TOWN OF AURORA, NC
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
July 1, 2019 Meeting

A regular meeting of the Aurora Town Board of Commissioners was held at 7:00 P.M. on July 1, 2019, at the Town Hall. Mayor Clif Williams called the meeting to order with the following present:

Officials Present:	[X] Clif Williams, Mayor
Commissioners Present:	[X] W. C. Boyd, Police
	[X] John Farrow, Public Works
	[X] Brad Lee, Water and Sewer (Mayor Pro Tempore)
	[X] Jeff Peed, Buildings and Facilities
Attendance:	[X] Judith Lannon – Town Clerk/Finance Officer
	[X] Sandra Sartin – Deputy Town Clerk/Finance Officer
	[X] Chuck Bonner – Public Works Director
	[X] Curt Hendrix – Recreation Coordinator
	[X] Various members of the public were in attendance

A motion was made by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Lee and approved with a 4 to 0 vote to approve the June 3, 2019, regular meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Farrow, seconded by Commissioner Lee and approved with a 4 to 0 vote to approve the June 17, 2019, recessed meeting minutes.

Shannon Russell, representing Mack Gay Associates, updated the Board on the recent bid opening for the Water Plant Upgrade project. A. C. Schultz was the lowest bidder at $449,000, which is approximately $60,000 over the estimated construction costs which were $536,000. This is the amount from which the 25% grant and $390,000 loan from DEQ were based. She reminded the Board that any bid over 10% must go back to the Local Government Commission for approval. She suggests that (1) the Town ask for a 60-day extension in the timeline for grant and (2) that the Asset Management Team meet to discuss items that can possibly be removed or adjusted in the grant proposal. Mayor Williams is concerned about the Town purchasing water from Beaufort County during the construction process. Mike Tolsen has contacted the Beaufort County water department director to determine a rate for purchase of water. Mayor Williams believes a new building would cost less than renovation of the current structure. He has a 40' x 60' building he is willing to sell for $20,000. This scenario would require beginning with a new engineering report. The project has previously been paused for 45 days due to a sampling error. $131,000 of the funds for the project are grant money. Ms. Russell stated that money can be shuffled, but a new building would require another bid.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Peed and approved with a 4 to 0 vote to approve the Resolution and Lease with the BHM Library for support of the Hazel W. Guilford Library effective September 1, 2019 through August 30, 2020.

After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Peed, seconded by Commissioner Boyd and approved with a 4 to 0 vote to appoint T. R. Thompson, Jr. as attorney for the Town of Aurora, at a rate not to exceed $125 per hour.

Town Clerk/Finance Officer Judith Lannon presented the proposed CenturyLink Fiber + Internet Agreement which would provide fiber optic service for the Town Hall, Public Works Office and the Fire Department. There would be no interruption in service and no installation fee. The cost would be $805 per month plus taxes. After discussion, it was decided to contact Spectrum for a price on comparable service before a decision is made.

Deputy Town Clerk/Finance Officer Sandra Sartin presented a request from Aurora Community Watch for assistance from the Town for the annual Aurora Night Out event to be held on August 10. A motion was made by Commissioner Peed, seconded by Commissioner Boyd and approved with a 4 to 0 vote to allocate $250 for this event. Commissioner Boyd urged any organization seeking funds to submit a request to the Finance Officer before annual budget discussions begin.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Peed and approved with a 4 to 0 vote to amend the existing Cell Phone Policy to include compensation for use of personal phones for Town business conducted by department heads.

Recreation Coordinator Curt Hendrix presented a report of activities for the months of May and June. He has learned that food cannot be cooked at the concession stand without meeting Health Department code requirements. A refrigerator is needed for beverages. A softball tournament is scheduled to be held at the ballfield on August 3. Flyers recruiting children for summer athletic activities which had been prepared for Snowden Elementary students to take home were not included in their end-of-year packets.

Public Works Director Chuck Bonner reported that work is progressing well. There is a lot of scrap metal that can be disposed of. Commissioner Boyd requested that a list of items be prepared for review by the Board. Varying prices have been received for purchase of a backhoe. The range for a used backhoe is $60,000 to $65,000. The municipal price for a new backhoe is approximately $90,000. $3,000 is the estimated trade-in value of the Town's current backhoe. Commissioner Lee asked if a backhoe was a necessity for the Town. The Director stated that a backhoe was an absolute necessity. The backhoe attachments currently owned by the Town will work on a John Deere. He will prepare specs to meet Town requirements and will get more bids. He also reported that he will be receiving assistance from State and Regional water and wastewater personnel for completion of required reports this week.

A motion was made by Commissioner Peed, seconded by Commissioner Lee and approved with a 4 to 0 vote to enter into closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S.143-318.11(a)(6) To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee.

After the meeting returned to regular session, a motion was made by Commissioner Peed, seconded by Commissioner Farrow and approved with a 4 to 0 vote to give James Ham a raise to $13.50 per hour, effective immediately.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Lee and approved with a 4 to 0 vote to adjourn the meeting.

Clif Williams, Mayor	Sandra Sartin, Deputy Finance Officer