Board of Commissioners Meeting Recap - July 14, 2020

Special Requests/Presentation – USDA Rural Business Development Grant Presentation – Larry Sampson, Loan Specialist with the USDA, reviewed the grant agreements with the Board of Commissioners for a grant in the amount of $49,600 to pay 100% of a Master Plan for the Courthouse Ave Project. The Board approved the grant agreement.

Special Requests/Presentation – Michael Raab spoke to the Board requesting for a memorial plaque to be placed on the bench at the Veterans’ Memorial located within the Burgaw Cemetery in honor of his parents. The Board discussed the request and recommended Mr. Raab to look at other locations for the plaque due to the Veterans’ Memorial being dedicated to all Veterans.

Budget Amendments for FY 2020-21 – Wendy Pope, Finance Officer, presented two (2) budget amendments for the FY 2020-21 budget. 1) Appropriation from Fund Balance to payoff Fire Department Engine with First Bank. The Town received an interest free loan to pay for the fire engine, however, in order to receive the funds the Town must first payoff the existing loan. 2) Amending the Schedule of Fees to reflect the addition of “Professional Engineering Review – Direct Cost Recover”. This allows for the Town to better recover costs associated with the Town’s review of developments or project by Town hired Engineers.

Adopt-A-Park Program – Cody Suggs, Parks & Recreation Director, was asked at the last meeting to look into the Adopt-A-Park Program. Mr. Suggs showed an example of another local government’s guidelines and spoke about how this could be a benefit for Burgaw. The Board asked him to move forward with more specific guidelines for our community.

Continued on page 2

CRAM the CRUISER

The Burgaw Police Department has kicked off this year’s “Cram the Cruiser” school supply program. With great support from Burgaw citizens, businesses, and civic organizations, we have been able to supply Burgaw area children with the tools needed to excel in school. Any donations of school supplies such as notebooks, pencils, crayons, lunchboxes, loose leaf paper, etc. can be dropped off at the police department or town hall. Applications to receive supplies can be picked up at the Burgaw Police Department or town hall, as well. All applications must be completed and returned no later than August 7th, 2020. Book bags, filled with the school supplies, will be distributed beginning August 11th. For more information, contact Burgaw Police Department at 910-259-4924.
Our Town
Weekly Update

JULY 13-17, 2020 • Page 2

Our Town Weekly Update

CONTACT INFORMATION

General Information
Burgaw Town Hall
109 N. Walker St.
Burgaw, NC 28425
754-234-2311
www.burgawnc.gov

Current Employment Opportunity

Maintenance Worker I
– Must have valid NC Driver’s License and be able to operate various field equipment such as lawnmowers, etc. Must be able to perform tasks in the maintenance and repair of town streets, buildings, landscaping and water/wastewater system. Salary starting at $27,351, depending on experience. Excellent benefit package. Qualified applicants may pick up applications and a detailed job description at the Town of Burgaw Municipal Building located at 109 N. Walker St, Burgaw NC or download from town website at www.burgawnc.gov. Please return completed applications and resumes to Kimberly Rivenbark at 109 N. Walker Street, Burgaw, NC 28425 or krivenbark@burgawnc.gov. Position open until filled. Previous applicants need not to apply. EOE

Board of Commissioners Meeting Recap – continued

Drainage Easements Update – Zachary Rivenbark, Town Attorney, briefed the Board on the progress with obtaining drainage easements.

Old EMS Building Renovations – James Gantt, Town Manager, gave an update on the status of the plans for the Old EMS Building Renovations. Sam Guidry, an Architect hired by the town, has provided construction plans to the town for review. The Building Inspector is currently reviewing the plans and making corrections as needed. Once the drawings are finalized, the Town will solicit bids from contractors to obtain construction costs.

US Highway 117 Sewer Regional Pump Station & Force Main Project Update – James Gantt, Town Manager, gave an update on the proposal from McKim & Creed for the design and management of the proposed project. Tony Boahn, PE with McKim & Creed was present at the meeting to ask any questions. The Board reviewed the proposal and made and approved a motion to move forward with the project up to the construction phase.

CARES Act Discussion – James Gantt, Town Manager, gave an update on the funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. This funding has been allocated to Pender County with a stipulation that 25% must be allocated to Municipalities within the County. The Town and the County are meeting and discussing how the process will work and what the funding is allowed to be used for. More information will be available soon.

