

**TOWN OF HUNTERSVILLE
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
MINUTES**

**April 20, 2015
6:30 p.m. – Town Hall**

The Regular Meeting of the Huntersville Board of Commissioners was held at the Huntersville Town Hall at 6:30 p.m. on April 20, 2015.

GOVERNING BODY MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Jill Swain; Commissioners Melinda Bales, Ron Julian, Rob Kidwell, Sarah McAulay, Jeff Neely and Danny Phillips.

Mayor Swain called for a moment of silence.

Mayor Swain led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MAYOR AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS/STAFF QUESTIONS

Mayor Swain

- The next MTC meeting is April 22.
- The next Huntersville Connection meeting is April 21.
- I attended the roundtable at UNCC with Governor McCrory, specifically talking about how UNCC would benefit from the proposed \$2 billion bond referendum.
- There are a number of events that are going to be happening over the weekend in Huntersville that will affect traffic.

Commissioner Bales

- I want to thank Commissioner Kidwell for sitting in for me at the Lake Norman Transportation Commission meeting. NCDOT provided an update on the NC 73 study of intersections. NCDOT is looking at Catawba as a superstreet concept with improvements to the intersection at NC 73 and Catawba. There was an update on the STIP projects for the region as well as a discussion regarding COG and NC 73 planning and financing for the website.
- The Lake Norman Education Collaborative met last Monday regarding Partners in Education. There will be a program called Partners in Education that will be launched in the fall where we will be partnering businesses and our local schools together.

Commissioner Julian

- The Lake Norman EDC is staying busy. Burkert has started grading.

Commissioner Kidwell

- The next Olde Huntersville Historic Society meeting is May 6. The OHHS will be represented at Hello Huntersville on May 9.

Commissioner McAulay

- The Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization voted at a special meeting last Tuesday to not open the extra paved lane on 485 south for safety reasons and wait for the toll managed lane project.
- The Spring Council of Planning meeting is April 24.
- I will be attending the Council of Governments 2015 North Carolina Tomorrow event in Raleigh next Monday and Tuesday.

Commissioner Neely

- Visit Lake Norman has launched its first annual photo contest in search of a photo that best tells the story of Lake Norman. The contest ends June 20.
- The next meeting of the Lake Norman Chamber Board is April 27.

Commissioner Phillips

- The ASC fund drive is winding down. It closes on April 30.

PUBLIC COMMENTS, REQUESTS, OR PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Swain proclaimed May 2015 as Older Americans Month.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Towns of Huntersville, Cornelius and Davidson in North Mecklenburg County include thriving communities of older Americans who deserve recognition for their contributions and sacrifices to ensure a better life for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the North Mecklenburg towns are committed to helping all individuals live longer, healthier lives in the communities of their choice for as long as possible; and

WHEREAS, since 1965 the Older Americans Act has provided services that help older adults remain healthy and independent by complementing existing medical and health care systems, helping prevent hospital readmissions, and supporting some of life's most basic functions such as bathing or preparing meals; and

WHEREAS, these programs also support family caregivers, address issues of exploitation, neglect and abuse of older adults, and adapt services to the needs of Native American elders; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the value of community engagement and service in helping older adults remain healthy and active while giving back to others; and

WHEREAS, our communities can provide opportunities to enrich the lives of individuals of all ages by:

- Promoting and engaging in activity, wellness, and social inclusion.
- Emphasizing home and community based services that support independent living.
- Ensuring community members of all ages benefit from the contributions and experience of older adults.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Mayors of Huntersville, Cornelius and Davidson, do hereby proclaim May 2015 to be **Older Americans Month** and urge every resident to take time this month to celebrate older adults and the people who serve and support them as powerful and vital individuals who greatly contribute to the community.

WITNESS OUR HAND and the official seals of Huntersville, Cornelius and Davidson, this the 20th day of April, 2015.

Tanya Blackmon, President, Novant Health Huntersville Medical Center, updated the Board on Novant Health Huntersville.

Ms. Blackmon said Novant Health has invested over \$100 million into the Huntersville/Lake Norman area.

At-A-Glance: Novant Health Huntersville Medical Center

Serving You Since 2004

Mission: Novant Health exists to improve the health of communities, one person at a time.

