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**TOWN OF WENTWORTH  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 1, 2009  
7:00 P.M.**

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**The Wentworth Town Council** held their regular monthly meeting in the Town Hall Council Chambers, on **Tuesday, September 1, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.**

**Council members present:** Mayor Dennis Paschal, Councilman James Belcher,  
and Mayor Pro Tem Evelyn Conner

**Council members absent:** Councilwoman Iris Powell & Councilman Robert Aswell

**A quorum was present.**

**Staff Present:** Brenda Ward, Town Administrator - Town Clerk  
Fred Baggett, Town Attorney / Yvonne Russell, Finance  
Officer, and Deputy Clarence Cheshire

**Article I.** **Mayor Paschal** called the September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009, Wentworth Town Council Meeting to order.

**Article II.** **Mayor Paschal** gave the **Invocation.**

**Article III.** **Discussion / Revisions / Adoption of Agenda**

**A. Requests and Petitions of Citizens**

**Mayor Paschal** noted that no one signed the Speaker Register to address Council, and made a motion, *“That we approve the revised Agenda.”*

**Councilman Belcher** seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

**Article IV.** **Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes**

**A. Town Council Meeting – August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**Mayor Paschal** asked for a motion to approve the Minutes.

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** made a motion, *“That the Minutes stand as written.”*

**Councilman Belcher** seconded the motion.

All voted in favor and the motion carried.

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**Article V. OLD BUSINESS**

**Mayor Paschal** advised that there was no Old Business to be considered.

**Article VI. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Approval of Resolution Supporting Big Sweep Week in  
Rockingham County: September 26 – October 3, 2009**

- Kellie Howell, Deputy / Rockingham County Sheriff's Department

**Mayor Paschal** asked the Clerk if Deputy Howell was present.

**Mrs. Ward** said that Deputy Howell had planned to be at the meeting, "but something else came up. She has taken T. Butler's job as Coordinator of Big Sweep Week and said she would appreciate our support."

**Mayor Paschal** said, "If there is no discussion, *I make a motion that we approve the Resolution.*"

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and all voted in favor of approving the Resolution.

**Article VI. NEW BUSINESS – Continued**

**B. Consideration of Proposals Received for Lawn Care Services:**

- **Jimmy Jones**

Perennial Landscapes  
P. O. Box 2577  
Reidsville, NC 27320

- **Pete Denny**

Grass Catcher Inc.  
125 Ranch Drive  
Reidsville, NC 27320

- **Mel Covington**

261 Blueberry Road  
Reidsville, NC 27320

**Mayor Paschal** said, "One thing I did want to say...we have all looked at these individually but I wanted to point out...for instance, Perennial Landscapes quoted an annual cost of \$3,120.00. That does include some leaf work, pruning, all kinds of stuff you see on the list there. Of course, we really didn't ask for that in our RFP, but anyway they threw that in and gave us the total price for it. When you look at how many actual days they are going to mow, I know this year, I probably stopped mowing towards the end of June because the grass is dead. So, if we get a sprinkler system or something, that might change...but he was number one because he had all these services in there."

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**Mayor Paschal** continued, “There is a little bit of difference (in the quotes)...he was number one because he had all these services in there, but at the same time, if you look at his (quote) versus one of the others that is a little cheaper, you wonder what would they charge...to do the leaves once or twice. There may be some difference in the price. I just wanted to point out that one of the others, if we went back and asked them for some of the same services this guy has put in there, then we may end up with something that is comparable to his. I didn’t know what y’all might want to do about that.”

The **Mayor** pointed out that the Perennial quote includes pruning, spring fertilization, late spring, and early fall, whereas in the other quotes those services were priced separately.

**Councilman Belcher** said, “The one thing I was curious about in Perennial’s, I wasn’t clear if that would be a monthly cost regardless of whether he came or didn’t come, whether he mowed or not, that was the impression that I got, is that it was an annual fee whether he came ten times or a hundred times.”

**Councilman Belcher** added, “I know from our earlier discussions...we thought that maybe the first year we wouldn’t need anything that intensive, but more of a minimal type service like mowing, until we saw just how things went. His services look good, but then I didn’t know if we want to commit to all that, initially.”

