

TOWN OF BAILEY MEETING MINUTES 09/20/2021

The Regular Meeting of the Bailey Town Board was held in the Bailey Town Hall on September 20, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

The following members of the Bailey Town Board were present: Mayor Thomas Richards, and Commissioners Joel Killion, Shelley Bullard, Dwan Finch, Ervin Powell, and Allen Daniels. Also in attendance: Town Clerk, Jeremy Crawford, and Interim Chief of Police, Cathy Callahan.

Called the meeting to order:

Mayor Richards called the meeting to order, welcomed all guests, and asked Commissioner Powell to lead us in a word of prayer.

Mayor Richards asked everyone to stand and join in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Thank you all. I am going to call this meeting to order.

Approval of financial statements and minutes:

Commissioner Finch made a motion to approve the financial statements for August 2021, and the minutes for the Regular Board Meeting on August 16, 2021. Commissioner Killion seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Agenda:

Mayor Richards announced Walter Wells, Chair, Bailey Planning Board, as the first speaker on the Agenda.

Walter Wells. Walter Wells stated the Planning Board is still working with Tony Stone to properly zone the parcel of land on Main Street (east of 5825 Main St), but after further review it does not look like Mr. Stone will pursue the townhome zoning concept as he once intended. Mr. Wells stated the Planning Board and Mr. Stone are in agreement to table the discussion until additional information can be gathered. Mr. Wells added that townhomes are identified in the state and local ordinances as having four (4) attached units not just two, and that with Mr. Stone's plan to build units with only two homes connected via an adjoining wall (which is the property line), the properties would more likely be called "twin homes." Mr. Stone stated that he felt some of the confusion was his fault, because at first, even he did not know how best to describe his plans for the development. Mr. Wells closed by requesting the Board to table to conversation until the Planning Board and Mr. Stone could discuss and clarify the matter further.

Mayor Richards announced Nick Green, Bailey Chamber of Commerce.

Nick Green. Nick Green reported that he has been gone for a few months and that he came to the meeting tonight to update the Board on the upcoming events in Bailey. Mr. Green stated the Chamber is holding a Superball Golf Tournament on Oct 15, 2021, at 12:00 PM at The River Golf & Country Club in Louisburg, NC. Mr. Green provided some additional details about the various prizes and contact info, and provided a flyer. The Bailey Pageant is on Nov 13, 2021 at the Southern Nash Auditorium, Mr. Green

stated, and the parade is still moving forward unless the Board turns the Chamber down. Mr. Green stated the proposed street closures will be Main Street from the Methodist church down to the Fire Department. Mr. Green stated they would need Board approval to shut down the roadway on 30 Oct 2021, from 4:00 PM to about 8:00 PM, and if additional law enforcement could be brought in from other departments to support the Bailey Police Department.

Mr. Green stated that he too is concerned about the safety in Bailey and he is looking to see improvements in the Police Department. Mr. Green stated that if anyone wants to see what's happening in Bailey, crime-wise, all they have to do is sit out here and watch the streets at night. Mr. Green closed by saying that when something happens people come to his wife to check the cameras, and she is worried that soon someone will target her because of the cameras.

Mayor Richards announced Jonathan Boone, Nash County, Director of Public Utilities and Facilities.

Jonathan Boone. Jonathan Boone thanked the Board for giving him the time to present information. Mr. Boone stated his purpose for visiting tonight is to provide Bailey with an opportunity to work together with the Town of Middlesex, and Nash County as it relates to helping southern Nash towns solve their waste water issues. Mr. Boone stated he has been in talks with Commissioner Finch for some time now about working together, and after a recent conversation with Commissioner Finch, Town Clerk Jeremy Crawford invited him to attend the Board meeting and present his understanding of the various programs. Mr. Boone stated that while coordinating the invite and coming this evening, he was made aware of a possible grant program through the NC Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and he felt this may be the catalyst for launching a program to support southern Nash County, the Town of Middlesex, and the Town of Bailey. Mr. Boone stated that Nash County is looking at applying for the grant through the NC DEQ office, and he felt that not only would improvements in wastewater operations in southern Nash County help Middlesex and Bailey, but if Middlesex and Bailey were to participate in the application process, the application might carry more weight with the NC DEQ.

