

**Zebulon Board of Commissioners
Work Session
Minutes
November 19, 2015**

Present: Robert S. Matheny-Mayor, Curtis Strickland, Beverly Clark, Dale Beck, Don Bumgarner, Glenn York, Joe Moore-Town Manager, Lisa Markland-Town Clerk, Chris Ray-Public Works, Mark Hetrick-Planning, Tim Hayworth-Police, Chris Perry-Fire, Greg Johnson-Parks & Recreation, Eric Vernon-Attorney

Mayor Matheny called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Clark made a motion, second by Commissioner York to approve the agenda as presented. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Joe Moore introduced Elohim Monard with Duke University who was working with the Town to improve civic engagement in the Town of Zebulon.

Joe Moore summarized the evening's items to be discussed and stated that traditionally decisions were not made at worksessions but the items being introduced were time sensitive and if the Board saw fit to make a decision it would be appreciated by staff.

A. Public Works

North Wakefield Street Roadway Improvements

Chris Ray reviewed the topic where the Board had asked that staff review the project to possibly help reduce the cost with drainage swales and the installation of a taper on W. Franklin Street. The Wooten Company would look at various issues on that street that would include swales, culverts, resurfacing and the taper on W. Franklin St. The cost of the PER, as revised, would be \$19,800 which was \$12,500 less than the \$30,000 remaining in the budget line for the N. Wakefield Street Project. Mayor Matheny asked if the cost was \$19,800 or \$18,900 since that was what was in the memo in the packet. Chris said that it was to be \$19,800 and it was a typo in the memo.

Commissioner Beck stated that he wanted to see the sidewalks put back into the PER and it should be engineered and since there was funding available for that. Mayor Matheny stated that sidewalks could not be done if swales were installed. Chris Ray said that if the roadway was 50' right-of-way there would be 14' to play with and that would be sufficient for installation of a sidewalk. The cost would be approximately a 15 percent change to the PER and Chris recommended it be done with a change order. The Board could authorize the manager to approve that change order since it would be under budget if they were comfortable with that. Commissioner Beck thought that not doing it would be shortsighted and with the greenway plan it was a part of that and since the area was walked heavily he thought it was a safety issue.

The Board agreed that the PER should include the sidewalks. Mayor Matheny asked if it should be capped or leave it open so long as it did not go over the \$30,000 in the line item. The Board decided that it should be left open.

Commissioner Bumgarner made a motion, second by Commissioner York to approve the PER for the North Wakefield Street Project with the addition of sidewalk engineering up to \$30,000. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Insurance

Bobby Fitts presented the insurance proposal for the 2016 calendar year. The current health care provider United Health Care was proposing a five percent increase to current rates, BlueCross Blue Shield was proposing a one percent increase to the current rates and Coventry was proposing a rate seven percent less than that of United Health Care. The plans with BCBS and UHC were essentially the same, whereas Coventry had high deductibles and out of pocket maximums and the network was not as good as the others outside of Wake County. However, 40 percent of the employees lived outside of Wake County.

Opting out was still available for those on other group plans at a rate of 90 percent if it went to a flexible spending account and 75 percent if it was paid to the employee.

UHC had slight increases on dependent coverage but BCBS was considerably less than that.

Dental insurance was basically the same but it was slightly less with BCBS and Coventry did not submit a quote for dental or life insurance.

Vision was an optional program for the employee if they choose to have it and BCBS was six to eight percent lower than UHC.

Life insurance was less expensive from BCBS and Coventry did not submit a quote.

Both companies would administer the flexible spending account and COBRA at no cost to the Town. All supplemental insurance was through Colonial Life and at no cost to the Town.

Staff was recommending that the Board go with BCBS for insurance benefits for calendar year 2016.

Commissioner Strickland asked if staff had seen the numbers yet. Bobby stated that they had not but it would be made available to them next week if the Board approved the numbers. The employees would be able to look at the numbers prior to signing up for their plans.

Commissioner Bumgarner asked if there was a fee for changing companies or if the insurance picked up the cost of changing companies. Bobby Fitts said that there was no cost to switch companies.

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Commissioner Strickland made a motion, second by Commissioner Clark to go with Blue Cross Blue Shield as the insurance carrier and all programs recommended by staff. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

MANAGERS REPORT

Nothing to report.

Commissioner Strickland made a motion, second by Commissioner Clark to adjourn. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Date

Robert S. Matheny—Mayor

SEAL

Lisa M. Markland, CMC—Town Clerk