

**MINUTES OF THE  
WHITE LAKE  
TOWN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING**

**July 11, 2023  
7:00 P.M.**

The White Lake Town Board of Commissioners met at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 11, 2023. Those present were Mayor H. Goldston Womble, Jr., Mayor Pro-Tem Tom Riel, Commissioner Tim Blount, Commissioner Mike Suggs, and Commissioner Dean Hilton, Commissioner Tim Clifton, Commissioner Paul Evans, Town Administrator Sean Martin, and Pat Kennedy-Taylor served as Clerk to the Board. Also present were Police Chief Bruce Smith and Public Works Director Kevin Taylor.

**Invocation**

Mayor H. Goldston Womble, Jr. declared a quorum, called the meeting to order, and gave the invocation.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Commissioner Paul Evans led the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approve Consent Agenda Items**

Mayor Womble acknowledged there was an agenda and called for a motion to adopt the June 13, 2023, Agenda Consent Items (#1A-1G) as presented. Mayor Womble asked if there were any questions on the current consent agenda items as presented and if not, the mayor asked to include in the agenda adoption to add under Closed Session NCGS 143-318-11(a)(5) Property Acquisitions to NCGS 143-318-11(a)(6) Personnel Matters. There being no further discussion, Commissioner Dean Hilton moved, seconded by Commissioner Paul Evans TO ADOPT THE July 11, 2023 REGULAR MEETING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 1A-1G AS PRESENTED. (Unanimous in favor). Said agendas are listed as Exhibit "A." Supporting materials are hereby incorporated by mention and are made a part of these minutes.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mayor Womble called for any corrections and/or additions to the minutes of June 13, 2023. There being no further discussion, Commissioner Dean Hilton moved, seconded by Commissioner Paul Evans TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 13, 2023 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED (Unanimous in favor).

**June 2023 Utility Releases (1,113.19)**

Utility releases (\$2,127.78) were presented for the Board's consideration. All leak release requests were approved by Public Works Director, Kevin Taylor. There being no discussion, Commissioner Dean Hilton moved, seconded by Commissioner Paul Evans TO APPROVE THE JUNE 2023 UTILITY RELEASES AS PRESENTED. (Unanimous in favor).

**June 2023 Statute of Limitations for Collection of Delinquent Utility Accounts (\$2,831.02)**

Twelve utility accounts (2018-2019) that have exceeded the NC Debt Setoff Program, a three-year statute of limitations for collection and the four-year statute of limitations (N.C.G.S.25-2-725(1)) for collection were presented for the Board's consideration. There being no discussion, Commissioner Dean Hilton moved, seconded by Commissioner Paul Evans TO APPROVE THE JUNE 2023 STATUE OF LIMITATIONS FOR COLLECTION OF DELIQUENT UTILITY ACCOUNTS AS PRESENTED. (Unanimous in favor).

**June 2023 Tax Releases (\$332.68)**

Tax releases (\$332.68) were presented for the Board's consideration. Reductions, refunds, and releases of tax claims are matters to be decided by the Town's governing body. By NC Statute, tax releases are not to be left to the discretion of the Tax Collector. Once a tax bill has been computed, it can only be released

by specific authorization of the governing body [NC General Statute 105-380, 105-381(b), and 105-373(a) (3)]. All releases have been approved by the Bladen County Tax Administrator's office. There being no discussion, Commissioner Dean Hilton moved, seconded by Commissioner Paul Evans TO APPROVE THE JUNE 2023 TAX RELEASES AS PRESENTED. (Unanimous in favor).

**FY 2022-2023 (\$1.00) or under Tax Adjustment(s)**

Total Adjustments(s) (\$25.58), Total Pre-Pay Adjustment(s) (\$6.39). This information is provided for informational purposes for the Town Board of Commissioners.

**TOWN OF WHITE LAKE TAX COLLECTOR'S FULL SETTLEMENT REPORT TO THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

In accordance with N.C.G.S. 105-373(a)(1), I respectfully submit the following reports:

A list of the persons owning real property whose taxes for 2022/23 that remain unpaid, along with the amount owed by each person.

A list of the persons now owning real property whose personal property taxes for 2022/23 that remain unpaid, along with the amount owed by each person.

