

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2009
TOWN OF SAWMILLS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
6:00 P.M.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Bobby Austin
Bob Gibbs
Gerelene Blevins
Beverly Fry
Eddie Bowman
Joe Norman

STAFF PRESENT

Terry Taylor
Robert Frye
Susan Noll

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Austin called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION: Pastor Josh Benghe gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Austin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 17th MEETING MINUTES: Mayor Austin asked for a motion to approve the February 17, 2009 minutes.

On a motion made by Eddie Bowman and seconded by Gerelene Blevins, the minutes were approved. All were in favor.

ADOPT AGENDA: Mayor Austin asked for a motion to adopt the agenda.

On a motion made by Joe Norman and seconded by Beverly Fry, the agenda was adopted. All were in favor.

**PUBLIC HEARING: PROPOSED CHANGE TO CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT
ISSUANCE PROCESS:**

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING: Mayor Austin asked for a motion to open the public hearing regarding the proposed change to the issuance process of a conditional use permit.

On a motion made by Gerelene Blevins and seconded by Joe Norman, the public hearing was opened at 6:02 p.m. All were in favor.

STAFF COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATION: Currently the Zoning Ordinance requires the Board of Adjustments to make determinations on the issuance of conditional use permits. The staff would like to recommend that the Town Council be the ones to issue conditional use permits.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mayor Austin asked if there was anyone signed up to speak at the public hearing. There was no one wishing to speak.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING: Mayor Austin asked for a motion to close the public hearing.

On a motion made by Eddie Bowman and seconded by Joe Norman, the public hearing was closed at 6:04 p.m. All were in favor.

COUNCIL ACTION: On a motion made by Eddie Bowman and seconded by Gerelene Blevins, the Zoning Ordinance will be amended to allow the Town Council to approve the issuance of conditional use permits and not the Board of Adjustments. All were in favor.

PUBLIC HEARING: REQUEST FOR CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT:

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING: Mayor Austin asked for a motion to open the public hearing concerning Barbara Maneri who is requesting a conditional use permit to have four horses on Sawmills School Road.

On a motion made by Eddie Bowman and seconded by Joe Norman, the public hearing was opened at 6:05 p.m. All were in favor.

SWEARING IN OF PERSONS WISHING TO GIVE TESTIMONY: Mayor Austin asked anyone wishing to give testimony to please come forward to be sworn in.

Barbara Maneri wishes to give testimony.

Town Clerk Susan Noll swore in the testimony of Barbara Maneri.

Miss Maneri owns property at 4443 Sawmills School Road. The request for a conditional use permit would include Miss Maneri putting up a fence and having four horses on the property.

Attorney Terry Taylor read into the records Miss Maneri's letter so that would show the evidence. (See Attached.)

Miss Maneri would like to change her request from four horses to five horses.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING: Mayor Austin asked for a motion to close the public hearing.

On a motion made by Joe Norman and seconded by Eddie Bowman, the public hearing was closed at 6:13 p.m. All were in favor.

COUNCIL ACTION: On a motion made by Gerelene Blevins and seconded by Joe Norman, Council approved the issuance of a conditional use permit for Miss Maneri to have five horses on the property at 4443 Sawmills School Road. All were in favor.

PARKS AND RECREATION MATTERS:

UPDATE ON VETERAN'S PARK PROJECT: Town Administrator Robert Frye stated that the Town has encountered issues at the Veteran's Park concerning rock. Administrator Frye suggested the Town would have to haul in dirt. Administrator Frye stated different options the Council has.

On a motion made by Joe Norman and seconded by Bob Gibbs, Council wishes to look at all the options. All were in favor.

REQUEST FOR FUND BALANCE APPROPRIATION: The Town has not received the State's portion of the PART-F grant money. This has caused a cash flow issue and Town Administrator Robert Frye suggested Council do a fund balance appropriation in the amount of \$100,000.00 from general fund to pay the current bills for the Veteran's Park project.

On a motion made by Gerelene Blevins and seconded by Bob Gibbs, Council appropriates \$100,000.00 to be transferred from the general fund. All were in favor.

UPDATE ON SUMMER BASEBALL PROGRAM: Benny Townsend has agreed to oversee the summer ball program again this year. There were not enough children signed up to play so Mr. Townsend recommended that anyone wishing to play should sign up in Hudson. Mr. Townsend would also recommend allowing the Hudson league to use the Town ball fields.

DISCUSSION: BALL FIELD USE POLICY: Anyone wishing to use the ball fields for practice can contact Benny Townsend for availability. There will be a charge for the use of the ball fields.

