

Building & Grounds Committee Meeting

06-02-15

Chairman Ray Lyons called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

*Chairman Lyons welcomed the Mayor of Watauga, Commissioner Larry Miller, and welcomed Mr. Bradley Johnson to the committee.

Roll Call as follows:

Present: Willie Campbell, Isaiah Grindstaff, Timothy Holdren, Ray Lyons, Cody McQueen, Mike Hill, Bradley Johnson, Randall Jenkins

(Present)

Absent: Al Meehan

Quorum Present

Motion made by Randall Jenkins, 2nd by Isaiah Grindstaff to approve the Agenda for the meeting.

Vote by Acclamation to approve previous meeting minutes.

All Ayes, previous minutes were approved.

Mr. Lyons stated that a correction to the minutes needed to be done. This alteration changed the phrase "Chairman Lyons updated the committee on the status of the property" to "Chairman Lyons updated the committee on the status of the old 911 building"

Motion made by Randall Jenkins, 2nd by Isaiah Grindstaff to approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

Vote by Acclamation to approve previous meeting minutes.

All Ayes, previous minutes were approved.

Public Comments - There were no public comments

OLD BUSINESS:

Progress Report -

Mr. Lyons started out old business with a progress report for the old 911 building. He stated that this was the building that we had voted to move the election commission to. He stated that

construction work is currently going on in the building. Mayor Humphrey stated that with the commission authorizing the transfer of funds construction work is going on currently. He stated that a number of subcontractors had been in an electrical work had been done. He stated there was one panel had to be worked on, and that its current state it was a safety issue. He stated that inmate labor was working on preparing the walls, and a flooring contractor was getting the floor ready for tile in certain areas and carpet and others. He stated Norwell has submitted an estimate to come in and do demolition regarding the plumbing. He stated that some sinks and pipes would have to be removed. He stated the generator had been serviced by electrician. He stated that he's collecting some estimates on the fascia boards regarding the overhang, and cautioned that it may be cost prohibitive. He stated that they hope to have the portion of the building will be occupied daily to be ready by June 30 but no later than the middle of July. He stated that the availability of work crews would determine the time from in which the work would be completed. He gave special thanks to the Sheriff's Department for providing the inmate labor work crews, and stated without their help this project would not be moving along like it is.

Commissioner Campbell questioned if they were still planning to occupy the whole building. Mr. Humphrey stated that yes they plan on using the bulk of the building. He stated that they have to store voting machines as well as conducting daily operations, and they also have the responsibility keeping records. Mr. Campbell questioned if all this work could be completed for the same cost for the whole building. Mr. Humphrey stated that the work had initially been estimated to be around \$20,000 and and stated that he could be more or less depending on decisions that are made during the process.

Health Department -

Mr. Lyons stated that we have done almost all the work that can be done regarding the health Department. He stated the design work is submitted back to us from Reidy and Sykes, and that that design work and stop the process at the health department. Mr. Lyons stated that the health department had been selected as an early project. He stated the Director Hurt reached out to him about issue with water drainage, and that he reached out to the Mayor, the Road Superintendent, and the Sheriff and his staff. He stated that they fixed the problem, and replaced the downspouts. He stated that we've done everything over there that we can do. He stated that the design work and came had a large cost associated with. He stated after June 30 we can bring the design work back to the table and began a long process of looking for the funds. Mr. Humphrey stated that the estimate for the work was \$870,000. He stated that the EOC project was estimated at \$250,000. He stated that both of the products are worthy projects and needed to be completed, but cautioned that it would take time. He stated that he had been in contact with a Ms. Carlton and a Mr. Ken Ray. He stated that Ms. Carlton felt there were two areas of opportunity for funding. One is in an Appalachian Regional Commission grant that might be available to us. He stated that she felt the EOC would fit well with the grant description. He stated that the second opportunity would be a Community Development Block Grants. He stated that one stipulation to a community block grants was that if a County currently had a grant open that money would have to be spent first. He stated currently that Carter County had a community development block Grant with Watauga River Regional Water Authority for \$525,000. He stated that they are also currently looking for other funding streams available to us. The

Public Defender Office Space -

Mr. Lyons stated that he wanted to keep this item in front of us. He stated that the space vacated by the public defenders office was still open. Mr. Humphrey stated that the agent that he was working with has since left his post. He stated that he's working diligently to meet his replacement, and to develop a relationship with him. He stated the ultimate goal was to contract with stated Tennessee to occupy the entire space. Mr. Bradley stated that the second floor of the old jail building would be a good area to convert into workable space due to the architecture. Mr. Lyons stated that we had initially visited that site, and that it was one of the projects we were working on long-term.

EMA Director-

Mr. Lyons stated that we had toured the facilities Mr. Gary Smith. He stated that a commissioner had been quoted as saying "a worker in that office cannot even turn around with a cheeseburger in their hand." He stated that we were still trying to work something out to move his shop and to a different location. He stated that we had looked at moving his office into a vacant portion of the new 911 building. He stated there was little new information regarding this project at the time. Mr. Johnson stated that the EOC had a critically important role, and it they needed adequate space to do that job. Mr. Campbell stated that during an emergency the EOC is a critical part of tying everything together.

NEW BUSINESS

Fire Departments -

Mr. Larry Miller stated that he believed there was an issue regarding which fire departments responded to which areas first. He stated a primary concern that if a fire were to take place in the town of Butler dispatch would send firefighters from the town of Hampton, and he believed Elk Mills could respond much faster. Mr. Miller stated that his primary goal was to get the fire department that was able to respond fastest to the areas it is needed.

Motion made by Tim Holdren, 2nd by Cody McQueen to Adjourn

Vote by Acclamation

All Ayes, Motion Carried

Meeting was Adjourned.

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