The **Town Administrator** commented, “We have noticed from all the quotes we received that most everyone quotes a flat rate annually, with payment pro-rated on a monthly basis. If someone was going to do everything he has listed in here for \$200.00+/month, I don’t think that’s a bad deal.”

**Councilman Belcher** agreed. “His price is more than fair...that’s the only question I had, was if we needed all that.”

**Mayor Paschal** said, “I’m just not sure how much of that he will actually do. I guess if it’s in there, we can say *what* we want him to do *when*. I’m not sure how many leaves we’ll have since there are only 3 or 4 trees left.”

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**Mrs. Ward** replied, "If it's in the contract, he has to do it. Even with the drought and everything we have had, if we hadn't been able to get Mr. (Robert) Witherspoon over here...I think yesterday was the third time that he has pulled grass which was growing like crazy in the islands in the parking lot...and weed eating and just the minimal things we have had him to do...I can't imagine what it's going to be like once the grass is seeded again and everything is growing. It's going to be a busy job for somebody."

She added, "And it doesn't matter to me who is selected, I'm just saying it's not a matter of somebody just mowing grass..."

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** agreed.

**Mayor Paschal** said, "Well, these are our options. Does anyone have any other questions or discussion?"

**Mrs. Ward** asked the Town Attorney if he saw anything in the quotes that Council needed to be concerned about.

**Attorney Baggett** replied, "No, this type of service, these kinds of contracts, are below any statutory requirements for procedure. You're free to handle them any way you want to."

**Mayor Paschal** concluded, "Well, if we get all the leaves from all the other trees around here, we may end up getting a better deal from this first one (Perennial). We really don't know what to expect...we did say that this is a year to year contract, right Brenda?"

**Mrs. Ward** confirmed, "We said it would be year to year."

**Councilman Belcher** commented, "He has a very good per month cost for all the services."

**Mayor Paschal** made a motion, "*That we go with Perennial Landscapes for lawn care services.*"

**Councilman Belcher** seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

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**C. Consideration of Proposals Received for Housekeeping Services:**

**- Ed King, President**

S & K Services, LLC  
108 So. Market St. / Suite E  
Reidsville, NC 27320

**- Tammy Searce**

A & T Final Cleaning  
7401 NC Highway 158 W.  
Madison, NC 27025

**- Sean Vernon**

Vernon's Professional Cleaning  
616 Crescent Drive  
Reidsville, NC 27320

**Mayor Paschal** called Council's attention to the next item of New Business concerning the proposals received for housekeeping services and noted that Council had also individually reviewed these in the same manner as the lawn care quotes, and that they are listed in order according to how they were rated by Council.

The **Town Administrator** reminded Council that one of the other firms Council had considered in the running, withdrew their proposal. She advised that the Neal's had been selected by someone else after submitting their quote, and would not be able to handle both jobs.

**Councilman Belcher** noted that Vernon's Professional Cleaning was a very new business. He added, "I think the proposal from S & K was real favorable. Some of them didn't even include cleaning supplies and their monthly cost was as much or more."

**Mayor Paschal** added, "If they do as good a job cleaning up as they did in their proposal, we'll be in good shape."

**Councilman Belcher** made a motion, "*That we accept the proposal from S&K Services for cleaning.*"

**Mayor Paschal** seconded the motion. There was no additional discussion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

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**Article VI. New Business – Continued**

**D. Consideration of Purchasing a Lawn Sprinkling System for the  
Town Hall - Estimated Cost: \$8,500**

**- Town Administrator**

**Mrs. Ward** advised Council that this was an estimate given by a plumber, and that **Councilman Aswell** called her about putting it on the Agenda. She added, “I guess when we considered the plans for the Town Hall, we really didn’t think about a sprinkler system, but if we have another drought like we have had this year, we are going to need one.”

**Councilman Belcher** said, “I think we should at least investigate getting some other proposals beyond the one estimate that we have... try to get an idea of the volume of water it would require and what would be a rough estimate of the monthly cost.”

**Mrs. Ward** said the water used through the sprinkler system would come from a separate connection already at the road, “...what the contractors used while they were building the Town Hall, and water used for irrigation is at a cheaper rate, or so we are told by Dan River Water. How much cheaper, I don’t know.”

Council discussed the need for the sprinkler and said it may not have to be used that frequently after the grass is established.