Mr. Boone stated that his office sees growth coming into Nash County and that solving the wastewater issues are not going to get any easier. Mr. Boone stated that he hoped southern Nash County towns and leaders would be willing to pool resources to help achieve the goals for everyone. Mr. Boone provided some brief details about the challenges the Town of Middlesex is experiencing with sending flow to Raleigh, and he wanted to reinforce his desire to work with the Board to help Bailey reach its goals and get off the moratorium.

Commissioner Finch asked who would apply for the study, and Mr. Boone stated that Nash County would apply for the grant, essentially serving as the lead for the application, but the weight behind the application is the support Nash County would garner from Middlesex and Bailey. Commissioner Finch asked if Nash County would expect the Town of Bailey to fund the study in any way, and Mr. Boone said no, he expected to fund the study utilizing the grant money. Mr. Boone added that the study Bailey conducted in 2016 should actually be a good launching point for any future study. Commissioner Finch asked if Mr. Boone had any kind of vision for what future improvements might look like for Bailey, and Mr. Boone stated he does not have a solid idea right now of what to expect.

Town Clerk Crawford stated that a copy of Mr. Boones' proposed resolution is in their Board packet. Mr. Boone stated that the resolution, is just the first step towards an application for grant funding, and it is not committing anyone to anything at this time.

Mayor Richards announced Libby Jenkins, Envirolink, Area Manager.

Libby Jenkins. Libby Jenkins stated the only information she had for the Board tonight is regarding the fire hydrant on Main Street that was broken. Commissioner Daniels stated that it was not so much that the hydrant was broken as much as it was that they [Envirolink] opened the valve too far. Commissioner Daniels added that he was going to talk about getting the same company to repair all of the hydrants. Mrs. Jenkins stated she did not have anything else unless there were questions, to which Mayor Richards asked who is cutting the grass at the spray fields. Commissioner Daniels stated Envirolink is cutting the grass. Mrs. Jenkins asked where the spray field is located. Mayor Richards stated the grass is very high and asked Mrs. Jenkins to have someone call the Town Hall when the grass has been cut.

Commissioner Finch asked if Well #1 and #2 working. Commissioner Daniels answered that Well #1 is working, and we are waiting on parts for Well #2, but he could not recall what part was outstanding. Commissioner Finch also asked about the limbs still sitting in the front yard of the house on Hwy 581 near Hwy 264 [Address later identified as 12067 Oak Ave, Bailey, NC 27807 by Beth Hagwood]. Commissioner Daniels stated yes they are still there, but he felt the limbs are too long for the terms in the contract. Commissioner Daniels stated that if a letter could be sent to the property owner about the limbs they could be told about the problem, to which Town Clerk Crawford stated the property in question is Mrs. Hagwood's, who is sitting in the audience. Commissioner Daniels stated he knew of concerns with the truck's size and that the crew felt it might hit the telephone lines if they tried to operate it near the property, and Town Clerk Crawford asked Envirolink if the truck was the only resource available for use in Bailey. Mrs. Jenkins said yes, it was, and Commissioner Daniels provided some additional details about trying to balance having a truck large enough to make fewer trips while not having too large a truck so as to create a hazard during operation. Town Clerk Crawford added that he has been posting information on social media in an attempt to educate property owners on how best to situate the debris so that Envirolink can access and remove the items with the least amount of trouble.

Mayor Richards announced Lisa Matthews, owner, Piggly Wiggly.

Lisa Matthews. Lisa Matthews introduced herself as the owner of the Piggly Wiggly in Bailey, and she thanked the Board for allowing her to speak. Mrs. Matthews stated, as a business owner and resident of Bailey, she's concerned about the law enforcement situation in town. Mrs. Matthews stated that over her 40 years in Bailey they have always had a police force, and she has concerns for the safety of her bank, her doctor's office, her grocery store, her church, and many other locations within town. Mrs. Matthews stated a customer and property owner needs to feel safe. Mrs. Matthews stated that Chief Callahan does a great job, but she cannot work all of the hours the town needs, and it's not ideal to bring in the Sheriff's Department to be the only alternate source for gaps in coverage. Mrs. Matthews recalled a story where a man, high on drugs, caused extensive damage to her Elm City, NC store. Mrs.

