

Elizabeth (Dale) Williford, Mayor  
Michael Luther, Mayor Pro Tem

1400 Salter Path Rd.  
Indian Beach, NC 28512

Commissioners  
Randell Bentley  
Ryan Kelley  
Sam Lovelace

(252) 247-3344



## REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETINGS MINUTES

June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Elizabeth Williford. Mayor Pro-Tem Luther, Commissioners Bentley, Kelley, and Lovelace attended the meeting. Town Manager White, Police Chief Pollock, Fire Chief Whitley, Deputy Chief Jackson, Public Works Director Golden, and citizens.

2. Public Works Director Golden gave the invocation, and all joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. A motion to approve the May minutes was made by Commissioner Kelly and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Luther. Minutes approved unanimously.

### 4. FINANCE OFFICER/TOWN MANAGER

The town manager announced the hiring of Randy Gurganious as our new Public Works Director. The manager informed the commissioner that the town has been removed from the LGCs Unit Assistance List. The commissioners were made aware that our attorney had responded to a property owners dispute over the easement and property lines for the property behind the Police Department. Our attorney does not feel this will be an issue.

We collected \$9,067.00 in taxes in May. The following reports were included: Cash Balance, Budget vs Actual Detail Report as of May 30, 2024. Budget vs Actual Summary Report as of May 30, 2024, Manual Journal Entries for May.

5. **POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT** – Chief Pollock gave his report for May, and it was accepted as presented.

6. **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT** – Fire Chief Whitley gave his report for May, and it was accepted as presented.

7. **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT** – Director Golden gave his report for May, and it was accepted as presented.

8. **OLD BUSINESS** None

## 9. NEW BUSINESS

a) Public Hearing for the Proposed 2024/2025 Budget.

A motion to open the public hearing was made by Commissioner Kelly and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Luther. Commissioner Bentley opened the discussion stating the town can avoid a tax increase by using some of our fund balance instead. Feels tax increase is unnecessary, that the citizens will complain when they receive the new tax bills, and that he and the other commissioners are also taxpayers. Commissioner Bentley believes the next tax revaluation will greatly increase our tax revenue. Commissioner Kelly after the revaluation we are required to calculate the "revenue neutral tax rate" and we have option to lower the tax rate if appropriate. Mayor Williford stated the town was very transparent about the proposed budget. The information was in an article in the local newspaper, and on social media. We gave the opportunity for citizens to comment, and we had none. Commissioner Lovelace stated he is in favor of the proposed budget, and we need to fix the salary issue now. Mayor Pro-Tem stated he is not willing to take the risk of using fund balance with only four (4) months in reserve. Donald Skinner a resident of Indian Beach spoke stating the town has done a great job increasing the fund balance and feels the funds for the salary increases is needed for the town to stay competitive. Victor Heinrick a resident of Indian Beach attended the meeting because of the letter from the LGC removing the town from the UAL. He mentioned actions in the past that got the town on the list and stated the town cannot use fund balance and should not lower taxes. A motion to close the public hearing was made by Commissioner Lovelace and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Luther.

b) Consideration of the Proposed 2024/2025 Budget.

A motion to approve 2024/2025 as presented was made by Commissioner Lovelace seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Luther. The vote was three (3) to one (1) with Commissioner Bentley voting no for the reasons he stated during the public hearing.

c) Consideration of the Purchase of a Replacement Jet Ski


The rescue Jet Ski has been damaged. The fire department has borrowed one from Pine Knoll Shores. The Jet Ski is a critical piece of rescue equipment. Quote from Wilmington Powersports for \$15,485.41. A motion to purchase the replacement Jet Ski was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Luther and seconded by Commissioner Lovelace. The motion was unanimously approved.

(d) Consideration of Budget Amendment

A budget amendment to record several revenue lines that are or will exceed budget estimates. A motion to approve the amendment as presented was made by Commissioner Lovelace and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Luther. The motion was unanimously approved.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:45pm.

  
Tim White Town Manager

  
Elizabeth Dale Williford, Mayor