The Team

Team Members: 158 in 2004, currently 730
Medical Staff and Primary Care Members:
Over 400
Active Adult Volunteers: 50
Junior Volunteers: 27

Pediatrics

NICU
Child Friendly ER

Growth

50 - Licensed Beds 2004
91 - Licensed Beds 2015
39,521 Patients 2005
66,862 Patients 2014
Medical Tower
ICU Expansion
5th Operating Room
Intermediate Care Unit
Ambulatory Surgery Center
Orthopedic Nurse Navigator

Capital Investment

Over \$114.2 Million Invested in Our Community Since 2004

Women's Services


610 Births (2005)
1192 Births (2014)
Certified Nurse Midwifery
Program
Lactation Suite
Counseling Services

Oncology Services

Oncology Nurse Navigator
Counseling Services
Oncology Support Groups
Bone Density
Radiation Therapy
Services
Breast Center Expansion
Wig Closet

Community Outreach



- Monthly Community Education Series (over 360 participants in 2014)
- Medical Explorers
- Family Care Fair Day
- Huntersville Family Fitness & Aquatic Center
- Ada Jenkins
- Leadership Lake Norman & Mooresville
- Discovery Place Kids
- Lake Norman Free Clinic
- The Park at Huntersville
- Farmer's Market
- Relay for Life
- Lake Norman Chamber

Emergency Services



13 Treatment Rooms
21,963 Visits (2005)
32,400 Visits (2014)

Heart and Vascular Services

Endovascular Lab
Wellness Center
Heart Failure Clinic
EP Services (Pacemakers)

Awards & Recognition

- Truven Health Top 100 Hospitals:
National Benchmark for Success Small Community Hospital
- American Heart Association Gold Achievement Award:
Mission Lifeline Referral Center & Heart Failure
- Charlotte Business Journal's Excellence in Healthcare Awards
- Commission on Cancer Award of Excellence
- Magnet Nursing Designation
- VHA Excellence Award for Clinical Effectiveness
- TJC Disease Specific Certification Hip and Knee
- Cycle IV Chest Pain Accreditation
- Stroke Certification & Recertification

Commissioner McAulay said I certainly do appreciate the service that you have led in the years that you have been associated here in Huntersville with Novant. You mentioned the growth/investment and it's not only the physical investment there at the hospital site itself but the wonderful associates that you have brought to the community and the physicians, the health care providers. As I told you the other day, I was with a group of people that have lived in Huntersville a long time around here and they said we could not imagine being here without the Huntersville hospital and what would it have been like and it's hard to visualize what that is. What is easy to visualize is what you and your team have brought here and I thank you for that.

Cheryl Pletcher, Executive Director of Serenity House, said thank you for this opportunity to bring you a special report from Serenity House of Huntersville, an end of life community-based ministry of the Carolina Comfort Coalition. I'm honored to bring you the report of a successful start-up of the Comfort Care Home model of care for those in the final journey of life. Our founder's campaign financial goal of \$100,000 was met under the strong leadership of Sam and Elizabeth James. The house was prepared

with many volunteer hours and many donations. Volunteers were recruited through newspaper and media friends and word of mouth. This is an amazing story of community engagement. We believe that life is precious to the very last moment. When a family is unable to keep their loved one at home at the end of life we believe that there should be another option besides a nursing home. At-home Hospice brings the medical care but they are not the home or the family for the terminally ill patient. A comfort care home serves only Hospice families. We bridge the gap between what the Hospice benefit provides and what the families of today need. Every one of us here tonight will need a caregiver when we come to the finish line of life. Serenity House offers a comfortable home setting and a caring surrogate family of volunteers, many of them from Huntersville, all of this without charge to the family in their time of need. Serenity House in Huntersville received our first resident July 13 of this year. This morning we admitted our 16th resident. Each family is served with dignity and attentive care because of the support of the community we live in. Thank you to each one of you that has contributed to our successful start-up. Tonight I brought with me some special guests from the state of Kentucky. They have come to learn about the Comfort Care home model and to see the day-to-day operation. Serenity House in Huntersville is already a model for other states who are concerned about the gap in care at the end of life. They dream of making Hildegard House in Louisville a reality to serve with Hospice as a vital end of life care option. You are a God send is what our families say. We'll continue to need the support of the community as we serve without charge at the finish line of life.

Sam James said I have the privilege of serving on the Board of the Serenity House and it really is a privilege to see what goes on at the house in Mooresville and the house in Huntersville. This Wednesday at 12 noon we are having a thank you event for the Serenity House and we wanted to invite all of you Commissioners to this event at the Peninsula Yacht Club.

AGENDA CHANGES

Commissioner McAulay made a motion to add Item C under Other Business – Consider adopting Resolution supporting the North Carolina Department of Transportation using Economic Development Funds to construct a left-turn lane from southbound Mt. Holly-Huntersville Road generally in the area north of its intersection with Hambright Road and south of I-77 and add Item D under Other Business – Call for Town Budget Workshop on Monday, May 11 at 5 p.m. here at Town Hall.