Matthews stated that after breaking through the front door, knocking himself out, waking up and undressing, the man then stole some product from the store and headed out into the parking lot and engaged in a fight. Mrs. Matthews then stated the entire incident lasted approx. 20-25 minutes, and that Wilson County Sheriff's deputies did not show up until approx. 5 minutes after the subject left the store. Mrs. Matthews stated that this incident is an example of how waiting on county resources might lead to extended response times, which means the property owners, guests, customers, or witnesses are left to deal with the situation until help arrives.

Mrs. Matthews stated that Elm City also saw the loss of its bank because of a lack of effective police coverage, and she's concerned that Bailey may start to lose its businesses if the owners don't feel safe.

Public Comment(s):

Mayor Richards opened the meeting for a Public Comment period, reminded the audience of the rules and introduced the first speaker: Courtney Price, Southern Bank.

Courtney Price. Courtney Price introduced herself to the Board and recalled a meeting between Southern Bank and Mayor Richards. Mrs. Price stated that after the meeting Southern Bank leadership felt the town was taking appropriate action to remedy the limited police resources, but she still felt it was important to come to the meeting and address all of their concerns. Mrs. Price recalled the event from two years ago where there was an attempted robbery, and while no one was hurt, there was no one on duty here in Bailey and they had to wait on the deputy from the sheriff's office to arrive. Mrs. Price stated that, with the help of Cynthia Green and her camera system, they realized the suspect had been casing the bank for over two months and the robbery took place in broad daylight. Mrs. Price recalled other local robberies and this adds to her position that everyone should be concerned with the lack of sufficient police presence in Bailey. Mrs. Price stated that Southern Bank's leadership is questioning the local staff's plans to remain in Bailey and they are all just hoping that the town can help Southern Bank address the concerns.

Mayor Richards called Mrs. Deborah Morton, a resident of 5839 Deans Street, Bailey, NC 27807.

Deborah Morton. Deborah Morton held up a water bottle with brown colored water, and she stated that her problems with water began with low pressure, and then it became a problem with discoloration. Mrs. Morton stated her problems began in April 2021, and after repeated visits and talks with the Board. nothing has changed or been fixed. Mrs. Morton stated she recently spoke with John from Envirolink and he said the problem is fixed, but she doesn't think it is fixed. Mrs. Morton asked the town: I have drained my 80-gallon water tank several times trying to flush out the discoloration, who's going to pay for my water? Mrs. Morton added that she has to take her laundry to her son's house, and she has to drink from water bottles. Mrs. Morton recalled her past utility bills as approx. \$34.00 for water and \$40.00 for sewer, but for Aug 2021 the bill was \$44.80 for water and \$54.00 for sewer. Mrs. Morton stated she has now drained the tank five times. Mrs. Morton stated that she felt the sediment was staying in the bottom of the tank after draining the tank, and Mr. Nick Green, sitting in the audience, responded that he is a plumber and he is confident that when she is draining her tank she is

getting the sediment out, as well. Mr. Green stated that she should not be draining her tank without turning off the heating element or she will burn out the elements and they will not work.

Commissioner Daniels stated to Mrs. Libby Jenkins, of Envirolink, that John Nelson [also Envirolink] needs to go around and flush out the fire hydrants. Commissioner Daniels offered to show John Nelson which fire hydrants to flush to help resolve the matter with Mrs. Morton's discoloration.

Mrs. Morton asked the Board how they planned to address her bill and all of the flushing she has been required to perform. Mayor Richards stated the Board could look into her bill with her, and if required could discuss the matter in closed session. Mayor Richards and Mrs. Morton shared some figures regarding Mrs. Morton's bill for the past few months. Mayor Richards stated he would help get the problem fixed.

Mayor Richards called Mr. Walter Wells back up to speak.

Walter Wells. Walter Wells stated the sewer rate is tied to the water rate, in that, the customer is charged a specific amount for sewer based on the customer's water usage. Mr. Wells thanked Mr. Jonathan Boone for coming tonight, and he encouraged the town to explore options of working with the county, but we must stay focused on serving Bailey's needs.

