

Board of Commissioners
Special Meeting
December 15, 2009

The Farmville Board of Commissioners met in special session on Tuesday, December 15, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building Courtroom with Mayor Robert L. Evans presiding. Present for the meeting were Commissioners John Baker, Jamin Dixon, John Moore and David Shackelford; Town Manager Richard N. Hicks and Finance Director/Town Clerk Amy Johnson.

Mayor Evans called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

1. Presentation of 2008/2009 Audit

Jay Paris presented the audit report for the year ended June 30, 2009.

2. Resolution Endorsing Application for Police Grant

Police Chief Donnie Greene requested adoption of a Resolution endorsing the grant application to apply for grant funds under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program in the amount of \$21,245 to purchase police equipment and other Law Enforcement material.

On motion by Commissioner Dixon, the board adopted Resolution (2009) 1063, Resolution Endorsing the Application for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance (JAG) Grant by the Town of Farmville, NC. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Selection of Candidates for Interviews/Finalize Process

Mayor Evans recapped the past events/decisions up to present day. He stated there were four applications and asked the Board for a motion of acceptance of applications for interviews.

Commissioner Baker made a motion to interview all four applicants. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Moore questioned whether a moderator was needed to ask questions. He also asked if the applications received were a matter of public record.

Mayor Evans said the applications were public record and anyone can request copies of them.

Mayor Evans presented the Board with possible interview questions and asked for them to review and choose which questions to ask and to add additional questions if deemed necessary.

Commissioner Moore made a motion to accept all questions presented by the Mayor with the elimination of question #7 and #9 and to allow the Board to ask follow-up questions in addition. The motion carried unanimously.

After a discussion, Commissioner Moore made a motion to conduct the interviews in random order selection with no time limits, with the Board members to rotate asking

questions and for the interviewee to be the only candidate in the room during the interview. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Citizen Comments on Selected Process

Mayor Evans asked if there were any citizens who wished to speak at this time.

Calvin Ellison stated his agreed with needing a moderator to ask the questions.

Durwood Little expressed his opinion that the Board should choose the third highest vote getter in the past election. Mr. Little agreed with the Board asking the interview questions.

Todd Edwards stated he thought the Town Attorney needed to be present at the meeting on the December 22, 2009 when the interviews will be held. Mr. Edwards recommended for maybe the Town Attorney to ask the interview questions. He also recommended for the Board to rotate the candidates and questions so no one goes “dead last.”

Frank Bradham stated the Mayor needed to be the moderator due to that being his job as Mayor to conduct and run the meetings.

Ronald Carraway expressed his belief that the interview questions should not be given out before the interview.

Selina Delmarkco questioned the applicant process and asked the Board what kind of qualifications helped them to make their decision to interview all four candidates that applied.

Hunter Walters asked if the third highest vote getter only received two votes, would the Board’s decision be the same. He also questioned how many seats were voted on in the past election.

Michael Cable asked the Board if no time limit was going to be a problem since some people are more long-winded than others.

Joe Hillard expressed his opinion that maybe the Board should consider not filling the vacant seat at this time and waiting for the people to elect someone to the seat in the November 2011 election and let Commissioner Joe Kue “rest in peace.”

Commissioner Baker asked Town Manager Hicks to provide an official answer as to whether or not the seat has to be filled.

Town Manager Hicks suggested for the Board to go ahead and decide the interview times and candidate selection.

Town Clerk Amy Johnson placed the four interview candidate names in a cup for Police Chief Donnie Greene to draw out at random.

The drawing produced the following interview schedule:

1. 7:30 p.m.- Mike McLawhorn
2. 8:00 p.m.- Bert Smith
3. 8:30 p.m.- Laura Willoughby
4. 9:00 p.m.- Jake Barrow

On motion by Commissioner Baker, the meeting was adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Robert L. Evans, Mayor

Attest:

Amy B. Johnson, Town Clerk