A breakdown for delinquent taxes for tax years 2013-2022.

In accordance with N.C.G.S. 105-357(c) report of over payments.

The Tax Collector certifies that she has made diligent efforts to collect the taxes due from the persons in such a manner that is reasonably necessary.

This information is provided for informational purposes for the Town Board of Commissioners.

There being no discussion, Commissioner Dean Hilton moved, seconded by Commissioner Paul Evans TO APPROVE THE AGENDA CONSENT ITEMS AS PRESENTED. (Unanimous in favor).

**Administrative Matters**

**Lake Water Management Plan Update**

Mayor Womble acknowledged Dr. Diane Lauritsen, LIMENOSCIENCES provided updates of activities and Sean Martin, Town Administrator presented. The updates will be posted on the Town's website [www.whitelakewatch.com](http://www.whitelakewatch.com). No action was taken.

**White Lake Streetscape Master Plan - USDA RBDG - PROJECT TIMELINE**

Sean Martin, Town Administrator presented the update on the White Lake Streetscape Master Plan. No action was taken.

**White Lake Stormwater Master Plan Project**

Sean Martin, Town Administrator presented the update on the White Lake Stormwater Master Plan Project Timeline. No action was taken.

**Water AIA Project Update**

Sean Martin, Town Administrator presented the project update. No action was taken.

**Engineering and Consulting Services LOI/SOQ**

The Town of White Lake is seeking Letters of Interest/Statement of Qualifications (LOI/SOQ) from firms to provide professional civil engineering and related consulting services. It is the intent of the Town to select multiple firms to enter into a Master On-Call Service Agreement for a three-year period, with the option of two one-year extensions. Once specific projects are identified, the Town will negotiate with the selected firm(s), to establish a scope and fee under a Task Order for specific project assignments. There being no further discussion, the mayor asked for a motion to publish the RFQ, Commissioner Dean Hilton moved, seconded by Commissioner Tim Clifton TO PUBLISH THE RFQ AS PRESENTED. (Unanimous in favor).

**OTHER BUSINESS/PREVIOUS AGENDA ITEMS**

Town Administrator Sean Martin presented the Departmental Reports.

**Open Forum:** Three (3) minutes per citizen. No one showed up to speak.

At approximately 7:30pm, Mayor Womble stated since there was no one to speak in the open forum he asked the Board to go into Closed Session to discuss Personnel Matters and Land Acquisitions. There being no further discussion, Commissioner Tim Blount moved, seconded by Commissioner Dean Hillton TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION AS PRESENTED. Unanimous in favor.

**CLOSED SESSION: NCGS § 143-318.11(a)(5)**

To establish, or to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating (i) the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease; or (ii) the amount of compensation and other material terms of an employment contract or proposed employment contract. No action was taken during the closed session.

**CLOSED SESSION: NCGS § 143-318.11(a)(6)**

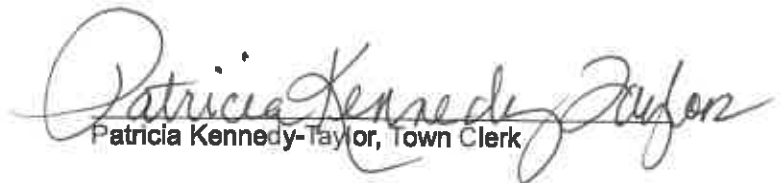
To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee. No action was taken during the closed session.

After being in Closed Session for about ten (10) minutes or so, Mayor Womble asked that we go back into Regular Session. There being no further discussion, Mayor Pro-Tem Tom Riel moved, seconded by Commissioner Paul Evans TO OPEN THE REGULAR SESSION MEETING BACK UP. Unanimous in favor.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

There being no other business to come before the White Lake Town Board of Commissioners, Commissioner Paul Evans moved and seconded by Commissioner Mike Suggs TO ADJOURN MEETING TO NEXT REGULAR MEETING. TUESDAY, August 8, 2023. (Unanimous in favor).

Respectfully submitted by:

  
Patricia Kennedy-Taylor, Town Clerk

Approved:

  
H. Goldston Womble, Jr., Mayor