

Special Called Meeting

Town of Cooleemee

January 9, 2024 6:00PM

Minutes

Open Session

Mayor Smith opened the meeting at 6:10PM welcoming guests in attendance.

Expressed the need to meet with the Board to begin to put together a scope of work for the upcoming State Grant the Town was awarded. He asked Clerk/Finance Officer Steve to kind of explain where we were and what the Grant was granted for.

The Clerk/Finance Officer explained we are receiving funds approved for Capitol Improvements for a community center and new Library along with materials need to get those up and operating. It was also mentioned that updating the Town Hall was discussed, which could include moving the office to a different location up fitting such a building for that office such as Police Dept.

The Mayor began asking for thoughts and ideas would we replace the current pool for the Community Center, would we renovate the pool bathhouse or should we replace that too. Many board members although would hate to lose the pool seemed to understand that it may be necessary to move forward as hoped with the Center.

The clerk stated in recent discussions with the NCLM they have funding available to pay for drawings and blueprints that we can probably easily get, so this funding would not have to cover that fee hopefully.

Commissioner Tippett had sent emails to everyone and had a print off, of a vision that would include fitness center, dining hall, small kitchen, gym style seating area to host meetings, recreational amenities and be able to host such events as parties and weddings.

The clerk stated just keep in mind that we have so much room and we would need proper parking, Commissioner Ferrell asked if some parking could take place at the current Zachary House. It could but you would still be required to accommodate the Handicap and make it fully accessible for that purpose.

Currently a new free-standing building would only have room right here as far as current Town property is concerned so either the pool area or cook shack area may be the only locations to hold such a building.

The board felt like something that for the Town would be best not just a simple metal building they would like siding and such to match and feel the part of the Town.

If we were to save the pool bathhouse, what could we use it for, Clerk stated Plumbing is no good probably electrical is no good Commissioner Almond Question the durability of the roof. Commissioner Reavis agreed, being concerned over cost just to take care of the necessities for the boathouse not to mention turning it into something else can it be done yes; can we afford that we are not sure.

The hope is to incorporate the Library into the community center somehow, rather into the proposed community center or if the Town has an additional proposition to get them moved out of the current shopping center.

Commissioner Tippett suggest a master plan could go a long way especially with future grants to make most all these items come to life as time goes.

Mayor asked about using the upcoming Community Input Sessions to allow Community Input on these ideas and suggestions, Commissioners Tippett and Ferrell welcomed that idea.

Commissioner Ferrell suggested if we must remove the pool maybe in the future, we can look at adding a splash pad to the area it should not be nearly as expensive or hard to maintain.

Mayor asked Commissioner Reavis about the Lynch Group possibly aiding with the Demo and fill of the pool area Commissioner Reavis has had that conversation with them before and will touch base with them getting an idea of what they could do and what that cost could be.

Mayor, Jeff Smith

Clerk, Steven Corriher