The **Town Administrator** said, “If you could approve a maximum amount, we could go ahead and approve it with this Budget Amendment...”

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** said, “So we could just say not to go over the \$8,500 maybe.”

**Mayor Paschal** asked the Attorney, “What if we just have them get some prices and then we could do a straw poll and make a decision...can we do that?”

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“You’re not supposed to,” **Mr. Baggett** replied. “This is a purchase of...a repair or improvement to real property because you are sticking it in the ground. The first thing you need to do is get informal quotes, which you have started doing...get a couple more...there is no minimum number, but get a few quotes and document who you called and when, and what they said. And the second thing is, the Board really does need to approve it.”

“We’ll just have to do it next month, then.” **Mrs. Ward** said.

There was discussion about when to reseed the lawn and when to install the sprinkler system. **Mrs. Ward** said she would consult the landscaper Council selected, as well as the landscaper the Wright Company used initially, to see what they suggest.

**Councilman Belcher** then made a motion, *“To table consideration of purchase of a lawn sprinkler system until the October meeting.”*

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

**Article VI. New Business – Continued**

**E. Consideration of Budget Amendment No. 1 for Fiscal Year 2009-2010**

**- Yvonne Russell, Finance Officer**

**Mayor Paschal** asked Council if they had any questions for the Finance Officer concerning the budget amendment.

There were no questions or comments from Council.

**Councilman Belcher** made a motion, *“That we approve Budget Amendment No. 1 for the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 for the Town of Wentworth.”*

**Mayor Paschal** seconded the motion and asked for discussion.

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**Councilman Belcher** commented, “This simply reflects the change in the amount of money that we receive due to the passage of the North Carolina State budget...the reduction in beer and wine tax...they are holding back.”

**Mrs. Ward** asked the Finance Officer if she had any comments or clarification of the amendment for Council.

**Mrs. Russell** advised, “It also shows an increase in Capital Expenditures...you saw that, too, right?”

“That’s right,” replied **Mrs. Ward**. “We do need to talk about that before you vote.”

**Mrs. Russell** explained, “There is an increase in Capital Outlay-Furniture and Equipment, for a larger conference table and a credenza for the conference room. The mayor had mentioned that he thought we may need a larger table, especially when outside groups that may be larger in number want to use it. He wanted to see what Council thought.”

She added, “We have had one incidence where the group meeting in there was too large for that table. We had to set up the banquet tables in here for them to use.”

“The company that we bought the table from, Office USA, will sell it for us on consignment...if we want them to do that.”

**Mayor Paschal** asked, “The table we have will only seat 6, right?”

**Mrs. Ward** replied, “We *can* squeeze 8 around it.”

**Councilman Belcher** commented, “We (Council) would typically have more people than that in there when we’re having a closed session or training, or a workshop.”

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**Mrs. Russell** said, “That is an eight-foot table in there now, I believe. What we were quoted and what is in the (budget) amendment is a twelve-foot table. I don’t think we could get one much larger than that in there.”

**Mrs. Ward** asked, “We’re only adding \$2,000 to that Capital Expenditure line item?”

**Mrs. Russell** replied, “Yes...transferring \$2,000 from Miscellaneous Other Operating Costs to Capital Outlay-Office Furniture.”

“And that is enough to get the table and the credenza also?” **Mrs. Ward** asked.

“Yes.” **Mrs. Russell** replied.

“We knew there would be certain things after we got in the building that we would need,” **Councilman Belcher** added.

“Right.” said **Mrs. Russell**. “We originally budgeted \$6,500 in Capital Outlay and that was for a couple of filing cabinets, benches for the entrances, and book shelves.”

**Councilman Belcher** advised, “I would still like for my motion to stand for approval of the Budget Amendment.”

**Mayor Paschal** noted the motion and second already on the floor. There was no further discussion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

**Article VII. Town Administrator’s Report / Update (Brenda Ward)**

**Mayor Paschal** recognized the Town Administrator.

**Mrs. Ward** noted that she sent Council an email from T. Butler, “...concerning her need to resign from the Recreation Committee due to so many other commitments and her husband’s health.”

**Councilman Belcher** asked that a letter of appreciation be sent to Mrs. Butler thanking her for her help and work on the committee.