On a motion made by Gerelene Blevins and seconded by Joe Norman, Council agreed on a fee of \$20.00 for daytime use and \$40.00 for nighttime use of the ball fields. All were in favor.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS:

FEDERAL STIMULUS PACKAGE FUNDING PROJECT RESOLUTION: The Town has submitted an application in the amount of \$239,700.00 for a zero interest loan under the Federal Stimulus Package. The replacement and upgrade of 3,400 linear feet of 8-inch water line on Cahah's Mountain Road is the project the money would go to.

On a motion made by Joe Norman and seconded by Eddie Bowman, a resolution was adopted so that the application would be considered. All were in favor.

BRUSH COLLECTION ISSUES: The Town has been encountering problems regarding brush pick up. Lately the problem has worsened causing the Town to look at the current policy.

The recommendation is for Council to change the current policy to include a fee if the brush pile would require a two men crew more than an hour to pick up the brush.

On a motion made by Joe Norman and seconded by Eddie Bowman, the policy shall state the fee for such a large pick up in the amount of \$75.00 for every hour or portion thereof. All were in favor.

TOWN WIDE SPEED LIMIT: There was some discussion at the last Town meeting regarding lowering the speed limit on Dry Ponds Road. NCDOT not the Town maintains this road requiring the Town working with NCDOT to resolve this matter.

The Town can enact and post Town-wide speed limit signs on the major roads leading into the Town while working with NCDOT to help resolve the problem.

On a motion made by Gerelene Blevins and seconded by Joe Norman, the Town will work on putting up signs to read Town wide speed limits 35 MPH unless otherwise posted. All were in favor.

MARCH 26TH BUDGET WORKSHOP TIME CHANGE: There is no need for a time change anymore so the time will stay the same.

STIMULUS INFO: Mayor pro-tem Bob Gibbs would like to request the Town inquire about a stimulus package that the President signed into affect. If the Town would get approved it would help with building the new Town Hall and possibly starting a Police Department.

After some discussion, Joe Norman made a motion and Gerelene Blevins seconded, to have Council apply to get some of the Stimulus money. All were in favor.

DISCUSSION: FEEDING OF STATE PRISONERS BY TOWN: Councilwoman Gerelene Blevins does not feel it appropriate to feed the inmates while they are working for the Town.

After some discussion a motion was made by Eddie Bowman and seconded by Beverly Fry, for the Town to continue to feed the inmates when they are doing work for the Town. Joe Norman, Beverly Fry, Eddie Bowman, and Bob Gibbs were all in favor. Gerelene Blevins was opposed.

TOWN HALL MEETING: Mayor Austin asked if anyone signed up to speak at the Town Hall meeting.

There was no one wishing to speak.

CLOSED SESSION: PERSONNEL MATTERS: Mayor Austin asked for a motion to go into closed session at 7:00 p.m.

On a motion made by Eddie Bowman and seconded by Bob Gibbs, Council went into closed session. All were in favor.

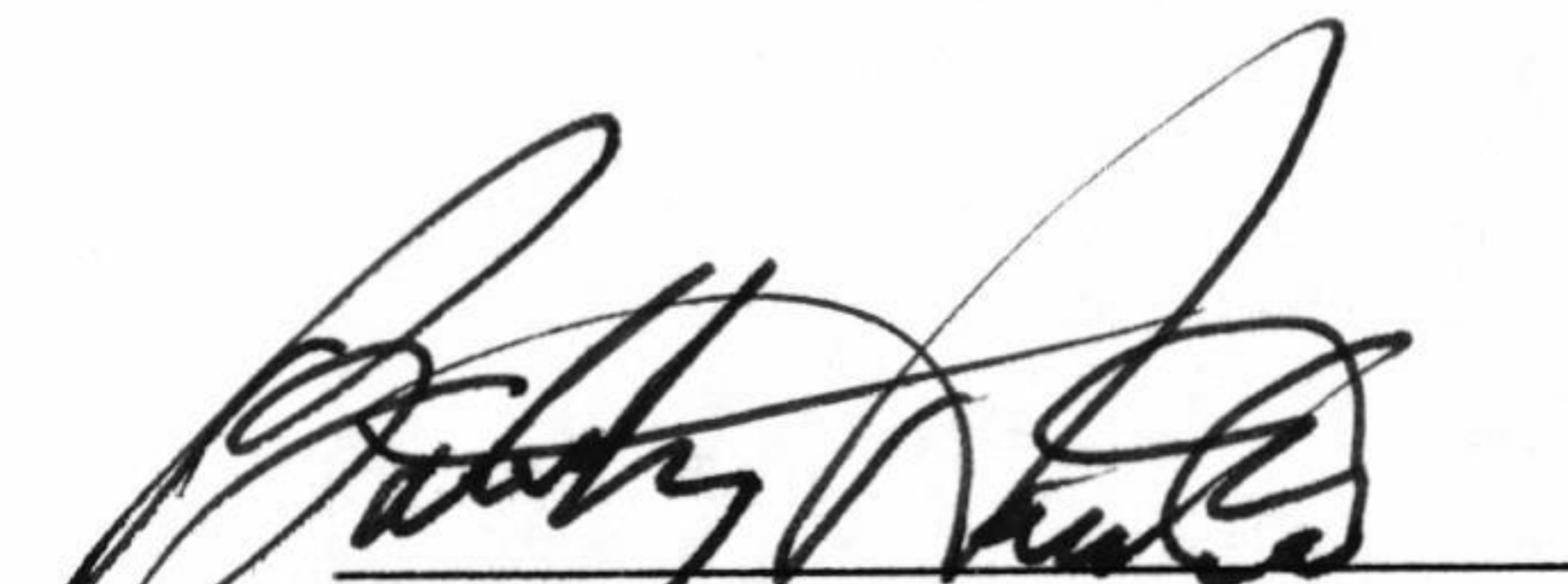
RETURN TO OPEN SESSION: On a motion made by Gerelene Blevins and seconded by Eddie Bowman, the Council returned to regular session at 7:06p.m. All were in favor.