Commissioner Kidwell seconded motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Kidwell made a motion to adopt the agenda, as amended.

Commissioner Julian seconded motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

OTHER BUSINESS

LNTC Interlocal Amendment. Commissioner Neely made a motion to approve Second Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement between the Towns of Mooresville, Davidson, Cornelius and Huntersville, creating the Lake Norman Regional Transportation Commission.

Commissioner Bales seconded motion.

Commissioner Kidwell said I've been to a few meetings, not all of them. I know the importance of what the LNTC has brought to the area. But as everything has evolved with the Transportation Mobility prioritization and CRTPO and we've got Bill on the TCC for us and Commissioner McAulay is leading the way as the Chair.....the LNTC advocates for us, but it doesn't have any bite. Personally, I'm going to have to vote against extending this tonight.

Commissioner Phillips said I'm in opposition to approving this. I feel like this is a perfect example of government run amuck. I think with the North Carolina Transportation and the Governor's STI program, advocacy is no longer necessary. The decisions are supposed to be made off of congestion and data. I don't see a problem with them if they want to continue unfunded. That's more than fair. But I just can't see wasting our taxpayer money when you've got NCDOT, the NC 73 Council of Planning, the Centralina Council of Governments, the CRTPO. This is just a repetition of the same thing from about four or five different entities. And again I stress this is a perfect example of wasting taxpayer money.

Commissioner Julian said I'm going to vote to approve this agreement. I was here back when the first LNTC interlocal agreement came to the Board at that time. I believe the LNTC does an enormous amount of advocating for road structures and helps us get that message out to the residents. I talked about the superstreet concept or the diverging diamond or the north/south thoroughfares and then I also spoke about how Huntersville, Cornelius, Davidson and Mooresville need to work together in transportation planning. I think that the amount of money that Huntersville is putting in to fund this organization we receive ten-fold back in advocating and helping get our hands on other monies, just like the \$5 million that the CRTPO and Sarah McAulay helped locate. Still the LNTC is advocating and in today's world if you don't have multiple organizations advocating for you, you are going to fail. I'm going to support it. I think what Mr. Thunberg does is very important to Huntersville. One of the things I asked tonight was the concepts of our new structures, keep advocating that out there because when we go to put it in the residents are going to scream. They always do. If you look at Cornelius at the diverging diamond and the heat they took for the first little bit, but now look at it, it's flowing great. Exit 25, 73 the heat we took with a change with what I call that dogleg, but it's about stacking traffic if you really know the technical aspects of it. I'm going to vote for it. I don't see it as a waste.

Commissioner McAulay said I hope I have my facts right, but as far as the Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization and the Lake Norman Transportation Commission having a vote on that group, that would be because of federal guidelines in that it's the actual government entities or agencies, commissions such as the MTC that is identified as running the transit, the bus lines, etc. and the trains that other areas have that we don't yet have. I think as far as influencing seeing the need, being able to stand back a little bit from your day-to-day operations and your day-to-day of trying to get all the money in Huntersville when somebody in Cornelius and Davidson and Mooresville and Statesville thinks they should have some of the money, needs somebody other than your representative to the Charlotte Regional Transportation to talk to each group and be sure and share it around. I try to get everything I can for Huntersville as Bill Coxe does and all the staff of Huntersville. I think that originally that the commission was identified as trying to work with the rail line coming up here just a block or so east of here and I still see that as the back room stiff negotiations that's going on that it's not time perhaps to publicize all that, but I am confident that there is a conversation going on and frankly if

Norfolk Southern would ever let go of the state of North Carolina for their little bitty rail line that Norfolk Southern manages and the state might sell it to them then I think we would have a better chance of seeing the rail line up here and we need people that are staying attuned to that and are ready to speak for us as relating our individual town's decisions on that. I compliment the work that the various directors have done on TCC. I'm not going to say I agree with everything that the group has done but more than the vast majority is very complimentary and has been successful. Bill Thunberg actually was one that worked on the bonus allocations as well as Bill Coxe and I can tell you right now the elected officials were not in those meetings. We were not wanted in that meeting. They brought different plans to us and we got to make decisions on that as a group. That is how you move things forward and I compliment the work that they have done.