Mr. Wells stated that he felt he has added to some of Chief Callahan's recent work load, because his grandson has been riding off-road bikes when he shouldn't have. Mr. Wells stated he appreciated the way Chief Callahan handled the situation and he apologized that it added to the department's workload.

Mayor Richards called Mrs. Beth Hagwood, a resident of 12067 Oak Ave, Bailey, NC 2708

Beth Hagwood. Beth Hagwood stated she had some yard work done and the pile of tree limbs remains in her front yard. Mrs. Hagwood stated she knows that part of it got picked up by Envirolink, but no one has returned to get the rest, and that was since before May 2021. Mrs. Hagwood has spoken to John from Envirolink, and Town Clerk Crawford has been diligent about trying to help resolve the issue, but the limbs are still there. Mrs. Hagwood recalled several issues that have challenged the Board and the town over the years, and she encouraged everyone to work together to take care of the issues that are important to everyone: sewer, water, cleanliness, and so on. Mrs. Hagwood finished by thanking the Board for giving her the time to speak this evening.

Mayor Richards called Adam Baker, Top Notch Lawn Care.

Adam Baker. Adam Baker introduced himself and gave a brief comment about what his company does for Bailey. Mr. Baker stated he has been hearing about concerns and complaints regarding the cemetery, and he wanted to respond tonight. Mr. Baker stated that Top Notch takes pride in their work and the results they produce in the cemetery. Mr. Baker stated that based on the complaints received he did not feel the damage was being caused by his equipment because 1) their mowers are not large enough to move the very heavy and large monuments, 2) they would likely leave green paint transfer if his mowers hit any of the monuments, and there is no indication of green paint on the monuments 3) and he and his crew have seen personnel from Joyner's actually moving headstones and monuments when Top Notch

is in the cemetery. Mr. Baker does not know why Joyner's would be moving any marker or monument, but he suggests it might help to reach out to them to learn more. Mr. Baker stated he is open to hearing from anyone if they have questions or comments related to his services or his crew.

Mayor Richards announced the Board was moving into Old Business.

Old Business:

Roofing quotes: Commissioner Daniels stated we did not have time to get to this, so there is nothing to add at this time.

Tank Maintenance Proposal: Commissioner Daniels stated he was very busy this past month, and he apologized for not making more progress this month.

Williams Street Paving Quotes: Town Clerk Crawford stated the town requested quotes from three local paving companies, and while all three visited the site to estimate the work, only one produced a written quote: Williams Paving. Town Clerk Crawford stated Williams Paving previously quoted the same work in 2018, and their current proposal covers the same work but is updated for current pricing at \$29,975.00. Commissioner Daniels asked who else proposed, and Town Clerk Crawford stated two others visited but did not propose, and they were ABC Paving and a third for which the Clerk could not recall their name. Commissioner Daniels asked about the depth of milling and Town Clerk Crawford stated that William's quote includes milling to a depth of 4 inches in various sections of Williams Street, which also has a lot to do with the increase in cost.

Commissioner Daniels made a motion to go with Williams Paving Company for \$29,975.00 for the paving of Williams Street. Commissioner Finch seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Microsoft Office Subscription Renewal: Town Clerk Crawford stated this topic was brought up last month, and it involves the desktops and laptops in the Town Hall and the Police Department that have outdated licenses. Town Clerk Crawford stated the first page in the estimate lists the inventory of equipment that belongs to the Town, and the Board should review the list and decide upon which units should be updated. Town Clerk Crawford reviewed the cost for going with Computer Central or getting the licenses directly from Microsoft, and that information is shown on the estimate. Commissioner Daniels stated he thought there was a company locally that would charge less than Computer Central. Commissioner Killion stated that a big advantage of staying with Computer Central is that they know our system and any new vendor will inevitably spend time learning our system and it would be a wash in the end. Town Clerk Crawford stated the problem can get complicated if, for example, we lose a server and during the recovery phase we have to use Computer Central for the server recovery and another vendor to recover the word processing applications. Commissioner Daniels stated the Board should consider looking further because his connections have priced against Computer Central's other offerings and they believe the Town is paying too much when the town uses Computer Central.