Appointment of Planning & Zoning Board Members – There were two (2) vacancies on the Planning Board. The Board reviewed applications and voted to appoint Matthew Boney and Sam Guidry to the Planning Board.

Public Comments – Frances Burns, Old Carolina Eatery, spoke to the Board about wanting food trucks limited within the Town. The Board listened to Ms. Burns’ comments and the Manager will be following up with how other jurisdictions are regulating food trucks.

Public Comments – Rochelle Whiteside spoke to the Board about the needs of the Arts Council in the design of the Old EMS Building renovations. She wants to meet with staff to discuss her concerns and needs. The Manager will schedule a meeting with Ms. Whiteside to discuss further.

Public Hearing – Zoning Map Amendment – A request for a Zoning Map Amendment was submitted by William Delynn Richardson for a 13.2-acre portion of his property located at 1406 Penderlea Highway. The request was to change the zoning from R-12 to RA. The Board approved the Zoning Amendment.

Public Hearing – Conditional Use Permit – A request for a Conditional Use Permit was submitted by William Delynn Richardson in order to develop a barn with Conex boxes as a part of the interior structure on a 13.2-acre portion of property located at 1406 Penderlea Highway. The Board approved the Conditional Use Permit.

Public Hearing – Conditional Use Permit – A request for a Conditional Use Permit was submitted by the Burgaw Presbyterian Church to enable the development of a columbarium located accessory to the church located at 204 E Fremont Street. The Board approved the Conditional Use Permit.

Public Hearing – Voluntary Annexation – A request for Voluntary Annexation into the Town of Burgaw was submitted by Myra and James McDuffie for a one (1) acre tract located off NC Highway 53. The Board approved the Annexation.

Public Hearing – Zoning Text Amendment – A request for a Zoning Text Amendment was submitted by Clarence David Futch to allow a Country General Store as a use by right within the Light Industrial Zoning District. The Board Approved the Text Amendment.

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Maintenance Worker I – Must have valid NC Driver’s License and be able to operate various field equipment such as lawnmowers, etc. Must be able to perform tasks in the maintenance and repair of town streets, buildings, landscaping and water/wastewater system. Salary starting at $27,351, depending on experience. Excellent benefit package. Qualified applicants may pick up applications and a detailed job description at the Town of Burgaw Municipal Building located at 109 N. Walker St, Burgaw NC or download from town website at www.burgawnc.gov. Please return completed applications and resumes to Kimberly Rivenbark at 109 N. Walker Street, Burgaw, NC 28425 or krivenbark@burgawnc.gov. Position open until filled. Previous applicants need not to apply. EOE
Parks & Recreation Department

- This week our department hosted Virtual Bingo Night for our Camp in the Box participants. Gift cards were handed out to the winners that evening to our local businesses here in Town. We would like to thank everyone for joining and we look forward to our next virtual event on Thursday July 23rd.

- Rotary Park and Harrell Park received new mulch this week for the playground areas. Thanks to Public Works for assisting us with this task. We will also be installing new landscaping at both Hankins and Harrell park in the coming weeks. As a reminder to the community, all playground areas remain closed due to COVID-19. Green spaces and the Osgood Canal and Urban Trail remain open.

- Per request from our Town Board of Commissioners, the Parks & Recreation Department is working to gather information on a new Adopt-A-Park program. This program will be open to all civic groups inside the corporate limits of Burgaw. We hope to have information posted in the coming weeks. Thanks to Asheville and Durham Parks & Recreation Department for assisting us with further information regarding this program.

Fire Department

- We responded to 14 incidents in the past week, including a motor vehicle accident on HWY 53 East with one serious injury where our members and Pender EMS & Fire had to extricate the victim from the vehicle.

- The membership concluded hazardous materials refresher training Thursday night with a practical exercise at Burgaw Middle School performing decontamination. This including flowing water from Engine 15 and Ladder 15. Some of the techniques that were taught were new for the Department and showed us more efficient ways to perform various tasks.

Police Department

- Corporal Padgett attended a one day training refresher on K-9 law at Cape Fear Community College. The class was to review NC laws that pertain to the use of canines in law enforcement.

