

Special Called Meeting

Town of Cooleemee

September 10, 2024 6:00PM

Minutes

Open Session

Mayor Smith recognized those in attendance and welcomed them to a special called meeting on further discussions on the Bathhouse at the Pool. He then turned the meeting over to Commissioner Ferrell as she asked for the meeting.

Commissioner Ferrell felt like there were things she did not say at the previous meeting held on August 28, 2024, when a vote was rendered to demo the Bathhouse along with the pool. She wants to say first she respects the board and decisions made but would like them to reconsider that decision. She felt like money could be raised to refurbish the Bathhouse in hopes of not having it demoed with the Pool. Says she believes rather you spend the \$29,000 now to tear down or later if nothing can be reached or agreed upon, or it is just going to take much more than anyone expects to properly refurbish. She also thinks the \$29,000 could go towards that refurbishment.

Commissioner Tippett then spoke up that she missed the previous meeting and that she too respected the vote that was rendered and the decision that was made during what she did said she agreed to be a valid vote, but too wanted to give her input at this time. She would be OK with an extra 2-3 months to further decide and discuss the extension of Grant Funds. Would like to see breakout rooms to be rented or used for home school type of work to get folks away from their home. Also asked if additional vote would be required to accept the vote for the #2 bid in the packet.

Mayor explained that is what the vote on August 28, 2024, was for to accept that bid and move forward.

Commissioner Reavis needs to hear a real reason to keep and spend the funds to refurbish he has heard many that also was requested for the Community Center but nothing that stuck in his mind as "hey this will work" is concerned about location of Bathhouse interfering with Community Center.

Commissioner Almond says in his opinion the \$29,000 contract was awarded with that previous vote a cautioned the board not to depend on those funds as part of the refurbish as the Town had basically agree to pay to take it down with that previous decision, so could be held to pay those at this point.

Mayor Smith stated the vote on the 28th was required as the Town agreed to 60 days back on June 17, 2024 and August 28, 2024, was 72 days 12 days past the scheduled time the board agreed upon. The Town is set up to operate with a full board or partial board if a quorum is met, and it was. AS Mayor he is to facilitate meetings and run those correctly and he still feels after discussions with SOG, the Attorney, and other officials that happened. Rather you agree or disagree with an outcome he feels the board members vote with what they feel is the best for the Town and those votes need to be respected. Some wanted to save the pool and bathhouse, others just the bathhouse, some other folks wanted to save either. Regarding the 28th he respects that vote sees no reason the board should overturn that vote and feels uncomfortable in attempting to overturn that previous vote as that sets a dangerous precedent to begin overturning such votes in the past or future.

Motion made by Commissioner Tippett to postpone the Bathhouse demolition to have more information and other opportunities to discuss the location of the Community Center.

Second made by Commissioner Ferrell; motion failed (2-3) as Comm Reavis and Comm Almond were opposed, and Mayor Smith broke that tie as opposed to overturning the previous decision to demo the Bathhouse.

Motion made by Commissioner Tippett to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by Commissioner Almond; motion carried (4-0)

Mayor, Jeff Smith

Clerk, Steven Corriher