Commissioner Neely said obviously as moving to approve this I'm going to vote for this. I think if you ask any citizen what their number one concern is, what their number one aggravation is and if they could wave a magic wand and do anything, the answer would be fix the roads. And everybody knows roads are a problem and will continue to be a problem. I believe that this group's work is not done and I'm not willing to short circuit it or stop it. They provide a very valuable return on investment for this community in their advocacy and what they do to provide educational information to the citizens of our community and if we're going to fight the good fight that we fought for a long time, you don't do it by taking some of the ammunition out of your ammunition belt. You keep on funding this. It's a minimal amount for what we get on a return on our investment and that's why I am voting for it.

Commissioner Phillips said everybody makes compelling arguments but there again the LNTC has no teeth or no bite. They are strictly an advocacy organization that's costing us money that we are duplicating and quadrupling. Maybe the Town of Huntersville is a little better positioned than our neighboring towns, but we have a gentleman right here on our staff to be a transportation planner and to advise us, that's Bill Coxe. His contacts, his personal relationships in the matter of transportation have always been sold to me that that's the reason we pay him. He's also on the TCC. What has this advocacy group ever brought to this region that was accomplished. I can't find one thing. The rail is not here. You keep saying roads.....what have they accomplished.

Mayor Swain said how many meetings have you attended.

Commissioner Phillips said very few. None to be honest with you, absolutely none.

Mayor Swain said I apologize Bill (Thunberg) because obviously this issue has come before us during election time and a campaign here, so of course we are going to have people talk about being good about the budget. I think it's essential and you could probably talk more about this. I know actually I'll be perfectly honest with you, one of the reasons why I asked you to be on the LNTC was because you did not know that much about it and I thought it would be very good to have someone who is objective be the liaison. So I think you may very well be the person who can talk to this.

Commissioner Bales said for those of you who are here tonight, for the first two years sitting on this Board I was the alternate for the LNTC and I rolled up my sleeves and jumped right in with Commissioner Guignard. What I have found with this organization is that it is one of collaboration, one that lends itself to the whole of Lake Norman. It lends a unity that I haven't seen very much in other areas. We work together and under the leadership of Mr. Thunberg and the leadership of the other commissioners and town managers who sit on this board we've worked together to say the number one area for us is region. We have got to work together and I'm starting to see the fruits of all of this labor and I certainly would not want to see it go away. The ability to host summits, the ability to engage the

public, the ability to engage other counties, municipalities, other regions along our corridor and for our business community to look and say you're right, we need to be talking about land use, transportation is an economic issue. There's a litany of reasons why we need the LNTC and it's one reason why I am going to vote to support it tonight. The education piece alone is valuable. We cannot lose that. We cannot lose the opportunity to work together and make Lake Norman a region that is going to sustain itself through the next century. I see that as this organization works to build partnerships and unity and when I hear individuals at NCDOT and Secretary Tata say this is a model for other regions in the state why in the world would we cut it off at its knees at this point. We just can't do it.

Commissioner Julian said I was just going to throw out one last comment, or a couple of comments. Commissioner Bales I think hit the nail on the head when she said collaborative. If we in Huntersville want to be successful adding roads, building roads, it takes many organizations to do that. The LNTC is one. It takes the RPO's, it takes the other towns to come to agreement on what the RPO is, it takes the technical coordinators, it takes definitely Bill Coxe who is so well known and so respected by all the transportation specialists, it takes the North Carolina DOT, it takes the taxpayers. I don't care who is sitting up here if you don't collaborate you will not be doing what is in the best interest of Huntersville which is build roads. So I'll just leave it with that.

Commissioner Kidwell said I think this is a great debate. Everybody has good points that they strongly believe in and Commissioner Neely you hit the nail on the head there as far as roads and transportation being an issue in this area. I agree with you 100 percent. You've got to have bullets in the belt but when you'd be firing real ammunition and not blanks. Currently LNTC as much good as they have done and I'm not discounting what they have done, I'm just saying from here on out with the facts that we would have to deal with to get things done on roads, to build roads, whether it's a toll road, whether it's widening.....bonus allocation that comes from a formula not advocacy and that's my point.

Mayor Swain said let me say yes, we do have the STI but the original intention of the LNTC, and it's still important, is that collaboration.....the regional overlook. What happens on 115 in Huntersville affects what happens in Mooresville and we may not be advocating for state funding for a particular project, we can also be talking regionally about alternatives on how to funnel the traffic. We started this at the very beginning, more communication with our police chiefs about what happens in our various communities. This is not just advocating for road funding. You can't put a value to talking regionally about transportation, the number one issue in the state of North Carolina with regard to funding. You cannot put a value to talking with your neighbors about it and again this has already been said but for the North Carolina Department of Transportation , two secretaries, one Democrat and one Republican both saying this is extremely valuable, I think you'd have to attend more meetings to see the value of it because it truly is extraordinary.

