

MINUTES
of the Regular Meeting of the
WENTWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
October 6, 2015
7:00 pm
Wentworth Town Hall

Council Members Present: Mayor Pro Tem Evelyn Conner, Cheryl Moore, Dennis Paschal III, and Iris Powell

Council Members Absent: Mayor Dennis Paschal Jr.

A quorum was present.

Staff Present: George Murphy, Town Administrator
Yvonne Russell, Town Clerk / Finance Officer

Others Present: Patrick Kane, Attorney – Smith Moore Leatherwood
Jenny Edwards – Dan River Basin Association
Daniel Apple with God & Country Youth Honor Guard Cadets
Janet Rakestraw – World Changers
Jan Critz, Director – Rockingham County Economic Development

Article I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Evelyn Conner called the meeting to order.

Article II. INVOCATION

Councilmember Dennis Paschal, III gave the invocation.

Article III. APPROVAL OF TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA –

A. Requests and Petitions of Citizens

No requests and/or petitions were made.

B. Approve/ Amend Agenda

Mayor Pro Tem Conner made a **MOTION**, “We approve the Agenda as written”.

Councilmember Paschal seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Article IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Town Council Meeting – September 1, 2015

Councilmember Iris Powell made a **MOTION**, *“The minutes be accepted as written”*.

Mayor Pro Tem Conner seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Article V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Updates from Town Administrator

1. Zip Code Realignment
2. Town Hall Repairs

George Murphy, Town Administrator gave the following reports to Council. He also mentioned that a representative from NCDMV confirmed that citizens who incur a government initiated address change do not have follow the State Statute that requires a new driver’s license or identification card within 60 days of an address change.

**General Report from Town Administrator George T. Murphy, Sr.
September 30, 2015**

Zip Code Re-alignment Update

Letters of support were received from the following:

- United States Congressman Mark Walker, 6th District, North Carolina
- Lance Metzler, Manager, Rockingham County
- Johnny Bowles, Director, Rockingham County Department of Emergency Management
- J. Mark Pegram, Clerk of Superior Court, Rockingham County
- Rebecca B. Cipriani, Register of Deeds, Rockingham County
- Tina Cardwell, Director, Rockingham County Elections
- Dr. Mark O. Kinlaw, President, Rockingham Community College
- Tonya Caddle, Director, Rockingham County Planning and Inspections
- Mark F. Richardson, Chairman, Rockingham County Board of Commissioners
- Samuel S. Page, Sheriff, Rockingham County
- Mark C. McClintock, Tax Administrator, Rockingham County
- Tara M. Pierce, Director, Rockingham County Youth Services
- Kevin L. Baughn, Director, Rockingham County Animal Shelter

Copies of these letters of support were included with a letter from Mayor Paschal dated September 28, 2015, to United States Postal Service District Manager Russell Gardner, formally requesting zip code re-alignment for the Town of Wentworth. A map of the municipality and a list of the road names and address ranges for each road included in the municipality were included in the packet.

USPS tracking information indicates that the packet was received on September 29, 2015.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation, Department of Motor Vehicles has been contacted inquiring how zip code re-alignment will effect residents with regard to Driver's License and Vehicle Registration since, if the change occurs, residents will not move; yet, their addresses would change.

DMV has acknowledged receipt of the inquiry. The inquiry referred to a supervisor. At this printing, a response has yet to be received.

Town Hall Repris – Painting and Parking Lot

Painting:

Southland Painting completed their work Thursday, September 24, 2015. Yvonne and George inspected the finished work and discovered no defects.

Jonathan Sasser from Southland pointed out that there were three areas near the roof line where the wood had been exposed had developed some wood rot. His crew painted over the areas with the understanding that Jonathan would have a carpenter look at the damaged areas and provided an estimate for that repair. Once the repair had been completed, Jonathan would have his crew return and apply primer and paint to the repaired areas.

Jonathan also pointed out that there was a gap between sections of the guttering that needed addressing.

Jonathan Sasser had Randy Robertson with Affordable and Reliable Enterprises, LLC at 212 Roberson Lane, Reidsville, N. C. 27320 come by to look at the needed repair. The paint had effectively hidden the damage that needed repair. Randy contacted Jonathan to clarify where the location of the repairs. Randy stated he would return once he had the information he needed from Jonathan. Randy also stated he would consult with Jonathan about the gap at the gutters.