ACTION TAKEN: Eddie Bowman made a motion and Bob Gibbs seconded to place Finance Officer Karen Clontz on full time employment status with the Town with a five percent raise. All were in favor.

ADJOURN: Mayor Austin asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

On a motion made by Joe Norman and seconded by Eddie Bowman, the meeting was adjourned. All were in favor.


Susan Noll, Town Clerk


Bobby Austin, Mayor



BlueCross BlueShield
of North Carolina

PAUL D. SCHNITZER AGENCY

Barbara Maneri

Authorized Agent

"Rookie Agent of the Year 2005"

3335 Snow Creek Rd NE * Hickory, NC 28601
Office / Fax (828) 256-2825 * Cell (702) 232-1727

January 23, 2009

Sawmills Town Council

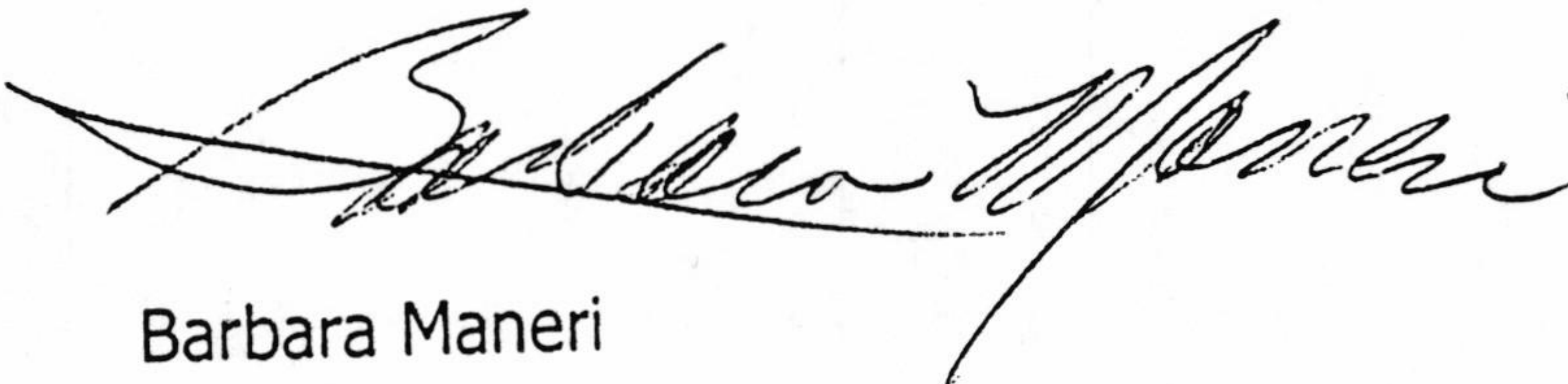
I have recently agreed to purchase property at 4443 Sawmills School Road, the property is undeveloped consisting of 14 acres of open land a woods.

I intend to build a house, consisting of between 1800 to 2000 square feet, and a barn consisting of 4 stalls. The property will be completely fenced and cross fenced. At present I have two full size horses, and a mini horse.

I am asking the Board to permit me to use the land to stable and graze my horses.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Barbara Maneri