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**Mayor Paschal** said he would like to go ahead and make a motion, *“To accept T. Butler’s resignation from the Recreation Committee.”*

**Councilman Belcher** seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

**Mrs. Ward** moved on to the **Legislative Updates**, noting several things that were covered at the North Carolina Municipal Clerks Conference. She said, also, that the Town Attorney sent her some information on a couple of things which she included in their (Agenda) packets.

**“HB 1492 – Local Government Code of Ethics** requires the governing boards of cities and counties, and other similar boards, to adopt a code of ethics to guide actions by the board members in the performance of their duties. We already have an Ethics Policy in conjunction with our Conflict of Interest Policy, so I am going to compare what they are requiring with what we have, because I think we may be covered.”

“However,” **Mrs. Ward** continued, “the new law also requires all members of the governing board to receive a minimum of two clock hours of ethics education within 12 months after initial election or appointment, and again within 12 months after each subsequent election or appointment to the office.”

She said the two-hour course will be offered, “...through the UNC School of Government in conjunction with other schools and courses, like the Essentials of Municipal Government Course, and it will be offered at various other times and locations of which we will be advised.”

**Attorney Baggett** added, “There will be plenty of opportunities...it will be organized by the School of Government and the League of Municipalities.”

**Mrs. Ward** continued, “One other thing has to do with the **posting of Special/Emergency Meetings, to provide that email is an acceptable method of providing the 48 hour notice to the media and sunshine list. Also, we are now required to post our regularly scheduled meetings on our web site**, which we are already doing.”

“However, we do need to change the wording on our web site that says we meet at the National Guard Armory...we need to change that to the new Town Hall location.”

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**“We have already covered in our Budget Amendment, the decrease in the municipal share of beer and wine tax revenues for FY 2009-2010.**

**“There is going to be a 1% increase in the state’s sales tax rate, effective October 1<sup>st</sup>.”**

**“The next thing is the new law that takes effect October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009, banning plastic bottles from landfills.** Also, you are not to discard rigid plastic containers, such as soda bottles, milk jugs and laundry detergent bottles, in regular trash bins with other non-recyclable items. These same containers will also be banned from landfills. This law specifically targets plastic bottles that have necks smaller than the body of the container and a screw top, snap cap, or other type of closure. Also, wooden pallets and oil filters will join the list of materials banned from North Carolina landfills.”

**Mrs. Ward** continued, “The next items is the letter from ReDirections... Oh, let me follow my list...the next thing is actually about **“No Trespassing” signs.** Mr. (Robert) Witherspoon, our neighbor across the road, has noticed some folks four-wheeling around our silt pond...I have also had some calls from neighbors—Wayne Joyner and Mrs. (Edna) McCollum. Mr. Joyner said he has noticed evidence of four-wheelers and has had some things stolen.”

“There have been reports of some young people riding golf carts...I actually met one turning around in the driveway to the parking lot one day as I was coming in. I think that’s illegal...”

**Mrs. Ward** said she asked Mr. Witherspoon to put up something to keep people from coming out of the woods into the area of the silt pond, and to hang some “No Trespassing” signs. She asked Council if they had any comments or instructions concerning this problem.

**Mayor Paschal** replied, “Well, on public property I really hate to have No Trespassing signs.

“Even with the possible liability involved...?” **Mrs. Ward** asked.

**Mayor Paschal** said, “Even with the ribbons across there, if they hit it, you’re still liable for putting that chain up there, and if they get hurt, you can get sued.”

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“Is that true?” **Mrs. Ward** asked Attorney Baggett.

“You always can get sued,” **Mr. Baggett** said, “but if the ribbon is up there of a size that can be seen, you shouldn’t be responsible, but that doesn’t mean somebody won’t get hurt or that you won’t get sued.”

“So, do you want them taken down?” **Mrs. Ward** asked the Mayor.

“No,” he replied, “but I would rather try to figure out another way. I live next to the County property and they don’t have theirs posted anywhere.”

**Mrs. Ward** noted, “But there is a difference in taking a walk and riding four-wheelers around an area like that (silt pond).”

**Mayor Paschal:** “That’s what I’m saying, though...with no trespassing signs and somebody wants to come walking down through there, I hate for them to say, ‘Well, the Town’s got the property posted...’”

