

## **Emergency Special Called Meeting**

Town of Cooleemee

August 2, 2023, 5:00PM

### Minutes

#### Open Session

Motion made by Commissioner Reavis to officially terminate Aaron Thies the Clerk/Finance Officer from his duties effective immediately (from previously being placed on admin leave) due to the nature of findings into the embezzlement case.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Fleming; motion passed (4-0)

Motion made by Commissioner Reavis to retain Brandy Koontz to proceed with the case of potential embezzlement against the former Clerk/Finance Officer at a rate of \$300/hr. and 25/hr extra if extra hours are needed to work.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Fleming; motion passed (4-0).

Motion made by Commissioner Reavis to Hire Steven Corriher the former Clerk/Finance Officer as an interim Clerk/Finance Officer for 9-12 hours per week at \$300/week to begin immediately and work on various items to keep the Town operating during the investigation.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Almond; motion passed (4-0).

Further discussions where items the interim Clerk needed to begin with upon beginning his duties, calling NCLM to discuss filing a claim on insurance.

Notify LGC about potential fraud and embezzlement and see what we need to do as far as the annual audit goes.

Did Southern Software crash as suggested in March 2023?

Look through bank records to see what I may notice to be a miss right off and send those findings to Ms. Koontz and SBI agent Smith.

Do we table the audit for the time being to give investigators a chance to look everything over?

The interim Clerk asked if the Auditors office had been notified, Ms. Terry (towns Attorney) stated that she has had that conversation with their office, the interim Clerk/Finance officer said it was his recommendation that we proceed with the audit because he felt it could potentially find more items and give a more accurate number of the potential losses. But ask the board to refrain from voting on this in either direction until he was able to talk with the auditors as well as the LGC office to see what procedure/recommendations were for postponement. All agreed.

Motion made by Commissioner Reavis to adjourn the Emergency Meeting.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Fleming; motion passed (4-0).

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Mayor Pro-Tem, Andrew Reavis

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Interim Clerk, Steven Corriher