The recent rainy weather has delayed getting the information we need from Randy Robertson.

The repair to the rotten wood will be an additional expense to the Town. We are awaiting and estimate.

Parking Lot:

The weather also delayed the parking lot repair; however, that was completed by D&D Asphalt Thursday morning, September 24, 2015, when the cracks in the parking lot were sealed and the lines were re-painted. The hole at the catch basin located in the southwest corner of the parking lot had been repaired on September 6, 2015. The hole at that location was neatly cut out, and the resulting gap that was exposed was filled with concrete. The hole repair is under warranty for one year. Staff will continue to monitor the location to ensure that the repair is successful.

Note: Both Southland and D&D have been good companies with which to work.

NCDOT Transportation Improvement Project (TIP) number 43658, Informally referred to as the Wentworth Sidewalk Project

Meeting: Wentworth Presbyterian Church (Basement)
1041 NC 65 (in Wentworth)
Reidsville, N. C. 27320
September 14, 2015, 6:30 p.m.

Persons in Attendance

Session Members

Charles Fagg
Katernia Flysta
Susan Irving
Cathy Mutarelli
Bob Perdue

Also from the Church

Pastor, Marty Brim
Church Member, Henry Sands

NCDOT

Ed Lewis, Division 7 Planning Engineer
Chris Smitherman, Division 7 Design Construction Engineer

MARC

Executive Director, Jordan Rossi

Town of Wentworth

Administrator, George T. Murphy, Sr.

Concerns and Issues Raised by Church Members Included the Following:

1. The installation of curbing, catch basins, and underground storm water lines will bring additional water from both sides of the roadway, some of which had previously been channeled to the east side lane of NC 65, thereby increasing the volume of water flowing down the ditch located between the church and the community building on the west side lane of NC 65.
2. Not only will the volume of water be increased, but also the velocity of the storm water running downhill through the ditch will be increased resulting in increased erosion.

3. Church membership is convinced that there are unmarked, slave graves in the cemetery that may be affected by the increased volume and velocity of the storm water running downhill through the ditch.
4. There are several utility lines (water, natural gas, telephone, septic sewer drain field pump line) that may be affected by either excavation to install underground storm water drain lines along the right-of-way or the increased volume and velocity of storm water flowing downhill via the existing drainage ditch.
5. While the church building may not be on the National Registry of Historic Buildings, it was constructed in 1862(?), and it is an important historical community landmark nevertheless that should be protected.
6. Church members echoed Henry Sands contention that the NCDOT does not have any right-of-way along the road frontage of the properties owned by the Church. Specifically cited was the road frontage where the gravel parking lot is located and the road frontage directly in front of the church building where handicapped parking spaces are located.
7. The Rockingham County Historical Society, which was specifically cited, at the Museum and Archives of Rockingham County (MARC) refused to allow the Church to install drain field line on property near the well located behind the Wright Tavern when the Church's septic system had to be replaced forcing the Church to install a pumping station to pump waste water under the downhill drainage ditch into a newly established drain field area located in the front yard of the Community Building located next door to the church. ("It may not be the Christian attitude, but they didn't help us so why should we help them?")
8. The storm water should be diverted into a new ditch that could be installed between the Wright Tavern property line and the property line of the office building owned by Judge Stan Allen. (Note: Henry Sands had placed wooden stakes along the proposed pathway of the new drainage ditch.)
9. There is some question about the how storm water is currently flowing and dissipating using the existing system of catch basins, drainage ditches, and underground piping. A recurring question was, "If storm water is not currently flowing to the downhill ditch located between the Church and the Community Building, then where is it going, and how is it getting there?"
10. The existing catch basin located at the paved entry to the gravel parking lot (site of the former home that was torn down) and the subsequent underground pipe appear to be partially blocked although the minister reported that on at least two (2) occasions over the last seven (7) years he has observed a volume of water flowing in the downhill ditch between the Church and the Community Building that came into contact with the base of the existing bridge.
11. The speed limit of 25 mph through the area in front of the MARC where the crosswalk is to be installed should be enforced. The Sheriff's Office was cited as the agency responsible for this enforcement.
12. Henry Sands requested he be provided copies of laws that would prevent the diversion of storm water into a ditch constructed between the Wright Tavern property and property owned by Judge Stan Allen.
13. The Session Members want to meet again when the concerns and issues raised this evening have been reviewed and an update is available for consideration.