He asked **Deputy (Clarence) Cheshire**, “Is there any way we can control it? Put up a sign that says ‘no four-wheeling’ or something?”

**Deputy Cheshire** replied, “It’s almost impossible to make the charge if it’s not posted. I think the (State) Statute reads that it has to be posted property, and the signs have to be where you can see them.”

**Deputy Cheshire** said he could consult the Sheriff and see what he thinks is the best way to approach it. He added, “The best thing to do is for people to call us when they see it (four-wheelers). But the only sure-fire way to stop it is to fence in the area.”

**Mrs. Ward** commented, “Well, we don’t have the whole 18 acres posted...it’s just down there around that pond. Does posting it there mean that no one can come onto the surrounding property?”

**Attorney Baggett** replied, “It’s where you have the signs.”

“What if we post the area to the drainage pond and back this way, maybe?” asked **Mayor Paschal**.

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“Isn’t that where you posted them? **Mrs. Ward** asked Mr. Witherspoon.

**Mr. Witherspoon:** “That’s the only area that I put signs up, was around the drainage pond.”

**Mrs. Ward:** “We were just worried about some kids coming down through there into that pond, especially after a hard rain...you could drown...that’s quite a hole.”

**Attorney Baggett** added: “No Trespassing signs would help the Town, as far as liability is concerned...if something did happen.”

**Mayor Paschal** asked Deputy Cheshire, “Can you get them if we only have that area right there posted like it is...?”

He replied, “Yes, on any property that’s posted, but it depends on where the sign is. You have to be able to see it...so, if you’ve got one on a tree over here and another one 200 yards down there on the other side and they can’t see it, then they would probably get off on a technicality.”

**Deputy Cheshire** explained, “We probably need to get written permission through the Sheriff’s Office to enforce it...that’s the way we have to do with Duke Power (property). If the Town gives us authorization to be the agent for them, then we can enforce it and the charges could go to court.”

**Mayor Paschal** asked Council what they thought about it.

**Councilman Belcher** said, “Yes, if that’s the area we are concerned with, I think that would be fine, just posting that specific area. To make sure that is adequate coverage, maybe we need to walk down there and take a look.”

**Mayor Paschal:** “We can get Clarence (Deputy Cheshire) to check it out also, and if we need some more signs in that area, just let us know.”

**Mr. Witherspoon** advised, “I put one sign directly in the path where they were coming in on the four wheelers...it’s hanging on the chain.”

**Mrs. Ward** concluded, “I just wanted you to be aware of it and see what suggestions you had.” (*See Note on Next Page.*)

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*(Note: After the Town Council Meeting, the deputy, town attorney, and council members walked down to the silt pond area. At the advice of the Town Attorney, Council asked Mr. Witherspoon to erect another chain and ribbons, along with "No Trespassing" signs at the silt pond entrance near the back corner of the parking lot.)*

**Mrs. Ward** moved on to the **letter from ReDirections...** "They are **requesting permission to use funds that were designated for Rockingham Middle School...**the letter says, 'I am writing to ask you if you would be willing to allow us to use the funds designated for Rockingham Middle School for the Early College instead.'"

"The letter explained that they did not receive the grant they usually get from what used to be the Annie Penn Trust Fund, but is now the Reidsville Area Foundation. So, they are not going to be able to do the Conflict Resolution training."

"Ms. Ferrell does point out that all the students are not from the Wentworth area. She said, 'I would be remiss if I did not mention that the student body of the Early College consists of 10 students from each of the four high schools.'"

**Councilman Belcher** said, "Well, I don't think that all the students who attend Rockingham Middle are solely from the Wentworth area. Although I much prefer that the money go towards Wentworth...but I don't think it would be a dramatic change to say that the money from the middle school would be serving fewer Wentworth students if we want to allow them to do that."

**Mrs. Ward** asked the Mayor if a motion would be in order to approve the request from ReDirections.

**Mayor Paschal** agreed and made a motion, "*That we allow a portion of the funds given to ReDirections to go to the (RCC) Early College program instead of Rockingham Middle School.*"

**Councilman Belcher** seconded the motion. There was no additional discussion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

**Mrs. Ward** then talked about the Town Council and Recreation Committee's **request for the County Commissioners to consider leasing the Old Wentworth School** to the Town for use as a recreational facility.

