

**Town of Mineral Springs
Town Hall
3506 S. Potter Road
Town Council
Regular Meeting
May 10, 2018 ~ 7:30 PM**

Minutes

The Town Council of the Town of Mineral Springs, North Carolina, met in Regular Session at the Mineral Springs Town Hall, Mineral Springs, North Carolina, at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 10, 2018.

Present: Mayor Frederick Becker III, Mayor Pro Tem Bettylyn Krafft, Councilwoman Valerie Coffey, Councilwoman Janet Critz, Councilwoman Lundeen Cureton, Councilwoman Peggy Neill, Town Clerk/Zoning Administrator Vicky Brooks and Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector Janet Ridings.

Absent: Councilman Jerry Countryman and Attorney Bobby Griffin.

Visitors: Jessie Lindberg and Linda Smosky.

With a quorum present Mayor Frederick Becker called the Regular Town Council Meeting of May 10, 2018 to order at 7:33 p.m.

1. **Opening**

- Councilwoman Critz delivered the invocation.
- Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **Public Comments**

- There were no public comments.

3. **Consent Agenda**

- ***Councilwoman Coffey made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented with corrections duly noted containing the following:***

- A. *Page Number Corrections on the February and March 2018 Minutes*
- B. *April 12, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes*
- C. *March 2018 Tax Collector's Report*
- D. *March 2018 Finance Report*

and Councilwoman Krafft seconded. The motion passed unanimously as follows:

***Ayes: Coffey, Critz, Cureton, Krafft and Neill
Nays: None***

4. Turning Point – Jessie Lindberg

- Turning Point (of Monroe) Executive Director Jessie Lindberg thanked the town council for having her this evening and explained she was just going on two and a half months in this job, so she was still “drinking from the firehose” as they say.
- Since 1985, Turning Point has been serving Union County residents as the only domestic violence shelter in our community providing 24-hour crisis intervention, safe shelter, counseling, court advocacy/accompaniment and case management for victims of domestic violence. In addition, Turning Point provides programs for children ages 3 to 18 addressing the long term negative affect that witnessing events of domestic violence has been shown to have with little to no intervention. Last year, 1,152 total victims were served through their shelter and programs. In 2015, Turning Point acquired the Tree House Children’s Advocacy Center and Sexual Assault Resource Center. At the Tree House (which is an accredited member of the National Children’s Alliance), they receive referrals from law enforcement and DSS to facilitate a multiple disciplinary approach to addressing childhood sexual abuse. Last year, 246 total victims were served through forensic interviews, medical exams, advocacy and counseling service; everything they do is with the child’s safety, comfort and healing at the forefront. It’s really important to note that nine out of ten children who have been sexually abused do not ever disclose that abuse, so they know the number of children that could be served in their community is really a lot higher. Their sexual assault research center provides 24-hour response for victims of sexual assault through hospital accompaniment, advocacy and counseling. Last year, 109 total victims were served through their program.
- Prevention of abuse is really a strategic goal they are working on now; they are working close with the Union County Public Schools on providing teen dating violence presentations teaching children what a healthy relationship looks like. Not knowing the background of some of these kids, they may be in a unhealthy relationship and then they would perpetuate that cycle and keep going in unhealthy relationships. Turning Point is also working with Union County Public Schools Administration to provide a safe touching body awareness curriculum to all elementary kids in Union County Public Schools next year; the curriculum was presented and approved and now they are waiting on the final word.
- Turning Point is doing pregnancy and parenting programs to high school teen moms and dads. Turning Point is piloting their “Hero” program, which is for children who have witnessed domestic violence at South Providence School. They are also offering their stores of children training to all Youth Sports Organizations, Recreation Leagues and Professional Leagues in Union County to address the new mandate that any type of athletic league and any coaches get training on child abuse in light of what happened with the Olympics. A new partnership has been formed with the Sheriff’s Department to begin implementing a teen safety social media awareness to any local community and civic organization that would like it.
- Turning Point is here to end domestic abuse, sexual assault and child abuse; the ways they want to do that is through the prevention and social changes, in addition to providing these services.
- Mayor Becker explained what the town does with funding requests is they get the presentation near the end of the fiscal year and then in June the council looks at

the “pie” they have to divide up with the nonprofits who have asked and they allocate funding as they can afford; checks are sent out in June.