- Our first LET’S TALK – CPR went extremely well. There was good discussions and we look forward to our next meeting. Join us for our next open, honest, transparent sharing, conversation about Community, Policing, and Race Relations. This Forum is being sponsored by Pender County Law Enforcement, Town of Burgaw Police Department and concerned citizens. Our desire is that the sharing and listening we do with each other will lead to better understanding, harmony and unity with our neighbors and community. The next Forum is scheduled for Thursday, August 13, 2020 at the Burgaw Community House from 5:30-7:00 pm. To reserve your seat (number limited because of COVID-19) please call one of the following persons:
  - Sheriff Alan Cutler – 910-259-1212
  - Bishop James Malloy – 910-540-7299
  - Chief Jim Hock, Burgaw PD – 910-259-4924
  - Karen Malloy – 919-740-7802
Planning Department

- Zoning certification approved for 908 E. Freemont for an office for Rebuild NC which is an arm of the State doing flood damage repair.
- Zoning certification for 803 S. Wilmington for a candy store.
- Zoning certification for an ice cream parlor 795 US Hwy 117 between Domino’s and the Fish Fry.

Public Works Department

- Green team continued to play catch-up this week. Ashe Street canal and the sewer right-of-way were mowed. Railroad right-of-way, the train depot, Clark Street, wells, lift stations and parks were all mowed as well.
- John, Robert and Ben have been working on the drainage along Ashe Street. We are behind on ditch cleaning as well and are trying our best to clean out known problem spots as quickly as possible.
- Roland, Jeremy and Ben worked with Cody on Tuesday at Johnson Park.
- John, Robert, Ben, Brian and Roland did re-reads from Town Hall Thursday.
- John and Robert also cleaned out the sewer line at Cardinal Foods.
- Hot spots were jetted this week.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Emergency Response # 910-470-0457
On-call person this week is: Charles Hall

REMEMBER:
This phone is only answered after hours, 4:30PM - 7:30AM and is for water and sewer emergencies only. Unless Public Works has been giving prior notice we cannot turn your water on due to non-payment shut off.

Safety

TIP OF THE WEEK

8 WATER SAFETY TIPS

Before hitting the waves or diving into the pool this summer, keep these water safety tips in mind for safe & healthy fun in the sun!

1. NEVER LEAVE A CHILD UNATTENDED
   Accidents can happen in the blink of an eye. Never leave young children unattended around a pool, lake, or other body of water, even for a moment.

2. HAVE A FIRST AID KIT ON HAND
   Keep a well-stocked first aid kit near the pool area to manage minor injuries like cuts and scrapes. Adults should know CPR in case of an emergency.

3. NO RUNNING
   Teach kids basic pool safety rules like not to run on slippery surfaces near the water, and no diving in shallow water.

4. STAY HYDRATED
   Swimming, sweating, and spending time in the sun can quickly cause dehydration, which can lead to dizziness and lightheadedness. Be sure to drink plenty of water to stay hydrated.

5. TEST WATER TEMPERATURES
   Before letting kids jump in the pool or lake, make sure the water isn’t too cold. Water temperatures between 82° and 86°F are generally comfortable. For infants, slightly warmer temperatures may be best.

6. BE AWARE OF OCEAN CURRENTS
   When swimming in the ocean, you and your kids will need to take special precautions. Familiarize yourself with rip currents and what to do if you get caught in one before going in the water.

7. DON'T RELY ON EQUIPMENT
   Life preservers, floaties, rafts, and other safety equipment can be useful to have on hand, but never rely on these devices to make a child “water safe.”

8. USE SUNSCREEN
   Water can reflect the sun's UV rays, which can enhance their negative effects on your skin. Remember to reapply sunscreen after swimming.
A Wilmington Hotel Fire with a Burgaw Connection

The Rock Springs Hotel was located in Wilmington, at 8 Chestnut St. between Front St. and Water St. The location of the hotel was approximately where the Murchison Building sits today. It was a boarding house operated by JC Holly and his family. Holly rented the hotel building for $20 per month from Mr. Reilly, who was the agent for the Hilton Lumber Company and owned the property. At 2:30 in the morning of August 10, 1910, a horrendous fire was started that destroyed the second and third stories of the building. Screams from a patron of the hotel attracted the attention of a Policeman who turned in the alarm. Narrowly escaping the blaze from the third story was Mr. Holder, a local saw mill employee. He survived with the help of firemen who removed him through a third story window.