1. Additional storm water will not be transferred from other locations and added to the water flow already existing on the west side (downhill side) of the roadway.
2. The new system of catch basins, curbing, and underground piping will be “more efficient.”
3. The volume of storm water generated by the existing system and the proposed system should get further review; however, the downhill ditch in existence through the area does not appear to pose a threat.
4. All underground lines will, as a matter of course, be located, identified, and protected.
5. Jordan Rossi stated that the concerns of the MARC extend to all historical areas and structures, and that concern is not limited to only those owned or controlled by the MARC. DOT representatives also stated that the DOT is opposed to causing harm to any property. The project is designed to improve public safety. Now, the project has been in planning over an extended period of time. Due to the proximity of historical sites, care has been given to protecting those sites. Consequently, the project is being carefully reviewed with those concerns in mind including those raised by Session Members during the meeting this evening. Additionally, due to the expanding and contracting of the scope of this project, DOT regrets that did not contact the Church in advance of the expressed concerns and apologies were extended. This oversight exists since, at the outset, the project was in response to a public safety concern that was being addressed with a handicapped accessible crosswalk with sidewalks, curb and guttering, storm water control and flashing signals that, together, were designed to provide some warning and protection to visitors to the MARC and the Wright Tavern that include school children who cross NC 65 between the two sites.
6. No response was given to the assertion that NCDOT does not have any right-of-way along the road frontage of the properties owned by the Church; however, DOT signage is currently located in one of these areas, and the DOT plans (two copies were left with the Session Members group) indicate DOT right-of-way exists. The Session Members’ letter indicated that the belief that there is no right-of-way is based upon property deeds.
7. My understanding is that a well is located behind the Wright Tavern near where the Church wanted the drain field line to go. I do not know if the MARC or Rockingham County Environmental Health blocked that plan. It appeared that if there is any existing animus, it is directed at the MARC.
8. Ed Lewis stated that the “Henry Sands Drainage Ditch Plan” between the Wright Tavern and Stan Allen was illegal due to laws pertaining to identified historical sites. Ed stated that he would find the legal citations and share those with Henry who wanted a copy in writing. I also requested identification of the citations. Additionally, the proposed route would not eliminate storm water from flowing from in front of the Wright Tavern and beyond to the existing downhill drainage ditch location due to incline of the right-of-way.
9. Chris Smitherman will explore the destination and route of the storm water. He plans to report back to the Session Members in a later meeting.
10. Again, Chris Smitherman will explore apparently with the help of a hydrologist.
11. No mention was made of the NC Highway Patrol, which has been observed patrolling the area in the recent past. Regardless, the purpose of the project is designed to provide warning and impetus to drivers to use additional care due to the existence of a pedestrian crosswalk. Additional traffic laws beyond the posted speed limit govern vehicular traffic through a pedestrian crosswalk. Further, neither a deputy nor a trooper can be available to patrol the site continuously or even upon demand.

12. Ed Lewis stated that he would provide the information Henry Sands requested concerning the laws that would prevent the diversion of storm water into a ditch constructed between the Wright Tavern property and property owned by Judge Stan Allen. (See bullet item number 8 above.)

13. Chris Smitherman stated that he would review the existing plan with the issues and concerns raised during the meeting. He estimated this review would take at least two weeks. He and Ed plan to meet again once issues and concerns raised in tonight's meeting are reviewed.

George T. Murphy, Sr. – Notes

Note: Underlined information above was added 9/22/15 after receiving a response from Ed Lewis whom I requested to review my observations for accuracy and clarity.

Since the September 14, 2015 Meeting:

Chris Smitherman from NC DOT called to advise that he was working on a revised plan for the project. In response to the concerns raised by the Session Members with Wentworth Presbyterian Church, Chris plans to modify the current plan by shortening the project.

Staff's understanding is that DOT will stop the sidewalk and improvements where the ditch in front of the Wright Tavern begins.

This modification of the design will keep the crosswalk, handicapped accessibility, warning signage, and a smaller sidewalk footprint while eliminating the probability or the appearance that there will be any added storm water flowing in the direction of church-owned properties. The abridged plan will also eliminate several of the previously planned catch basins and underground piping that would have transported storm water, leaving that process to the existing side ditch.

Staff contacted Cathy Mutarelli, Session Secretary, to schedule another meeting with Chris Smitherman and Ed Lewis from DOT as well as Jordan Rossi, Executive Director of the MARC, and George.

That meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 5, 2015, at 6:30 p.m.

Staff has also requested an electronic version of the revised plan from DOT when it is available.

Staff should be able to report any outcomes from that meeting by the time of the October 6, 2015, Town Council meeting.

Article V. OLD BUSINESS

B. Post Office Walking Trail

(Jenny Edwards, DRBA)

Jenny Edwards reported the results of the Trail Building Day for the Wentworth Post Office Walking Trail by showing slides of the finished product. She suggested the Town Council should discuss what to do for a walking area from the end of the trail to the Community Building/Post Office. She said, “All you really need is some kind of visual clue when your walker comes out (from the trail), that this is the pathway to get up to the Post Office”.

Ms. Edwards will be working on a Wentworth Post Office Walking Trail dedication and ribbon cutting.

Article VI. NEW BUSINESS

**A. Report/Presentation of Flags: God & Country Youth Honor Guard’s
FY 2015-2016 Funding Request**

(Daniel Apple, Commandant)

As part of the FY 2015-2016 Budget, the Town appropriated \$1,000 for the God & Country Youth Honor Guard. With those funds, the Town purchased the following parade flag sets for the Honor Guard: US Army, US Navy, US Marines, US Air Force, POW, and the NC state flag. The Honor Guard uses the flags in public ceremonies around the county.

Daniel Apple, Commandant, thanked Council for the Town’s assistance in purchasing new flags for the Honor Guard. Cadets from the Honor Guard presented the flags.



Article VI. NEW BUSINESS (cont.)

B. Report: World Changers’ FY 2015-2016 Funding Request
(Janet Rakestraw)

Janet Rakestraw reviewed the World Changers of Rockingham County financial report and presented Council with a certificate of appreciation for the Town’s continued support and financial assistance.

Ms. Rakestraw also explained the future need for financial assistance. World Changers currently has \$13,000 of Rural Grant funds left over from this past year; however, they need approximately \$75,000 for the home repairs they plan to do during 2016. Ms. Rakestraw once again thanked the Town of Wentworth for their financial support and challenged other municipalities to do the same.

Yvonne Russell, Finance Officer, informed Council that World Changers of Rockingham County has submitted a funding request for FY 2016-2017 which Council may consider during their budget work sessions in March and April 2016.

(Note: The World Changers of Rockingham County Financial Report is herein incorporated and made a part of these minutes.)

WORLD CHANGERS 2015 – WENTWORTH						
NAME, ADDRESS	REIDSV BLD SUP	LOWES	OTHER	DUMP/ PJ	GUTTERS	TOTAL
	\$915.70		\$100.00	\$169.39	\$490.00	\$1,675.09

WorldChangers of Rockingham County

- Financial Report (2008-2010, 2014-2015)

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
# of student volunteers	232	276	340	160	99
# of work crews	22	26	28	16	11
# of improved homes	22	29	29	19	11
# of Rock Co vols. (est.)	365	455	1,325	465	164
Budget Expenses	\$57,821	\$65,268	\$87,237	\$52,500	\$34,791
Grants	\$40,000	\$50,000	\$73,000	\$20,000	\$24,791
\$\$ invested in homes (Materials + Labor)	\$126,600	\$149,325	\$225,365	\$110,500	\$56,000
*Return on Investment (ROI)					
	219%	229%	259%	210%	161%

*For every \$1 expended, Rockingham County receives between approximately \$1.61 - \$2.59 in return (materials and labor).

Article VI. NEW BUSINESS (cont.)

C. Rockingham County Economic Development and Tourism Branding
(Jan Critz, Director)

Jan Critz described the Rockingham County Economic Development and Tourism Department’s rebranding as one of their major initiatives. She stated, “We are not just a county department, we are a sales and marketing team. We are the county’s cheerleaders. We have to market what our products are here, and fortunately we have a lot.”

Ms. Critz showed a video that was presented at the Rockingham County Economic Development & Tourism branding roll out. After the video, she described the new logo. The offset rectangle represents the boundary lines of the county just as you would see on a North Carolina map. The white path, which could represent a trail, river, or road, is meant to draw you in to Rockingham County. The six green leaves represent each of the municipalities in Rockingham County. The gold leaves branching out from the green leaves represent growth. (Note: The Rockingham County Economic Development & Tourism logo is herein incorporated and made a part of these minutes.)



