

**Regular Meeting**  
Town of Cooleeemee  
January 10, 2022 6:00 pm  
Minutes

In attendance were Mayor Jessica Almond, Commissioners: Chris Almond, Jeannie Taylor, Commissioner Reavis, Town Clerk Aaron Thies, Attorney Wendy Terry . Absent Commissioner White

Mayor Jessica Almond called the meeting to order.

Invocation: Commissioner Cover

Pledge to the US Flag led by The Mayor

Visitors were welcomed.

Mayor Almond stated that we needed to remove the audit line item A due to be unable to make the meeting. Also line item D the lawsuit needed to move moved to close section. This change will move everything up one letter placing the lawsuit after the personnel matters. Commissioner Reavis made the motion to remove the audit from the agenda and move lawsuit to close section. Also to accept the financial report and minutes from the December 20, 2021 meeting.

Commissioner Almond Second Favor 3, Opposed 0

No public comments

Lt. Hill gave update on police department for the end of the year. He stated that all the paperwork for Nelson had been sent in to the state. For the 2021 year the department had a total of 4,418 events that was log into the systems. He did say that some events may have been misses and Nelson's logs were not included into the number. From 2020 to 2021 the crime rate down 29.6%. New cars are fully up and running. Radars have been recertified for the year. Nelson was kind to strip the white one, and the blue one still has to be striped. The tires from the blue car are being placed on the car Nelson drove to save money on tires since the blue cars tire are only year old roughly.

Chief Doug gave update on the fire from the night before.

Aaron gave an update on town hall and code. Started off by saying all end of year tax forms were submitted on 12/30/21 with w2 being completed on 1/7/22. Cash report for the state was submitted on 1/3/22. The second half of the Powell Bill was deposited into the account and it was roughly \$4,000 more than planning on getting with the first half being round \$12,000. PTRC is requesting someone from Cooleeemee to be on the board and was going to check and see if the clerk could be the face for the town. Would give update on what they say once more information is known. Cooleeemee is hosting the next county manager meeting at the town hall. Will be on 2/9/22 at 7:30 and if any of the board wish to join they can. Far as code it had been

slow and working on couple special ones round town. The county is holding a public hearing on 1/24/22 at the school on the new water plan. Meeting is going to be a hybrid meeting.

#### Old Business

Commissioner Reavis said the O'Neal's are going to do the speed bumps and the stop signs have not come in yet. They told Andy they had a key, but Mayor Almond stated they do not have keys now as we had to change locks due to keys not being turned in. They would have to get with Aaron to get in.

Mayor Almond gave Det. Kyle Shuping the task of doing some research after a meeting with the fire marshal (FM), fire chief, police chief, herself and Aaron over a permit for our Christmas parade. Fire marshal gave mayor Almond some document to adopt the Davie Co. fire, rescue and protection ordinance at the meeting and she reply that the board would have to review she couldn't make the call. With Kyle knowledge on this information Mayor Almond had him read over and check to see what he could find out and see if it would be wise for the town to adopt. Kyle stated that the FM had more control outside of the limits of the town in the county area, as for inside it falls more with the chief of police. Kyle found that if we adopt then we as a town loose the right to do any inspections that the county would do all inspections. We could not hire a 3<sup>rd</sup> party to inspect. One point is the fact that county can charge whatever fee they want to charge the town. FM is to call the local before calling the county to inspect a house fire and if it arson it then goes to the SBI. Kyle saying the town needs to take control of all permits and contract them out. Attorney Wendy Terry pointed out that if the town adopts the ordnances we would be adopting everything from the county. Commissioner Almond concern was if the town didn't agree with the ordnance would it affect the fire department. Chief Doug said they have a separate agreement with the FM for their services. Kyle said it's in the best fit the town does not adopt as it's written. Wendy asked about creating committee to review.

Motion to create a committee of Commissioner Almond & Reavis, Chief Doug, Det. Kyle, & Attorney Wendy to review the ordnance to come up with an action plan to go with to best fit the town by Commissioner Almond

Second by Commissioner Taylor. Favor 3, Opposed 0

Mayor Almond stated that the ABC store in town is no longer using the police department's services. Almond said she done some research and they can do that as long as they have another form of law enforcement services to cover the needs. Lt. Hill said they came up with a plan similar to other departments in the state that they would respond only if there was a true threat and someone one in danger. They would not respond to Billy Bob down here trying to get money from everyone walking in the store basically. Wendy asked who they have contracted with now for the services, and Kyle said ALE. Statute state they either have their own enforcement or pay a percentage for service. Mayor Almond was told that we needed to reach out to the board saying we needed something in writing we no longer need the Cooleemee Police Department service. This way we are cover and they can't say anything. Aaron found the contract sign in 2014 with then Chief West that they must give a 30-day written notice that they no longer need the services of the police department. Mayor Almond stated that they have been providing the services but we have not received any payment. Hill said that there first indication that something was up is that a Davie Co. Deputy he was talking to on phone was working the

store during the move of one side to the other of the liquor. Kyle said he called the store to talk to Kris and she said she was done messing with the town and the county that ALE was doing everything she needed. Mayor asked if Aaron just needs to contact that board about the matter and Wendy said that be the start and if nothing comes of it then she can step in.

Aaron started off by saying that the Park and Rec. grant was open to be filled out and that it's due on February 11<sup>th</sup> and that he needed to pick the board brains for few items and the police department could help to since they are by the park in the afternoons. The one question was how many people use the park. The board bounce back some numbers and come to rough number of at least 12,000 a year. Another one was do we want to pick an age of demographic or just put all ages since we have other items down in the shed for use as well. The board felt all ages would be best. The last question was what we wanted to ask for fund wise to either replace wooden playset or other needs. Mayor Almond asked if they wanted to go with the set that was picked out and voted on for the grant last year.

Motion was made by Commissioner Taylor to use the play set that was picked out in the prior year.

Second by Commissioner Reavis Favor 3 – 0

Aaron said that the new contract for Southern Software had come in for town hall but the police department yet. Hill said he would be on the lookout for the police department one. Kyle said that he had called and talk to them about the service they use and getting it where they can issue violations on the spot and sending it over to town hall. He believes that we can combine the two services in to one to save money then when Aaron does his code enforcement he can log the violation into the system and if they don't pay with in time frame they can go to legal action level of the violations.

Motion to inter close section by Commissioner Reavis at 7:31 pm

Second by Commissioner Taylor 3-0 in favor

Motion made to end close section at 9:40 by Commissioner Almond

Second by Commissioner Reavis

Motion for Budget Amendment 4 of adding \$10,000.00 to 10-410-04 Attorney in case of needing funds for lawsuit and add funds from 10-399-02 Fund Balance Approp. by Commissioner Reavis  
Second by Commissioner Taylor 3-0

Motion to end meeting at 9:43 by Commissioner Taylor

Second by Commissioner Reavis 3-0

3 hour 43minutes Meeting Time

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Mayor, Jessica Almond

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Clerk, Aaron Thies



