Walter M. Gardner, Jr. Mayor

Robert F. Davie Town Administrator

TOWN OF WARRENTON

"Historically Great - Progressively Strong" P. O. Box 281 Warrenton, NC 27589-0281 PHONE (252) 257-3315 FAX (252) 257-9219

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING **NOVEMBER 10, 2014**

Attending were: Mayor Walter Gardner, Jr.

Commissioner Palmer "Woody" King Commissioner George "Al" Fleming Commissioner Mary Hunter **Commissioner Kimberly Harding Commissioner Margaret Britt** Commissioner William "Tom" Hardy

Robert Davie, Town Administrator Goble Lane. Police Chief Jennifer Harris, Warren Record Bill Perkinson, Public Works Mitch Styers, Attorney Annette Silver, Minute Taker

Commissioner John Mooring was absent. One citizen present.

Call to Order/Minutes/Agenda

Mayor Gardner called the regular monthly meeting of the Town of Warrenton to order at 7:00PM. Those attending were asked to observe a moment of silence for Veterans and their families. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Britt. The Proposed Agenda was presented. Mayor added to the Consent Agenda the following: item (i) Approval of Rules of Citizen Comments and Conflicts of Interest Disclaimer. Old Business (b) Approval of Special Use Permit and to New Business (e) Parks Grant Proposed Application. Commissioner Harding added (f) Christmas Luncheon Date. A motion was made by Commissioner Fleming with second by Commissioner King to accept the Consent Agenda. The vote was approved unanimously.

Conflict of Interest Disclaimer

Mayor Gardner read the Conflict of Interest disclaimer. "Members of the Town of Warrenton Board of Commissioners are advised, hereby, of their duty under the State Government Ethics Act to avoid conflicts of interest and the appearance of such conflict; and, further, are instructed to refrain from participating in any matter coming before this Town Board of Commissioners with respect to which there is a conflict of interest or appearance of such conflict". In accordance with the State Government Ethics Act, it is the duty of every Board member to avoid both conflicts of interest and appearance of conflict. Does any Board member have any known conflict of interest or appearance of conflict with respect to any matter coming before this Board tonight? If so, please identify the conflict and refrain from any undue participation in the particular matter involved. No Commissioner had a conflict with any item on current agenda.

Public Comments

Rules for Citizen Comments Please sign up to speak. The Maximum time allotted to each speaker will be five (5) minutes; The Town Administrator will keep time. Any group of people who support or oppose the same position should designate a spokesperson. Please address only those items which might not have been addressed by a previous speaker. This is not a question and answer session. If response from the Administrator, Mayor and/or Board is desired, please leave a copy of your comment(s) with the Town Administrator. After the Citizen Comments period, comments from the audience are not appropriate unless recognized by the Mayor or

placed as an agenda item. Order and decorum will be maintained. The Town Administrator will read the Rules for Citizen Comments at each meeting. No public comments were voiced.

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda was presented.

- (a) Minutes of Board meeting October 13, 2014
- (b) Year-to-Date Revenue and Expenditures Reports (Budget vs. Actual)
- (c) Monthly Checks Report
- (d) Public Works Monthly Report
- (e) WWTP Monthly Report
- (f) Police Activity Report
- (g) Budget Amendment
- (h) Vision Statement

Commissioner King noted correction should be made in Revitalization Committee report showing 59% income has been earned and 35% of budget fund has been used. A motion was made by Commissioner Hunter to accept the Consent Agenda with corrections with second made by Commissioner Fleming. The vote was approved unanimously.

Committee Reports

Finance & Administration

Commissioner Hunter reported in addition to written report a preliminary audit report stating an increase in the fund balance of \$230,000, which is a substantial increase for Town. A formal report will be presented at a future meeting.

Public Works

Commissioner Harding reported nothing in addition to written report. Mr. Perkinson reported the oxidation ditch mixers arrived today and installation should be completed within approximately two weeks.

Public Safety

Commissioner Hardy and Chief Lane reported in addition to written report, all Halloween activities were successful and improving yearly. Mayor Gardner proudly informed Board that the fire department inspections were all completed and Warrenton was awarded a Class 4 inspection rating from North Carolina Insurance Commission. (This rating is comparable to Henderson, a larger town with paid firefighters.) This is an increase from Class 6 received in prior inspections. Class 4 is one of the highest ratings. Mayor explained in depth the plus factors to Warrenton commercial area including possible reductions in insurance premiums. The rating will be effective February 1, 2015. The Board congratulated Mayor and all firefighters.