Commissioner Finch asked: What's the urgency in this? Town Clerk Crawford stated right now we have access to the laptops and desktops, we can get into and use the devices, but the functionality is very

limited. Town Clerk Crawford stated that recently the bookkeepers could not save, share, or send some of the required files because of the invalid licenses.

Commissioner Finch made a motion to go with Computer Central for the purchase and installation of the six licenses needed to update/upgrade the Town Hall and Police Department devices. Commissioner Killion seconded the motion. Motion carried.

New Business:

Housing Opportunities and Prevention of Evictions (HOPE) Program, Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP), and the NC Debt Setoff Program: Town Clerk Crawford stated that since all three of these programs are in his lane and all pertain to funding or cost recovery programs, that he would address them together. Town Clerk Crawford stated that while the HOPE and LIHWAP programs focus on funding support to water and waste water bills, the HOPE Program supports primarily tenants, and the LIHWAP Program supports tenants and property owners. Town Clerk Crawford stated both programs have eligibility criteria that centers around income, water/waste usage, household size, and whether or not the customer will/has been cut off from town services. Town Clerk Crawford said the HOPE Program has already provided some funding to cover Bailey tenants and satisfied a few past due accounts and the LIHWAP Program is set to launch in November. Town Clerk Crawford concluded by saying the HOPE and LIHWAP programs provide assistance to tenants and property owners to help avoid service disconnection, and if the town has utility customers who do not qualify for either program then the town can pursue cost recovery through the NC Debt Setoff Program.

Town Clerk Crawford stated the NC Debt Setoff Program is a process whereby utility owners, such as the Town of Bailey, can request the State to withhold the tenant's or property owner's debt balance from future lottery winnings or state tax refunds. Town Clerk Crawford said Bailey used to be involved, as late as 2008, and so long as we follow the correct process, Bailey can pursue the balance due.

Railroad Crossing Low Bridge Warning Sign Quote: Town Clerk Crawford stated that the Board has two quotes in front of them for repairing the signs on the north and south sides of the railroad crossing on Hwy 581. Town Clerk Crawford stated one quote says "insurance" and it depicts the quote for having Erie Insurance cover the damage caused by their insured driver. Town Clerk Crawford further stated the second quote says "Town," and it is a quote for replacing the sign on the north side of the bridge that, if approved, the town would need to fund. Interim Police Chief Callahan stated the driver who hit the sign on the north side did not have insurance, and asked is that why the town would have to pay for the damage, to which Town Clerk Crawford stated yes. Commissioner Daniels stated that he felt if the town put the money into the sign someone would hit it in two weeks. Commissioner Daniels mentioned some other systems and equipment that he has seen elsewhere that helps deter or prevent accidents like the one that damaged the north side sign, and Commissioner Bullard stated that in the past some reps have mentioned rumble strips, flashing lights, and still other systems. Commissioner Bullard then stated that while it has been ten years, the idea of adding other equipment got dropped when the truck route around the bridge got put into place. Mr. Walter Wells asked: so they were talking about closing it off

completely? Commissioner Bullard stated yes, to which Mrs. Lisa Matthews stated that closing off the Oak Ave portion going under the bridge would not be a good idea because when trains pass it practically cuts the town in two with no way around the train. Town Clerk Crawford stated that Dept. of Transportation recently repaired signs leading up to the bridge on both sides, but did not change or repair any signs on the bridge.

Mayor Richards said he would reach out to the local Dept. of Transportation representatives to see if they had any input that might help, and that the Board could table the quote and matter, for now.

Department Head Remarks:

Town Clerk, Jeremy Crawford

Overman & Parks, CPA – Bookkeeping. Town Clerk Crawford stated Overman & Parks have been involved in bookkeeping efforts for the past several weeks, and they are working through some challenges the town needs to fix in order to make sure our records are correct.

Cemetery Rules & Regulations. Town Clerk Crawford stated he received questions from residents about the rules and he wanted to pose them tonight. Town Clerk Crawford stated the first question is, if a plot owner has a plot in one section and wants to transfer that ownership to another plot in another section: What must they do? Town Clerk Crawford posed the question and asked for the Board to clarify the Ordinance because its text indicates the Board must approve any transfer of ownership. Commissioner Bullard stated, in the past, the Town Clerk assisted with the transfers and nothing came before the Board. Town Clerk Crawford stated the process is pretty straight-forward, he just wanted to clarify the language in the Ordinance. Town Clerk Crawford stated the second question was previously addressed when the Board discussed the headstones being moved in the cemetery.