- Councilwoman Coffey asked what Turning Point was asking for. Ms. Lindberg responded they found that the Tree House is getting a “really good” amount of funding (she didn’t know if this was in light of what happened at the Olympics). It’s the shelter they just can’t ever seem to really get into the black on, because they have to be there to provide whatever their clients need and they are not in the practice of kicking them out, so they are changing that up just a little bit to give them a little bit more of a cut off, so they understand they have to be striving towards independence. They never know what they are going to need in that moment. They have agreed to get them a cab back and forth to work for up to two months every day, pay for insurance on a car if they had one, pay the deposit on their new apartment or whatever it is. It seems to be those expenses that Turning Point simply can’t not do, but can’t ever seem to get caught up on. Ms. Lindberg stated that Turning Point prides themselves on being full service and they would be doing them a disservice if they got them in a shelter and them to move out and didn’t help them any further than that. Councilwoman Coffey asked Ms. Lindberg what the dollar value was Turning Point requesting [from Mineral Springs]. Ms. Lindberg responded she didn’t ask for a specific dollar value, but they just worked on a breakout of if they got a \$1,000 what it would do and she would be happy to send that to the council; it might be helpful. It is just a breakdown on how they allocate those funds. Mayor Becker noted that could be added to the council deliberation in the agenda packet for next month if Ms. Lindberg would send it to Ms. Brooks. Ms. Lindberg agreed and commented it would give the council a more concrete idea of what that money would be used for. Councilwoman Cureton asked Ms. Lindberg if they do anything with the homeless shelter; her church feeds them every first Saturday. Ms. Lindberg responded they do referrals back and forth. Recently they had Kathy Bragg talk about them being a little bit more intentional about spotting domestic victims in the homeless shelter and making sure Turning Point sends a counselor there or to get them to Turning Point; even if they are staying with Turning Point, because they are providing these services whether they are under Turning Point’s roof. Turning Point loans the homeless shelter their truck a lot too, because they get people who want to donate stuff. Turning Point works with the homeless shelter on rehousing folks as well.

5. Council on Aging – Linda Smosky

- Ms. Linda Smosky pointed out she handed out a packet to the council of two different pieces of information. The first is their request and history of their relationship with the town and the other sheet is what Ms. Smosky was going to talk to the council about (statistics over the past year). Ms. Smosky also provided the council with a new guide Council on Aging just developed in conjunction with the North Carolina Extension Agency; they have done this for several years. In fact, it is so popular that Carolina’s Health Care System (Atrium now) takes it with the inside information and puts their information on the outside, so Council on Aging tries to keep it up-to-date.
- Ms. Smosky thanked the council for their support of Council on Aging in the past and noted it was wonderful to be able to come and share information with the council. Ms. Smosky highlighted some facts from last year. The Council on Aging