Ms. Critz showed another video that highlights recreation possibilities in Rockingham County. After the video, she informed Council that the Economic Development Department is working with Creative Consultants to complete their county wide three year economic development strategy. She explained, “It will be our road map going forward, and it will also provide important data and analysis, such as labor analysis, we need as we market and try to recruit businesses here”.

The Economic Development Department has also partnered with Rockingham Community College to launch a Fall series of “lunch and learn” seminars for the Manufacturing Association. The first seminar was held on September 22 at Weil McClain. The next seminars are to be held on October 22 at Unifi and on November 19 at Pine Hall Brick. She invited Council members to attend either seminar.

Councilmember Paschal asked Ms. Critz for an example of what the Economic Development Department has in mind to address recent announcements in the County, specifically the closing of Miller Coors Brewery in Eden.

Ms. Critz explained that they have reached out to other breweries and they have communicated with consultants on how to market the property; however, Miller Coors will be in full production for the next year, which will make showing the property to potential clients very difficult. The Economic Development Department is working on a plan to market the property, and they are staying in touch with the Miller Coors Public Affairs Office so that they can keep everyone in the county posted on what is happening.

Article VI. NEW BUSINESS (cont.)

D. Consideration of Partial Funding for The Cyberterrorism Defense Initiative
– Training Courses hosted by Rockingham County Government: \$600.00
(George Murphy, Town Administrator)

Mr. Murphy reviewed the training course information included in the agenda packet.

Councilmember Paschal asked if the request is considered a funding request or something different. Mr. Murphy asked Ms. Russell for assistance in explaining the request.

Ms. Russell explained that the Rockingham County Economic Development Department did not complete a formal funding request application; however, they did ask Mr. Murphy if the Town could provide boxed lunches for one day of the training course. Mr. Murphy then asked for a quote from Mom's Kitchen, and \$600.00 is the approximate price that was quoted for 64 boxed lunches.

Ms. Critz added, "It's an honor for us to be able to host the FEMA seminar. This is only the second time it's been held in the state of North Carolina. Folks from all over the world will be coming to the seminar so we feel like it's a big economic development thing."

Councilmember Paschal made a MOTION, "That we fund \$600.00 to cover lunch for the Cyberterrorism Defense Initiative Training Courses".

Mayor Pro Tem Conner seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Article VI. NEW BUSINESS (cont.)

E. Consideration of NCDOT 2016 Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant
Initiative
(George Murphy, Town Administrator)

Mr. Murphy asked for Council's guidance regarding submission of an application for the NCDOT 2016 Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant. The grant would pay a majority of the cost for a town-wide bicycle and pedestrian plan. The Town would be responsible for paying 10% of the cost. NCDOT estimates the cost for a town the size of Wentworth at approximately \$30,000 to \$40,000. Mr. Murphy said, "So for \$3,000 to \$4,000, if we got the grant, we would be able to get a comprehensive study that might affect bicycle and pedestrian traffic in the town of Wentworth that could be in place and affect us for the next 10 to 20 years."

Mr. Murphy continued, “This is not something that you guys have come to me and said ‘look into this and see what you can do’ but we are a part of the Pathways Plan, we have participated and have received benefit from our association with DRBA, and the small trail that we saw today is an example of that. You can see how sidewalks might fit into that. If you look at Highway 65, there in front of the courthouse running down to the intersection of County Home Road and 65, that area is already curb and guttered. A sidewalk there is something that I think would be doable. Also, if you talk about running from the Post Office and across 65 and back up toward the community college where the tennis courts are located, again a sidewalk or sidewalk/bike trail could be something that would be of interest. That may be something we could do through the Piedmont Triad Regional Planning Organization’s Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC). The question is, would you prefer I approach this through the TCC and see what I can accomplish, or do you think we should look at doing the grant?”

At Mr. Murphy’s request, **Jenny Edwards** addressed Council. Ms. Edwards explained, “If you decide to ask George to proceed with the application for the bike-ped planning grant, one of the benefits of having that crosswalk...at 65, you will immediately create a small campus like environment. So you’ll connect your new Post Office, Rockingham County Governmental Center, the animal shelter, the community college and a system of 3 miles of beautiful nature trails that we helped to reclaim back there, the trails that we’re doing for you, and the trails that we’re doing for the County that will also extend behind the Agricultural Center. So, you’ll have a pretty significant trial campus as well as a very friendly environment for pedestrians and cyclist.” She added, “I think there’s some potential for economic development...to attract cyclist. It’s a beautiful place to bike, and I think it would be very exciting for Wentworth to take a look at its potential to develop a bike-ped plan.”