Smoke Test. Town Clerk Crawford stated the town will be performing a smoke test of the sewer system on 22 Sep 2021. Town Clerk Crawford stated the town put posts out on social media to notify the public and that if they see smoke that they should not panic. Of course, if they have any questions or concerns they can call the Town Hall prior to Wednesday.

Time Clock System. Town Clerk Crawford stated that because of Bailey's growth in the Police Department and the Town Hall, and due to past conversations about finding a useful time and attendance system for tracking hours worked, he researched some systems he felt would satisfy the town's needs. Town Clerk Crawford stated the quote in the Board's packet shows a quote from ClockShark. As a great middle-ground system, ClockShark provides enough functionality to track time, remain in compliance with HR regulations, and track the locations of the workforce operating in multiple locations, said Town Clerk Crawford. Commissioner Daniels asked if Southern Software had anything that would track time, and Town Clerk Crawford stated they have a time management function in the Payroll Module, but Southern Software does not integrate with any other time and attendance software.

Commissioner Daniels made a motion to move forward with ClockShark at \$73.00 per month. Commissioner Finch seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Training – Budgeting in Local Government. Town Clerk Crawford stated the Board has some information in their packet that pertains to a training course from the UNC School of Government, and based on the

gaps and challenges seen in the bookkeeping, he sees great value in making sure that we have the proper training in the area of finance. Town Clerk Crawford requested the Board consider funding the Budgeting in Local Government course, and that he was bringing it before the Board because its cost, at \$590.00, exceeds his departmental authority. Town Clerk Crawford stated that he believes he will qualify for the Golden Leaf Foundation Scholarship, which provides a 20% reduction in costs, and even though that would bring the cost down to within his level of authority, he wanted to ensure the Board was aware of the overall costs and had the chance to weigh-in on the total cost beforehand.

Commissioner Finch made a motion to approve the \$590.00 for the Budgeting in Local Government course expense, and to allow the Town Clerk to apply for the Golden Leaf Foundation Scholarship to see if he qualifies for the 20% reduction in cost. Commissioner Killion seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ARPA Funding Courses. Town Clerk Crawford stated the NC League of Municipalities is preparing to provide a course related to the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funding program. Town Clerk Crawford stated this course is free, and all six of its classes are available throughout the state during the month of October. Town Clerk Crawford stated he has registered to attend the course, and he is available for the Oct 13th, 15th, and 20th classes, but since he will be out of the office from October 22nd to October 29th, he would not be available to attend the last three classes. Town Clerk Crawford wanted the Board to know about the course and if any of them could attend the remaining class schedule, then it would be possible for them to compare notes and put together the best plan for helping Bailey apply the knowledge in the program. Mayor Richards asked about the remaining dates that needed to be filled, and Town Clerk Crawford provided the dates. Town Clerk Crawford stated the classes are virtual and the Board does not need to commit tonight.

Interim Chief of Police, Cathy Callahan: Interim Chief Callahan reported that in August Bailey had 29 charges; 25 were traffic charges; five were misdemeanor charges; plus the town had 72 business contacts; and 74 business closings. Interim Chief Callahan stated that in response to the lack of police coverage she ran the yearly report, which was since Jan, and there have been 624 business contacts, 758 business closings, which is quite a bit. Interim Chief Callahan stated that, as it relates to the recent applicants who have been approved for hire by the Board, they all have gotten their files into the State. Interim Chief Callahan stated she has run into some challenges with getting the documents processed, but she is working with the State office personnel at the Training and Standards Division to make it happen. Interim Chief Callahan stated she is trying to get things done before she heads out on vacation next week, and she has not had a vacation in over two years. Commissioner Killion asked Interim Chief Callahan if one of her new applicants was going to make it tonight to be interviewed, and Interim Chief Callahan said no, he is out of the country. Commissioner Killion stated that at least that is one more in the pipeline, which is a fifth candidate that may be hired. Commissioner Killion stated that he would like to add, that Interim Chief Callahan is doing all of this work to get the new hires processed, while still running the department, while still doing her patrol duties, and while still working her caseload of investigations. Interim Chief Callahan stated the timeline for processing could be a few more weeks or a few months.