website got 16,679 visits in 2017; Ms. Smosky encouraged the council to visit the website at www.coaunion.org; a lot of new things have been added. Council on Aging does Medicare counseling; last year during open enrollment from October 15th through December 7th, they saw 602 individuals saving them \$626,400. The way they save them money is by putting their drugs in the computer (drug plans/premiums/formularies change every year) and it comes up with the least expensive to the most expensive, so Council on Aging shares that with individuals and they have them change their plans. Council on Aging has been doing this since 2006 when the drug plans came into existence and they are finding that people are more and more coming to Council on Aging and trusting them with the information that they are going to share with them. With the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP), Council on Aging saw 1,950 people last year (between January through December) with a total estimated savings of \$1,006,494. Raleigh keeps the statistics for Council on Aging, because every time they see an individual they had to type in the data and they compile all of this for Council on Aging and then let them know; it is making a difference. A lot of people think because you have Medicare it's like one size fits all, but it's not, you have to make a lot of decisions whether or not you are going to have regular Medicare, an Advantage Plan, or a drug plan; if you have regular Medicare you must have a drug plan. It is important to go in and talk with Council on Aging to make a decision, not based on the company name (Blue Cross/Blue Shield, etc.), because it might not be the best for an individual, it might be less expensive to go with a plan you have not heard of. Council on Aging has an Equipment Loan Program where they loan out walkers, bedside commodes, shower chairs, etc. and they have started keeping track of that; from 2014 until last year, it went from 266 to 381. Using an average of what each piece of equipment might cost, the estimated savings is \$19,000. Council on Aging is working closely with Common Heart and they were getting donations of incontinence supplies and didn't know what to do with them, so they called Council on Aging to ask what they should do with those things. Council on Aging gives them out all the time, so they took them to give out. Last year, they gave out to 442 individuals, which is an estimated savings of \$17,000; it is a big business. Ms. Smosky explained she heard in China the sale of adult diapers is more than the sale of diapers and she wouldn't be surprised if that doesn't happen in this country. The building (at 104 Lydia Street for adult care/caregiver respite) is almost complete on the project Council on Aging is doing next door to them; it is beautiful, they have ordered the cabinets, the stove, refrigerator, lights, etc., there is a porch on the back where they are going to put some rockers. Council on Aging has had a lot of interest in people who want to work and/or volunteer there. Hopefully in July they will start with opening four days a week from Monday through Thursday. The reason for that is because those are the guidelines from the state for the Group Respite Program and Council on Aging will get a little bit of funding (\$4,422) from the state for that and the guidelines are that you are open no more than four days a week for a least three hours a day. It will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Hopefully people will come and be able to have socialization while their caregiver is off doing what they need to do to take care of themselves. They are estimating the cost will be \$40 a day, which will include activities, lunch and a snack. The building has two restrooms, a small office, a porch and a small gazebo in the yard seating 20.

6. **Consideration of the 2018-2019 Budget and Calling for a Public Hearing**

- Mayor Becker explained most everything is the same as the council discussed last month, the revenue estimates are in there now, so they are able to make sure everything balances; no tax increase is proposed. Mayor Becker asked as the council was going over the proposed budget during the next month if they see anything that doesn't add up to please let him know. Mayor Becker explained all the council had to do this evening was to call for the Public Hearing and see to it that a copy is filed with the clerk.
- ***Councilwoman Neill made a motion to call for a Public Hearing on June 14, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. at the Mineral Springs Town Hall for the purpose of adopting 2018-2019 Budget and Councilwoman Coffey seconded. The motion passed unanimously as follows:***

*Ayes: Coffey, Critz, Cureton, Krafft and Neill
Nays: None*

7. **Staff Reports**

- There were no staff reports.

8. **Other Business**

- Mayor Becker explained we were right in the middle of Municipal Clerk's Week, which he has been known to forget several years in a row, to honor our clerk and all municipal clerks including deputies. The Proclamation is facilitated by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, of which our Clerk Brooks is a member. Mayor Becker read the Proclamation and then noted they had a municipal clerk's honorary pizza lunch today. Mayor Becker thanked Clerk Brooks for her ongoing service, who has been serving the town for just about as long as we've been a town; all but three meetings which Kathy Ebel handled. The municipal clerk always has the answers. Mayor Becker commented one of our council members tried to argue with our municipal clerk about the accuracy of the minutes and he was so persuasive in his insistence that the minutes were wrong that the board corrected the minutes to his specifications at which point our municipal clerk went back to the tape and diligently reviewed it and said "these minutes were right the way I submitted them", we had to have another meeting to rescind the correction and approve the original minutes. Our municipal clerk seldom makes mistakes, but every once in a while a typo creeps in; those things happen.
- The Proclamation is as follows:

Town of Mineral Springs

Proclamation

**Municipal Clerk's Week
May 6 through May 12, 2018**

WHEREAS, the Office of the Municipal Clerk, a time honored and vital part of the local government exists throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the Municipal Clerk is the oldest among public servants; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the Municipal Clerk provides the professional link between the citizens, the local governing bodies and agencies of government at other levels; and

WHEREAS, Municipal Clerks have pledged to be ever mindful of their neutrality and impartiality, rendering equal service to all; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Clerk is the information center on functions of local government and community; and

WHEREAS, Municipal Clerks continually strive to improve the administration of the affairs of the Office of the Municipal Clerk through participation in education programs, seminars, workshops and the annual meetings of their state, province, county and international professional organizations; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that we recognize the accomplishments of the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

Now, Therefore,

I, Frederick Becker III, Mayor, Town of Mineral Springs, North Carolina, do recognize the week of May 6 through May 12, 2018 as Municipal Clerks Week, and further extend appreciation to our Municipal Clerk, Vicky A. Brooks, and to all Municipal Clerks for the vital services they perform and their exemplary dedication to the communities they represent.

Dated this the 10th day of May, 2018.

Frederick Becker III, Mayor

- Councilwoman Critz explained that she and Mayor Becker were supposed to do a report on the Municipal Government Class for Veteran's at 7:00 p.m., but there was a misunderstanding [on the agenda] saying it was at 7:30 p.m. Councilwoman Critz was going to suggest doing this presentation, which would be a spring board for the council to maybe do a mini-workshop to identify some of the needs that are realistic that we have now and also realistic for the future, which makes less sense having not done the presentation. Councilwoman Critz suggested (at this point) if the council would set aside a time where they could do about an hour to hour and a half workshop and combine the presentation that would lead directly into a networking, kind of brain storming workshop to address some of these issues just for our community. Councilwoman Critz thought it would make more sense to have that on a night that isn't a meeting night; they could shoot for July or August. Mayor Becker commented August was scary because the festival is close. Councilwoman Critz suggested council members submit any dates to Ms. Brooks that are absolutely out for them and then she will get up with Ms. Brooks and they could put something together in the agenda packet for June. Mayor Becker suggested Councilwoman Critz give Ms. Brooks a one-page agenda for the workshop, so they can come with some ideas; a little bit prepped. Mayor Becker commented Councilwoman Critz will give that to Ms. Brooks and the council will set the date to do her presentation and for the council to have the workshop; maybe arrange dinner. Councilwoman Critz responded she thought snacks. Mayor Becker stated all of that could be done at the next meeting. Councilwoman Critz asked that everyone get in touch with Ms. Brooks to let her know what dates would absolutely be out for looking at homing in on July, since August would put us really close to the festival. Mayor Becker stated next month the council will probably have to call for it.
- Councilwoman Critz explained that her granddaughters, she and a few of their friends had the privilege to visit Alan and Gwen Gardner at their farm; it was delightful and they have a beautiful property. One of the things leading into the

training is getting the community involved with other things going on in the community that they otherwise wouldn't be involved in. Councilwoman Critz encouraged Alan and Gwen Gardner to think about having a booth at our festival, they could sell their soap and give out information about their farm. The more people become connected, the more involved they are going to be when and if any problems come up, as far as partnering with the community to stand together. The more the community knows about you, the more they know how beautiful and how precious this is, the more they are going to be willing to sign petitions and bang on doors themselves.

9. **Adjournment**

- **Councilwoman Critz made a motion to adjourn and Councilwoman Neill seconded. The motion passed unanimously as follows:**

Ayes: Coffey, Critz, Cureton, Krafft and Neill

Nays: None

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.
- The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, June 14, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. at the Mineral Springs Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted by:


Vicky A. Brooks, CMC, NCCMC, Town Clerk




Frederick Becker III, Mayor