Councilmember Paschal asked, “Is there an advantage of the TCC versus the grant?”

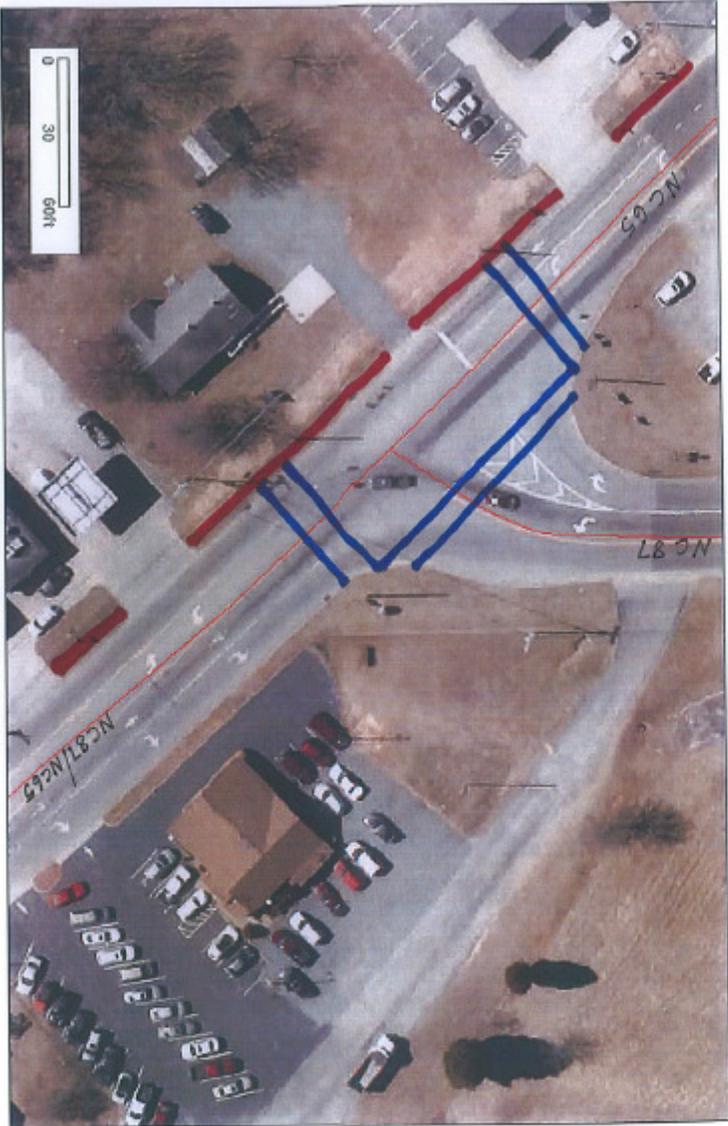
Mr. Murphy replied, “If we get the grant, we know that we would have to have matching funds of, from their estimate 10%, which they estimate for a community of this population at about \$30,000 to \$40,000... 10% would be \$3,000 to \$4,000. The TCC, if we get it through that and it becomes part of the highway funding or transportation funding, that’s something that the State handles. That becomes a project that they would fund. For those funds, obviously there is a lot of competition. Some combination of the two is a good idea, if you even want to go in the area of the grant.”

Mr. Murphy noted that the deadline for submitting the grant is November 20, 2015 and that Jenny Edwards along with Jesse Day from the Piedmont Triad Regional Planning Organization have offered to assist in writing the grant application. He explained, “If you get the grant and get involved in the initial planning of it, it involves involving the community and tying into our plans that we have like the trails, like the land use, and all of that. I gave you these (aerial photos) as kind of visuals because crosswalks at those two intersections in particular I think would be something to try to pursue through the TCC. Sidewalks, I think at least the one in front of the Judicial Center and the one from the college to the Post Office, again through the TCC...it’s not going to cost us anything to at least try that.”

(Note: The aerial photos Mr. Murphy referred to are herein incorporated and made a part of these minutes.)

