February 17, 2004
MINUTES OF TOWN HALL MEETING

COUNCIL PRESENT
David Stamey
Joe Norman
Gerelene Blevins
Eddie Bowman
Pat Harrison
Joe Wesson

STAFF PRESENT
Terry Taylor
Robert Frye
Sonia Garnes

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor David Stamey called the meeting to order and welcomed all guests.

INVOCATION: Rev. Rick Crouse of Dry Ponds Baptist Church gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor David Stamey led the audience in saying the pledge of allegiance.

ADOPT AGENDA: On a motion made by Joe Wesson and seconded by Eddie Bowman the Agenda was adopted with no changes. All were in favor.

APPROVE February 3, 2004 TOWN HALL MEETING MINUTES: On a motion made by Eddie Bowman and seconded by Joe Wesson the February 3rd minutes were approved. All were in favor.

Financial Matters

A. **GDS Cardboard Dumpster Contract Renewal-** Town Administrator Robert Frye informed Council that the Town has a current contract, which is up for renewal, with GDS for a cardboard recycling dumpster located at the Public Works building. The new contract is for a period of 18 months at a cost of $41.00 per month or a total cost of $738.00 for the entire contract. Currently, Sawmills Hardware is the only business using this service. Mr. Frye then asked Council for direction concerning execution of a new contract. Joe Norman suggested that all business and residents be notified of the service. Gerelene Blevins suggested that the notice be placed in the next Town newsletter. On a motion made by Joe Norman and seconded by Joe Wesson the motion passed. All were in favor.
B. **Proposal to Switch Auditing Firms-** Town Administrator Robert Frye informed Council that the Town's contract with its current auditing firm; Pegg, Bowman, and Starr, is up for renewal. Though competent auditors, they have not met the Town's needs or expectations in regards to what the Town requires from an auditing firm. As such, Mr. Frye informed Council that staff has contacted various auditing firms in the region and discussed the Town's needs and received cost estimates for their services. The firm Martin Starnes and Associates made a very impressive presentation and the references they supplied spoke highly of them. They are currently handling the audit services for both the Town of

Hudson and the Town of Granite Falls. The cost to provide auditing service to the Town next year will be $8,000.00 which is less than anticipated spending with the current auditing firm. Mayor Stamey asked Town Administrator Frye to give Council some examples of the expectations not met by Pegg, Bowman, and Starr. Mr. Frye stated that by law our audit should be sent to the local government by October 31. The Town has missed several of these deadlines due to the audit not being completed by the auditors. There have also been several incidents where staff has been waiting on the auditor and they have not show up on time and sometimes they have not shown up at all. Several times staff has been instructed by the auditor on how to complete certain forms or programs only later to be asked by the auditor why it was completed that way. On a motion made by Joe Norman and seconded by Gerelene Blevins the motion passed to change auditing firms. All were in favor.

C. **Proposed Budget Workshop Schedule-** Town Administrator Robert Frye presented to Council the tentative budget schedule for the Fiscal Year 2004-2005 budget cycle. Joe Norman requested all the budget meetings be held at the Thursday afternoon time from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. On a motion made by Joe Norman and seconded by Eddie Bowman the motion passed. All were in favor. (See attached)

Planning Matters

Review of Draft Hwy 321 Overlay District- Town Administrator Robert Frye presented to Council the proposed Hwy 321 Overlay District. Mr. Frye informed Council that this overlay would add sections to the Town's zoning code on driveway permits and landscaping, and would slightly modify some of the commercial signage (but would not effect the Town's billboard rules) sections. Mr. Frye stated that the Town's Planning Board has reviewed the draft and endorsed it.

Update Sawmills Accelerated School Traffic Situation- Mayor Stamey spoke with Caldwell County School Administration regarding the traffic situation at Sawmills Accelerated School. Town Administrator Robert Frye stated to Council that as a result of Mayor Stamey's efforts, the Town's engineers are drawing a proposed plan for the parking lot modifications and will submit the plans to North Carolina Department of Transportation for their approval. Mayor Stamey also stated that the Caldwell County School Administration have done everything he has asked and have been very helpful.

Update Sawmills School Railroad Crossing Situation- Town Administrator Robert Frye inform Council that he and Mayor Stamey met with North Carolina Department of Transportation Division 11 Board Member Sam Erby and Division 11 Engineer Mike Pettyjohn. As a result of this meeting, North Carolina Department of Transportation has agreed to repair the crossing and at this time is willing to cover the entire cost of repairs. Mr. Frye also stated the North Carolina Department of Transportation has assigned a project number to the repair request and will be starting the repairs as soon as possible. Gerelene Blevins made the motion to send a thank you letter to Sam Erby for his help on getting the repairs completed and Joe Wesson seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Closed Session Personnel Matters- On a motion made by Joe Wesson and seconded by Pat Harrison Council went into closed session at 6:25 p.m. All were in favor.

Return from Closed Session - Eddie Bowman made the motion to come out of closed session at 6:35 p.m. with Joe Wesson seconding. All were in favor.

Action Taken after Closed Session

Gerelene Blevins made the motion to hire Lucas Hiner at a starting rate of $7.50 per hour with Eddie Bowman seconding the motion. All were in favor.

Joe Wesson made the motion to place Sonia Garnes on regular employment status and grant her a $500.00 per year raise. Pat Harrison seconded the motion. All were in favor.

ADJOURN: At 6:45 p.m. Joe Norman made the motion to adjourn with Gerelene Blevins seconding. All were in favor.

Sonia Garnes

Sonia Garnes, Town Clerk

David Stamey, Mayor

BUDGET AMENDMENT
TOWN OF SAWMILLS
General FUND

The Town Council of the Town of Sawmills at a meeting on the _2_ day of __March________, 2004 passed the following resolution.

Be it resolved that the following amendments be made to the Budget Resolution for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2004.

Account Number	Description	Increase	Decrease
	Expenditures		
4710-60-1	Contracted Services	6500.00	
4710-55-1	Capital Outlay		6500.00
4510-35-1	Powell Bill Maintenance	3000.00	
4510-59-1	Powell Bill Paving		3000.00

Explantion: Additional expense for contracted services due to vacancy in Sanitation Dept.

Repairs to F-350 truck purchased thru Powell Bill.

Total Appropriation in Current Budget	$9500
Amount of Increase(Decrease) of Above Amendment	$0
Total Amount in Current Amended Budget	$9500

Passed by majority vote of the Town Council of the Town of Sawmills on the _2_ day of _March_, 2004. This amendment shall be attached to the minutes of such meeting and become official upon signature of the Mayor and Town Clerk.

Mayor, Town of Sawmills

Sonia Harnes
Town Clerk, Town of Sawmills