Commissioner Neely said I think one of the things that I see in the changes happening in local government is that the state government is evolving in trying to direct more and get much more involved in local governments even to the point of mandating what's going on in local government. And I believe firmly that the sum total of four towns is one heck of a lot stronger than the sum total of one town and if we are going to be successful in getting what we need as a town, we need to combine as a region on issues that all four towns see are as important to the citizens of all four towns and with four you are much mightier than you are with one regionally and that's why I believe in this and quite frankly I'd rather have the one two punch of two Bill's than the one punch of one Bill. I'm not in favor of getting rid of either of the Bill's, I want the one two punch.

Commissioner Kidwell said Commissioner Neely, that was great.

Mayor Swain called for the vote to approve Second Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement between the Towns of Mooresville, Davidson, Cornelius and Huntersville, creating the Lake Norman Regional Transportation Commission.

Motion carried 4 to 2, with Commissioners Phillips and Kidwell opposed.

Second Amendment to Interlocal attached hereto as Attachment No. 1.

Planning Board Appointments. There are three vacancies on the Planning Board: (1) Town Seat with term expiring June 30, 2015; (2) Town Seat with term expiring June 30, 2016; and (3) Town or ETJ Seat with term expiring June 30, 2017.

Commissioner McAulay nominated Bill Walsh, Janice Lewis and Susan Thomas.

Commissioner Phillips nominated Jennifer Davis, Jack Richardson and Neal Howes.

Commissioner Kidwell nominated Jeff Sny.

Vote for Bill Walsh – Commissioners Bales, Julian, McAulay, Neely and Phillips in favor.

Vote for Janice Lewis – Commissioners Julian, McAulay and Neely in favor.

Vote for Susan Thomas – Commissioners Bales, Kidwell, Julian, McAulay and Neely in favor.

Vote for Jennifer Davis – Commissioner Bales in favor.

Vote for Jack Richardson – Commissioner Kidwell and Phillips in favor.

Vote for Neal Howes – Commissioner Phillips in favor.

Vote for Jeff Sny – Commissioner Kidwell in favor.

Commissioner McAulay made a motion to appoint Janice Lewis to term expiring June 30, 2016; Bill Walsh to term expiring June 30, 2015 and for an additional term expiring June 30, 2018; and Susan Thomas to term expiring June 30, 2017.

Commissioner Neely seconded motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution – Support Turn Lane. Commissioner Julian made a motion to adopt Resolution supporting the North Carolina Department of Transportation using Economic Development Funds to construct a left-turn lane from southbound Mt. Holly-Huntersville Road generally in the area north of its intersection with Hambright Road and south of I-77.

Commissioner Bales seconded motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

**TOWN OF HUNTERSVILLE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT**

WHEREAS, NCDOT proposes to construct a left-turn lane from southbound Mt. Holly- Huntersville Road generally in the area north of its intersection with Hambright Road and south of I-77 using NCDOT Economic Development Funds; and

WHEREAS, the proposed improvement will improve the daily operations on Mt. Holly- Huntersville Road and reduce vehicular delay; and

WHEREAS, the improvements will help support potential economic development activity in the area; and

WHEREAS, the use of NCDOT Economic Development Funds requires support of the local municipality.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this resolution is adopted by the Huntersville Board of Commissioners in support of the NCDOT's use of Economic Development Funds in order to construct a left-turn lane from southbound Mt. Holly- Huntersville Road generally in the area north of its intersection with Hambright Road and south of I-77.

Call for Special Meeting. Commissioner Neely made a motion to call for a Budget Work Session on Monday, May 11, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. at Huntersville Town Hall.

Commissioner Bales seconded motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Minutes – April 6 Pre-meeting. Commissioner McAulay made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2015 Town Board Pre-meeting. Commissioner Bales seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes – April 6 Regular Meeting. Commissioner McAulay made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2015 Regular Town Board Meeting. Commissioner Bales seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Budget Amendment – Police. Commissioner McAulay made a motion to approve budget amendment recognizing insurance revenue in the amount of \$8,125 and appropriate to the Police Department's insurance account. Commissioner Bales seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CLOSING COMMENTS

None

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioner Julian made a motion to go into Closed Session for property acquisition. Commissioner Bales seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Upon return from closed session, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Approved this the ____ day of _____, 2015.

DRAFT