9/22/2015

Rockingham County, NC Print Map



Rockingham County, NC

Disclaimer: The information contained on this page is taken from aerial mapping, tax mapping, and public records and is NOT to be construed or used as a survey or legal description. Only a licensed professional land surveyor can legally determine precise locations, elevations, length and direction of a line, and areas.

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Town of Wentworth

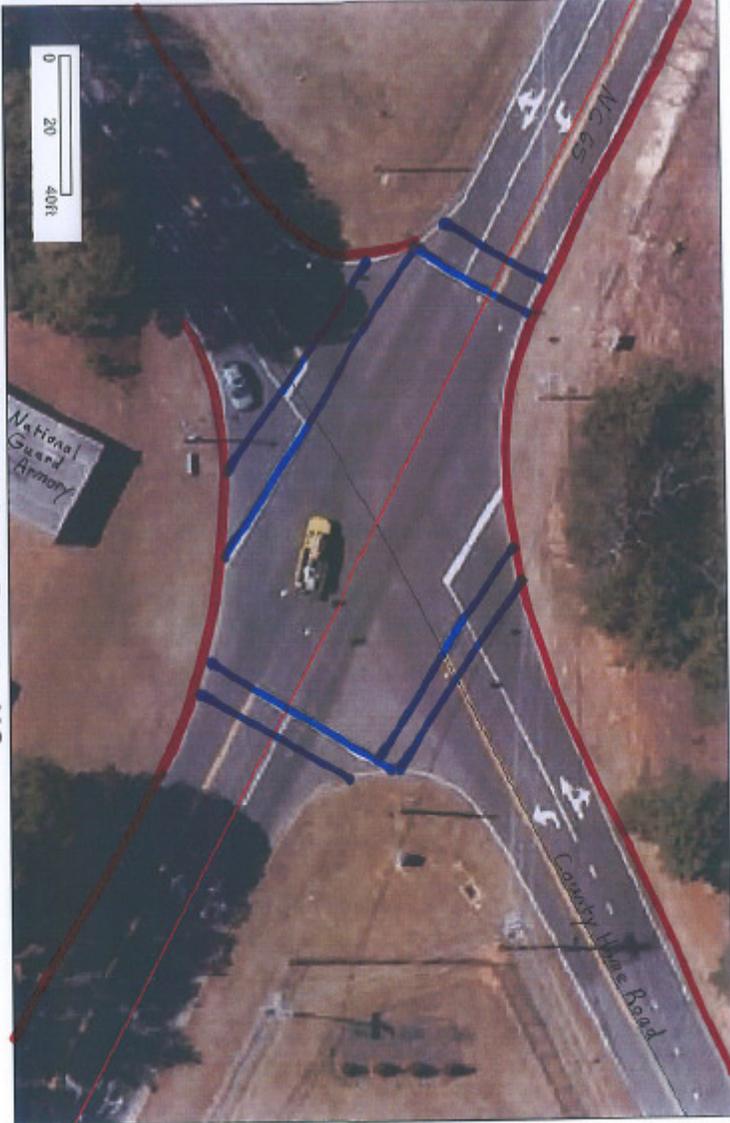
— Proposed Sidewalk

— Proposed Crosswalks

Intersection NC 87 and NC 65

02/22/2015

Rockingham County, NC Print Map



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Rockingham County, NC

Town of Wentworth

— = Proposed Sidewalk

— = Proposed Crosswalks

Intersection, NC 65 and County Home Road

Mr. Murphy asked, “Is this grant something that you would like to pursue?”

Councilmember Paschal asked, “So, the \$30,000 to \$40,000 is just to get a feasibility study?” **Mr. Murphy** confirmed that the grant is for a comprehensive plan only.

Councilmember Paschal asked, “So if we get the grant, then what do we get awarded?”

Mr. Murphy answered, “We then are allowed to develop the community-wide plan. That’s what the grant will help us finance. A consultant group comes in that works with you, NCDOT, and all interested parties. You involve the community. You involve interested stake holders. We’d have the funding to do that kind of organization and put the plan together.”

Councilmember Paschal asked, “By ‘put the plan together’ do you mean physically put the sidewalks in place?” **Mr. Murphy** replied, “No.” **Councilmember Paschal** asked, “So we have to pay to put the sidewalks in?” **Mr. Murphy** answered, “You come up with a plan of how you want it to look and then of course once you have a plan, you start working with how to fund and that kind of thing.”

Addressing Ms. Edwards, **Mr. Murphy** said, “I assume then it becomes leverage with NCDOT as well”.

