with you diligently to try to get that into a school zone. They had submitted their paperwork and the state had denied it. Since we did the sidewalk, one of the pieces to that puzzle was that they could prove that people were walking to the school. Now that they can prove that, do you think there's a chance that we could get that to a school zone before that time period.

Mr. Buchanan said I'm thinking they won't find favor in lowering that as part of a school zone.

Mayor Swain said there isn't a lot of foot traffic yet.

Commissioner Caulfield said there is now that they opened up the sidewalk.

Mayor Swain said there's not a lot of foot traffic. It is available and people are walking it, but it hasn't been.....

Mr. Buchanan said I think what you will find is that we'll probably have taken that over by the time that we would fight them.....this ordinance if you approve it would go before the Board of Transportation for their approval before changing the posted speed. And then to start that process over again to incorporate a speed zone for the school, you will probably find that we've taken it over since then.

Commissioner Caulfield said it's just been frustrating waiting for the state to do that. To me I can't fathom why they wouldn't do a school zone. I did get an e-mail from St. Marks saying on their first day they had 40 people walking.

Mr. Buchanan said I would emphasize that just because it is posted 40 mph or 35 mph doesn't make it safer. The cars are going to go what they feel comfortable.

Commissioner Julian said while we are talking about that, the roundabout or the intersection improvement there at Ranson Road and Stumptown right at the church.....

Mr. Buchanan said that's on our Top 10 list. Ranson/Stumptown is scheduled in fiscal year 2014, construction in fiscal year 2015 in our CIP.

Mayor Swain said I know this is all very frustrating.

Mr. Buchanan said we will keep pushing and maybe over the winter we can make some progress and get that added to our system and get it onto our Powell Bill maps.

Mayor Swain called for the vote.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance attached hereto as Attachment No. 1.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes. Commissioner McAulay made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2011 Regular Town Board Meeting. Commissioner Julian seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Tax Collector's Settlement. Commissioner McAulay made a motion to receive Tax Collector's Settlement for Fiscal Year 2011. Commissioner Julian seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously. *Tax Collector's Settlement for Fiscal Year 2011 attached hereto as Attachment No. 2.*

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Approved this the 17th day of October, 2011.