

Mayor

Doris Underwood

Commissioners

Christopher Carlson

Edward Lowery Jr.

Daniel McColl

Tony McVickers

Benjamin Mahaffey

Attorney

Sarah Price



Town Clerk/Finance Officer

Raymie Day

Utility Clerk

Lana Penfield

Interim Chief of Police

John Micheals

Public Works Director

Joe Penfield

Code Enforcement Officer

Tina Odom

TOWNHALL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES July 15th, 2025

Overview

- Formal offer to purchase EMS building for \$75,000 discussed and approved for submission.
- The EMS building needs significant repairs; an estimated \$25,000 in additional costs for upgrades if purchased.
- Town is actively seeking grants for multi-use building improvements.
- Budget review: water/sewer, capital improvements, and loan balances detailed.
- Police department restructuring: new chief, pay plan, and cost-saving contract proposals.
- Discussion of property tax reassessment impacts and projected income increases.

EMS Building Offer discussion

- EMS building contract discussed as an agenda item.
- Discussion focused on the acquisition of a town building, previously not offered to the town.
- Robeson County commissioners initially rejected the building due to lack of use; later required persuasion to reconsider.
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- Sale of the ambulance for \$18,000 resulted in \$6,000 each to three individuals, with requirement to donate proceeds to charity but no official documentation has been presented.
- The board discussed the formal offer to purchase EMS building previously used for Parkton Rescue.
- Building currently used for Meals on Wheels pickup and occasionally by Robeson County EMS; mostly vacant.
- Building condition is fair; repairs needed to roof, walls, garage door, and air conditioning installation required.
- Parkton will allow EMS continued use of conference room and restrooms with keypad access.
- Proposed offer of \$75,000 for property as-is. Estimated \$25,000 in additional costs for improvements (e.g., air installation). Potential for grant reimbursement, possibly retroactive. expectation of a counteroffer due to higher market value estimates (\$150,000–\$300,000).
- Lot and building both measure 25 feet wide. Building proximity to property line inhibits development and emergency access.

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- Commissioner McVickers motioned to purchase the EMS building for \$75,000.00. Commissioner Lowery seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Conference TV Purchase

- Discussed purchasing a 55" or 65" smart TV for \$348–\$370 for presentations and police reports.
- TV intended for projecting PowerPoints, agendas, and assessment data; must support Bluetooth or network connectivity.
- Approval was given to purchase the TV.

Sewer Project

- Sewer project update: waiting on DOT permit; plan to submit to contractors and amend after permit approval.
- Emphasized urgency to get project out to bid to avoid risk of federal grant funds being pulled back.
- Weekly updates requested from the project manager (Mr. Honeycutt) by the board; project considered a high priority.

Grant Loan Update and Financial Update

- Grant/loan update emailed with agenda packet and worksheet.
- There are two loans still being paid yearly.
- Large loan: \$248,706.50 remaining, 10 payments left (~\$24,000 each). Small loan: \$69,030.50 remaining, 14 payments left (~\$4,000 each).
- Town Clerk mentioned that with the offer to purchase the building at \$75,000 this puts total pending expenses (police (\$80,000), retirement (\$45,000–\$50,000), generator (\$27,000), building (\$75,000),) over \$200,000 and each item needs allocation to prevent imbalance.
- Proper allocation to capital improvement plan required to avoid budget imbalance.
- Commissioner McVickers mentioned significant property tax increases reported and requested a budget projection indicating the increased income due to higher property values.
- Discussion on potential use of surplus funds from increased tax revenue.

Digital Town Sign

- Discussed sign types: faux block, pole set, enclosure.
- Estimated sign costs: \$12,000–\$15,000 (pre-COVID), \$18,000–\$22,000 (outdoor TV), up to \$30,000 (double-sided enclosure).
- Recommended buying replacement blocks with sign for future matching. Outdoor TVs do not require proprietary software; can stream via HDMI.
- Considered vandalism protection and placement (pole vs. ground level).
- Sign installation below \$15,000 considered a good deal; regular sign costs \$5,000.

DV8 Consulting and Police Dept

- Police Chief position will be ready to post next week and closes Aug 22nd.

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- Part-time officers proposed as 1099 contractors at \$35/hour and no benefits vs part time employment.
- Officers will use sheriff's vehicles and their own gas versus them as Parkton part-time employees. This saves the town money, pays officers more money and helps the sheriff's department.
- Contracting with the sheriff's department eliminates the need for town payroll and benefits, accelerates filling 24-hour per week shifts
- Proposed police chief salary includes \$2,000 annual increase, and COLA per year after goals met.