Human Resources/Information Technology

Commissioner Fleming had no report at this time.

Revitalization/Historical

Commissioner King had no report from Historic Committee at this time. The next Revitalization meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 18, 2014. The Committee is soliciting new members at this time. The next event scheduled in Warrenton is Prelude to Christmas, December 13, 2014 at 4:00 PM with Vance Granville Band scheduled for musical renditions beginning at 4:30PM; Christmas Parade at 5:30PM and lighting of tree and Santa's appearance to follow. The tree trimming on courthouse square is scheduled for Saturday, December 2, 2014 at 1:00PM. At present, 63% of budget funds have been earned with 50% of budget spent.

Beautification/Facilities

Commissioner Britt reminded all present leaf time is here and Public Works is doing a good job. She believes Warrenton looks better than it ever has. The Christmas tree on courthouse square has grown into a beauty. When first you look at the decorative railing located at corner of Macon and Main Street, you think it has been dented but a closer look reveals birds on limbs. Commissioner Britt would like permission to add more limbs and birds. Board agreed Davie and Britt should discussion addition. Commissioner Hunter observed trash bins on North Main Street need to be spaced differently to allow a bin closer to Colonial Lodge. Commissioner Harding inquired as to when USDA will do inspection of project; Davie responded Thursday of this week. Davie was requested to talk with merchants on N Main St about trash (boxes) in front of businesses. Perkinson and staff were commended on brick work.

Planning/Zoning/Annexation

In absence of Commission of Mooring no report was given.

Old Business

The Strategic Planning Session was deemed successful. From the Strategic Planning Session the Board of Commissioners' vision for Warrenton is to maintain our small town charm, keep our business district active, keep young people excited about being here, and respect our history while engaging for the future, and increase prosperity and vibrancy in town. Davie reported the meeting with the USDA representative involving Water/Sewer Grant, Water Meters, Mapping was very encouraging for the Town. A revenue bond may be required by the USDA for the loan portion of the grant/loan Board recommended Davie proceed with Grant application. A \$30,000 SEARCH grant has been awarded to the Town for the required, initial, engineering reports, which is an indicator of a likely follow-on grant. The Special Use Permit application for district C1 - Michael Layne 137 S. Main Street was presented for approval. Commissioner Hardy made motion to approve application with second made by Commissioner King. The vote was unanimously approved.

New Business

The Local Water Supply Planning Resolution was presented. Commissioner King made a motion to accept with second made by Commissioner Britt. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote. The Board agreed with Thursday, January 22, 2015 as date for Town Hall Workshop at 7:00PM at fire house. Commissioner Harding requested assistance in contacting Warren County concerning revenue from ABC store profits. Commissioner Harding stated that the Town has the right to petition County Commissioners for continued profit-sharing from ABC store sales (reference NC GS 18B-805 (e)). Commissioner Hunter agreed to assist Commissioner Harding. Commissioner Hardy brought to the attention of the Board the condition of the Cannon House (208 E. Macon St). The safety issue as well as appearance factor are Hardy's major issues. In the past historic value was consideration for the Town not to proceed further, but there is no historic value with building in present condition. Davie found in 2007 Town Minutes the county inspector had reviewed the situation and condemned the dwelling. Commissioner Fleming recommended Styers review the overall situation with suggestions to Board. Styers stated that was done in 2007. Mayor suggested a letter be drafted requesting Warren County inspect building for condemnation consideration. Commissioner Fleming made a motion with second by Commissioner King for Town to draft a letter requesting Warren County inspect building for condemnation consideration. Board inquired as to who is legally responsible if someone is injured on property. Styers responded that the Williams family is responsible. Commissioner Hardy stated security of some sort is needed and a fence could be used as the County has set precedence by fencing their property at 185 E. Macon Street (old jail). The motion to draft a letter passed by a unanimous vote. Town Administrator Davie and Michael Layne met with Ed Johnson of the Department of Transportation concerning Bicycle-Pedestrian Planning Grant Application. The grant addresses health practices and safe routes to school. Warrenton is considering bike trails and walking pathways. The study application is due December 4, 2014 with award notification in June 2015. A \$2500 match from the Town is required for the \$25,000 total expenditure of the study. A motion was made by Commissioner

King with second by Commissioner Hardy for Davie to continue with application. The motion passed with unanimous approval. A suggested date of December 17th or 18 was made for Christmas employee luncheon.

Announcement

Mayor and Board congratulated Warren County High School marching band won 14 National trophies at the Stepping National Championship in Atlanta, GA this past weekend. With no further business meeting adjourned.