Ms. Edwards explained, “It makes it much easier to receive grant funding if you have a plan in place. Often when you are looking for funding for sidewalks and trails, one of the top questions that you get in these grant applications is ‘do you have a plan and was the community involved in creating that plan’. So, it’s really an investment and an opportunity to apply for funding for the crosswalks and the sidewalks.”

Councilmember Paschal asked, “So who actually pays for the construction of the sidewalks?”

Ms. Edwards answered, “That’s something that you could work with the Dan River Basin Association on, and you could work with our wonderful County. You’ve got some resources in the county to tap for help with that. It makes it much more difficult to inspire foundations, and the State, and the Federal Government to provide funding for you if you don’t first have a plan.”

Councilmember Paschal asked, “So, ideally what we would do if we went the grant route is conduct the study, involve the community, come up with an overall plan, and from that point in time what I gather is that we would phase in different parts of what the overall plan would look like, through various grants that are available through other organizations?”

Ms. Edwards said, “Absolutely”. She continued, “What the plan will probably do is come up with a series of priority projects that will emerge from those conversations with civic leaders, citizens, faith based groups, and just as many people as we can get engaged. You’ll get the set of priority projects. It’s not that it is going to happen in whole cloth, but it gives you an opportunity to start eating that elephant one bite at a time.”

Mr. Murphy asked Council if they would be in favor of him raising the sidewalk/crosswalk issue with the TCC. Council agreed that they were in favor of that.

Mr. Murphy asked Council if they would be in favor of him pursuing the grant. Council agreed that they were in favor of Mr. Murphy pursuing the possibility of applying for the grant.

Article VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No one signed the speaker register for public comment.

Article VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Conner made the following announcements:

- Rockingham, Stokes, and Caswell Counties are uniting in a joint effort seeking donations for cases of bottled water to be sent to South Carolina flood victims. Rockingham County will accept donations Wednesday, October 7th through Sunday, October 11th. Cases can be dropped off at the old 911 building behind the courthouse in Wentworth. The tractor-trailer will leave out on Monday, October 12th for South Carolina.
- The next regular meeting of the **Wentworth Planning Board** is **October 20, 2015, at 7pm** in the Town Hall Council Chambers.
- **Wentworth Municipal Elections** will be held on **Tuesday, November 3, 2015**.
- The next regular meeting of the **Wentworth Town Council** is **Thursday, November 5, 2015, at 7pm** in the Town Hall Council Chambers.
- The MARC (Museum and Archives of Rockingham County), the Town of Wentworth, and Rockingham Community College are sponsoring **PICKIN' AT the ROCK - Bluegrass and Old-Time Fiddler's Convention** on **October 17, 2015** on the campus of Rockingham Community College, NC 65, Wentworth, NC. Registration on-site will begin at 10:30am, and the first competition will begin at 12 noon. Flyers are available in the Town Hall lobby.

Article IX. CLOSED SESSION:

Pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) To consult with attorney in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the Town, and pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5) To establish, or instruct the public body’s staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiation the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease.

The Property is located at 8286 NC 87 in Wentworth, NC and is owned by the Town of Wentworth. The purpose of the property shall be a residence.

Mayor Pro Tem Conner made a MOTION, *“The Town Council go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) To consult with attorney in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the Town, and pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5) To establish, or instruct the public body’s staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiation the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease.*

The Property is located at 8286 NC 87 in Wentworth, NC and is owned by the Town of Wentworth. The purpose of the property shall be a residence.”

Councilmember Iris Powell seconded the motion. All voted in favor and Council moved into Closed Session.

Mayor Pro Tem Conner made a MOTION, *“To go back into open session”.*

Councilmember Paschal seconded the motion. All voted in favor and Council returned to open session.

Mayor Pro Tem Conner made a MOTION, *“The Town of Wentworth offer a North Carolina Residential Lease Agreement for the residential property at 8286 NC 87, Reidsville, NC 27320 to Donald Hayes and to instruct Mayor Paschal to sign the lease agreement as landlord, representing the Town of Wentworth.”*

Councilmember Paschal seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Article X. ADJOURN

Mayor Pro Tem Conner made a MOTION, *“The meeting be adjourned”.*

Councilmember Paschal seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by: _____
Yvonne Russell, NCCMC
Town Clerk

Approved by: _____
R. Dennis Paschal Jr., Mayor