JC Holly was a former Quaker preacher turned proprietor. He was about 40 years of age at the time of the tragedy and had lived in Wilmington for some time and had been the proprietor of the Rock Springs Hotel for more than a year. Holly was originally from Wayne County and unbeknown to those who knew Holly best, had intentions of moving back there by the end of the week and had already shipped a portion of his household goods. Holly was described as a frail, tall and slender man who suffered from indigestion and other health troubles. Holly's wife died the year prior and since that time, Holly's mother lived with him and helped run the business.

Holly had an adopted son of four months, Edward Cromwell, whom at the time of the tragedy, was only 19 years old. Edward was employed in the family business as a cook and waiter. He had recently come from an orphanage in Charleston, South Carolina. It was rumored that Edward’s birth father lived in Wilmington and had decided to bring the young boy from Charleston to Wilmington and have Holly employ, board and clothe him. It was further rumored that the young boy did not “earn his keep”. A witness that knew Edward stated that Edward was aware of the upcoming move to Wayne County and did not want to go, saying he would “rather die than move”. Little did Edward know, that was soon to come true.

Upon investigation, it was discovered that the fire started near Edward’s room at the rear of the third story and it was believed by authorities that Edward Cromwell had been murdered prior to the fire and the fire was set to cover up that murder. Rumors had circulated that a number of trunks and other items had been removed from the burning building with the knowledge that Edward was still inside. Efforts to reach Edward were not attempted until the fire had made it impossible to attempt. But it was the fact that Holly had acquired, just two days before the fire, a $2,500 life insurance policy on Edward and that was believed to be the motive. Holly had actually applied for a $5,000 policy from Greensboro Life but the insurance company had refused to write a policy for more than $2,500. Holly had also attempted to obtain a life policy from Virginia Life Insurance Company but that attempt failed. Holly had additional insurance policies on the furnishing in the building for the amount of $1,200.

A theory was developed that the young boy had been given some kind of a narcotic and was sleeping soundly at the time of the fire. An autopsy was immediately performed on Edward. Because there were no funds available, they originally decided that a toxicology would not preformed, but to preserve the stomach contents in case the life insurance company decided to conduct their own testing. As the investigation proceeded, it was determined that the stomach contents and lungs of the young man had to be sent to Raleigh for further testing to determine the cause of death. The firemen stated that the room that Edward was found in was extremely hot, but had not been consumed by the fire. Edward was found lying on his back on the floor with his hands folded across his chest. It did not appear that the bed had been disturbed indicating that Edward was not previously laying in the bed and the bedding was saturated with kerosene oil. No broken lamps were found in Edward’s room but an empty oil can, which could hold about two gallons of oil, was found in the room next to Edward’s. The fire captain stated that if Mr. Holly had informed him that Edward was in the building when they first arrived on the scene, it was possible that they could have gotten to him in time. Holly told the fire captain that he believed the young boy was out of the building and his concern was focused on getting his elderly mother out of the building.

With the evidence mounting against Holly, Coroner Dr. CD Bell swore out a warrant for JC Holly, who was arrested and remanded to the New Hanover County Jail without bond pending further investigation. In the presence of Justice Harriss, Constable Savage and two or three others, Holly stated “nobody by the boy, myself and God know the cause of his death”.

Little did JC Holly know at the time, but August 10, 1910 would be the day that would begin a long journey. A long 3 year journey to find justice and truth — and the outcome may surprise you… Stay tuned to next week's edition of “Historical Feature”. 
The Weekend Family Summer Challenge
Young or old, try something bold!

Challenge #8
Make an activity jar

There are lots of fun things to do and places to go during the summertime, but with the current pandemic, some places remain closed. Enjoy fun activities at home, such as the ones listed below, and make a handmade jar with each activity listed on slips of paper. When you want to do something to stay busy or have fun, just dig in and pick your activity surprise!

- Plant flowers
- Paint rocks
- Have a paper airplane contest
- Decorate a shoe box for all your summer treasures
- Build a fort
- Wash the car
- Make a homemade treat
- Watch a movie

Stay in the Know
We encourage everyone to enroll with “Notify Me” on our website to receive the weekly newsletter directly to your email and/or via text message. There are also options for enrolling to receive emergency notifications or when special events are added to our online calendar. For assistance, please contact the Town Clerk at 910-663-3441 or email kwells@burgawnc.gov.

Visit our website at BurgawNC.gov