Town Clerk Crawford stated that while the Board is on the topic of new-hires, he wanted to make sure the Board was reminded of the five Customer Service Representative candidates who will be interviewing tonight during closed session.

Zoning Administrator/Code Enforcer, Shawn Lucas: Town Clerk Crawford stated that Shawn Lucas is not present tonight, but that he asked Town Clerk Crawford to provide a statement to the Board, if the Board would allow. Town Clerk Crawford recited the information provided by Shawn Lucas, word-for-word, and Shawn's Zoning Report is included in the Minutes.

Commissioners' Remarks:

Commissioner Killion: Commissioner Killion stated that utilizing Nash County Sheriff's Office for coverage in Bailey is temporary, and only to cover gaps in time when Interim Chief Callahan is not on duty. Interim Chief Callahan stated that essentially there are two individuals, who are creating the most trouble in Bailey, and one of them has been locked up recently, and the other has been placed on electronic monitoring. Interim Chief Callahan stated that she has been working on some involuntary commitment processing for one of the suspects, and the court system is not approving the documents as she expected.

Commissioner Bullard had no comment.

Commissioner Finch: Commissioner Finch thanked Mr. Boone for coming out tonight. Commissioner Finch stated that the smoke test was recommended to Bailey as an annual function, and that's why it is being done.

Commissioner Powell: Commissioner Powell asked if the town was going to have any coverage while Interim Chief Callahan was out on vacation, and Commissioner Killion said it would have to be Nash County Sheriff's Office. Interim Chief Callahan stated she felt the biggest problems are not in town; the suspect for Cecil Hawley break-in she has identified but she doesn't have a suspect for the bakery incident yet. Commissioner Killion asked whether the town had an agreement in place for Nash County Sheriff's Office to cover Bailey, and Interim Chief Callahan stated she was not aware of an agreement. Mayor Richards stated Nash County has five deputies to cover a county of 94,000 while Bailey has one officer covering 600 people. Mayor Richards said the challenges in law enforcement staffing and coverage are everywhere, and he knows you cannot just give anyone a gun and tell them to walk the streets of Bailey. Commissioner Killion stated that he felt the Board is taking action, and they are working through the delays encountered at other agencies and organizations. Mayor Richards stated he would call Nash County tomorrow and get the coverage the town needs at \$30 per hour, and let the Board vote on it.

Mayor Richards stated he is hearing about the police coverage issues from a lot of people and he is willing to listen to any comments or input if someone is willing to help. Mayor Richards stated he felt bad the owner of the bakery got her shop broke into, and he stated that even those cities with a lot more coverage are still seeing criminal activity. Mr. Nick Green stated he knows the town is doing what they can, but when the criminal knows there is no police coverage they see Bailey as a utopia. Mr. Nick

Green further stated that anyone could watch Bailey and see when it's best to hit a location. Commissioner Killion stated that when we talk about Bailey's issues and it goes into the paper that it just makes it more obvious that we lack coverage, and he stated that he hoped the newspaper could be tactful with their coverage of the situation.

Commissioner Daniels: Commissioner Daniels stated he met with Keen Plumbing about the fire hydrants again, and they agreed to wait until this month's Board meeting to move forward. Commissioner Daniels stated he reviewed the bad hydrants with Keen, which is two on Pine Street (Green at Pine, and Benson at Pine), one on Reid Street (at O'Neal), and one on Main Street (at Deans Street). Commissioner Daniels stated that we need to move forward and he stated Keen Plumbing is a good company that does good work.

Mayor's Remarks:

Mayor Richards had no additional comments.

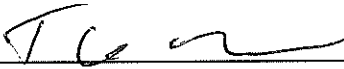
Commissioner Killion made a motion to go into close session. Commissioner Finch seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mayor Richards stated the meeting was going back into open session.

Commissioner Finch made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Killion seconded the motion. Motion carried.



Jeremy Crawford, Town Clerk



Mayor Thomas Richards