

**Marshville Town Council  
Regular Meeting  
Joint Meeting with  
Beaver Lane Volunteer Fire Department  
Board of Directors  
7:00 P.M. Monday, March 16, 2009  
Beaver Lane Volunteer Fire Department  
310 Olive Branch St., Marshville, NC**

Present: Mayor Franklin D. Deese, Council Members Ned Beachum, Margaret Bivens, Dora Bridget and Denise Whitley, Attorney Bobby Griffin, Town Administrator Carl Webber and Town Clerk/Finance Officer Shelley Maness. Also present were the BLVFD Board of Directors and Fire Chief Chris Griffin. Mayor Pro-Tem Gail Kiker was absent.

Mayor Deese opened the meeting at approximately 7:00 p.m. He and President Victory welcomed everyone in attendance. Council Member Bivens gave the invocation. All gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

Adopt Agenda:

At the request of staff, Council Member Bridget made a motion to add to the agenda consideration to approve tax releases and acceptance of a tax settlement report. The motion was seconded by Council Member Whitley. Vote: All ayes. (Added as Items 13 & 14, respectively.)

Council Member Whitley made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended, seconded by Council Member Bivens. Vote: All ayes.

Consent Agenda:

The consent agenda included only the approval of the minutes of the March 2, 2009 Regular Meeting. Council Member Bridget made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Council Member Beachum. Vote: All ayes.

Monthly Financial Review: BLVFD Board. Fire Chief Chris Griffin reviewed the Fire Department's FY 08-09 operating budget which totals \$230,700. He pointed out that the County has contributed more than \$56,000 in revenue and a request had just been submitted to the Town for its annual \$15,000 contribution. The remainder of their revenues comes from grants and fire fees. Chief Griffin said that there is no increase proposed in the FY 09-10 operating budget. President Victory noted that they run a lean operation and therefore they maintain a low per-call cost.

Approve Audit Contract with J.B. Watson, pending approval by LGC: Town Council. TA Webber said that he had received an engagement letter and audit contract from J.B. Watson. He noted that J.B. Watson has provided this service to the Town for approximately eleven years and that the proposed

audit fee remains the same as the past year (a total of \$11,900 plus \$75.00 per hour for single audit procedures/bookkeeping, if applicable). TA Webber recommended that the Town contract with J.B. Watson again this year. Council Member Whitley made a motion to approve the audit contract with J.B. Watson, seconded by Council Member Bivens. Vote: All ayes.

History of Beaver Lane Volunteer Fire Department: Fire Chief Griffin. Chief Griffin said that the Fire Department was incorporated in 1966 when funeral homes were getting out of the patient treatment and transport business. A group of citizens got together and formed the “Marshville Rescue Squad.” Within a year, they obtained a fire truck and became known as “Marshville Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department.” A municipal department, known as the “Marshville Fire Department,” served those living within the city limits. In 1975, the volunteer organization decided to change its name to avoid confusion between the two departments. At about the same time, the Town decided to get out of the fire business, so there was only one department to serve the Town and the surrounding 49 square miles. The department was named Beaver Lane in reference to the “Beaver Dam” community and in memory of Board of Director President Richard Lane.

Currently, Beaver Lane provides first responder service through EMT basic level of care. Chief Griffin said that the department responds to an average of 700 calls per year. Of those calls, approximately 400 are medical, 200 are fire, and 100 are miscellaneous issues. Prior to the mid-1980s, bills for fire service were handwritten and mailed. When the collection rate fell below 40%, the department chose to impose a \$50 fire tax per household to cover their expenses. Chief Griffin said that revenue source was maxed out about eight years ago and they are now asking to have the amount of the tax tied to the value of the property. County Commissioners are asking the state to increase the fire fee from \$50 to \$100.

Chief Griffin said that most all capital is purchased with grant funds. He noted that a new tanker was recently purchased under the Homeland Security Grant. He also reported that they are seeking grant funds to renovate and expand the fire station.

Chief Griffin said that the fire department would like to offer the Town a 1973 Ford Fire Truck. He said that the tanker grant was intended to replace the old truck and it could no longer be used in fire service. Chief Griffin noted that the truck was a straight drive and was refurbished 12 years ago.

Mayor Deese thanked Chief Griffin for the information and the generous offer. He said that he would like to consider the offer on a future agenda.

Consider resolution/recognition of 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of “the” train derailment: Town Council and Board. Mayor Deese said that the train derailment is part of Marshville’s history and would like to recognize the anniversary in the form of a resolution. He noted that Beaver Lane Fire Department did an outstanding job in responding to the accident. Council Member Whitley made a motion to adopt the resolution in recognition of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the train derailment as presented, seconded by Council Member Bivens. Vote: All ayes. The resolution was also approved unanimously by the BLVFD Board of Directors.

Approve CCOG agreement related to quasi-judicial training: Town Council. TA Webber explained that Centralina COG was offering quasi-judicial training geared toward Boards of Adjustment, but planning staff and council members were invited to attend. He said that the training session would be held March 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 p.m. in Mint Hill. The cost to the Town would be \$275 regardless of the

number attending. Council Member Whitley made a motion to approve the Centralina COG agreement for quasi-judicial training, seconded by Council Member Bivens. Vote: All ayes.

Appoint representative to Pedestrian Planning Grant Steering Committee: Town Council and Board. TA Webber said that the Town was recently awarded a Pedestrian Planning Grant through NCDOT and that one of the requirements is to establish a stakeholders group. The desire of NCDOT is that the stakeholders group would represent a cross-section of the community. TA Webber, along with NCDOT, felt it would be valuable for the BLVFD Board to appoint a staff or board member to serve on the committee. The Town must also appoint a board member or citizen to serve. The BLVFD Board agreed to select a representative at a later date. Council Member Whitley made a motion to have Council Member Bivens serve on the Pedestrian Planning Grant Steering Committee. The motion was seconded by Council Member Beachum. Vote: All ayes.

Approve draft Pedestrian Planning Grant Steering Committee, pending approval by NCDOT: Town Council. Council Member Whitley made a motion to adopt the draft Pedestrian Planning Grant Steering Committee as presented with one additional member to come from BLVFD. The motion was seconded by Council Member Beachum. Vote: All ayes.

Approve Tax Releases: Town Council. Mayor Deese referenced a list of 2008 taxes to be released as requested by Tax Collector Carolyn Haigler. The total amount to be released was \$1,162.00. Council Member Whitley made a motion to approve the tax releases as presented, seconded by Council Member Bivens. Vote: All ayes.

Accept Tax Settlement Report: Town Council. Mayor Deese referenced a tax settlement report prepared by retiring Tax Collector Carolyn Haigler. He explained that G.S. 105-373(d) requires tax collectors to provide a settlement report if they resign before his or her term expires. Council Member Whitley made a motion to accept and enter into the minutes the tax statement prepared by Carolyn Haigler. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bivens. Vote: All ayes.

### Comments

Mayor Deese and Council thanked the BLVFD Board of Directors for hosting the joint meeting and thanked them for their service. President Victory thanked Council and appreciated the opportunity to further develop a relationship with the Town.

TA Webber echoed Council's comments and said, from an administrative perspective, he appreciated the good working relationship between himself and Chief Griffin. TA Webber notified Council that they had received a letter from Mr. Frank Leonhart offering his property near the park for sale.

There being no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.

These minutes approved this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2009.

---

Franklin D. Deese  
Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Shelley H. Maness  
Town Clerk