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**Mrs. Ward** noted, "I sent you an email about the initial response from the County Commissioners after their meeting, and then we had a follow-up meeting here, which Evelyn (Mayor Pro Tem Conner) was able to attend and Attorney Baggett, also."

"I thought we gave them enough information at that meeting, so they could report back to the Board, but since then, they are still wanting us to get with an engineer and architect, and someone from the Inspections Department, to do another walk-through and get more definite figures on the cost (to renovate)."

"They didn't seem to want to let go of the Ag building, but we pretty much let them know that we would like for it to be a part of the package, based on what the Recreation Committee has in mind. (Mayor Pro Tem Conner) may have some comments...I was a little surprised at how the County Attorney seemed to be leery of letting it *all* go. We kept emphasizing the point that they aren't using it, and that we are going to make the renovations, the improvements to it...and that we *must* have a twenty-five year lease in order to qualify for the grant."

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** remarked, "I think they are afraid that the remainder of the county (other municipalities) would get the impression that the County is helping us with recreation...isn't that what you thought, Fred?"

**Mr. Baggett** replied, "Yes, they were afraid that Madison, Reidsville, the other towns, would say, 'Look what you did for Wentworth...you need to do something for recreation in our town.'"

"But they haven't done anything, though..." said **Councilman Belcher**.

"I know," said **Mr. Baggett**, "and I don't think the County Manager is as concerned about that as the County Attorney was."

"But," said **Mayor Paschal**, "It's the same song they've been singing ever since we incorporated. I talked to (former County Manager) Jerry Myers about that, and he just flat out told me, 'We're not in the recreation business.'"

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“We’re not asking them to be in the recreation business,” said **Councilman Belcher**, “we’re asking them to lease a building and facility that’s deteriorating significantly, so it can be utilized.”

**Mrs. Ward** noted, “We tried to make all those points...how long we have been talking back and forth about this...”

**Councilman Belcher**: “I think we just need to continue to go forth and do what we need to do. If they decide to turn it down, then they turn it down. We’ve made our best pitch, and especially in regards to the staff and Mr. Capps, who have gone the extra mile and bent over backwards to make something happen. And I think it would benefit far more than just Wentworth residents.”

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** agreed.

**Mrs. Ward** said, “When they talked about using it for storage...for file cabinets and desks, Mr. Capps just told them, ‘If you think that’s more important than our children, then you go ahead and do that.’”

“I do appreciate Fred (Mr. Baggett) being here, because he helped a lot.”

**Mayor Paschal** said he is sure the County Attorney is having a problem with the length of the lease, “...twenty-five years is so long, and losing control of the property.”

“It’s not like Wentworth is going anywhere,” said **Councilman Belcher**.

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** asked Mrs. Ward, “Didn’t you say (email report) that one of the Commissioners said the minimum lease *should be* twenty-five years?”

“And their votes are the ones that count,” said **Councilman Belcher**.

“And that’s basically what we said to them,” **Mrs. Ward** explained. “We said, ‘Yes, it is a tough decision, but you’re the ones who have to make it and that’s what we are asking you to do...make a decision.’”

“And we’re not asking them to *give* it to us,” **Mayor Pro Tem Conner** said.

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**Mrs. Ward** concluded, "They mentioned that they are doing a needs study of their facilities, and that the Tax Department is crowded, and the Board of Elections, and things like that."

**Mayor Paschal** added, "It will really surprise me if they come through with a reasonable lease *amount*, even if they do agree to let us have it."

"Last but not least," **Mrs. Ward** said, "**Mayor Paschal** suggested that we **write a letter to Congressman Brad Miller to see if there are any stimulus funds available** for...he didn't want to send a letter until he talked to Council about it."

**Mayor Pro Tem Conner** asked, "Stimulus funds for...?"

"Widening, or turning lanes along NC 87," replied **Mrs. Ward**.

**Mayor Paschal** explained, "Representative Nelson Cole said it would be about two million dollars to widen the road (turning lanes) from here to Calvary Church. He said the State would put in a million and the Town would have to contribute a million. Of course, we didn't have a million dollars to put in. But I notice they are having trouble getting the stimulus funds out in the real world out here. They keep talking about *shovel-ready projects* but some of the projects down in Florida, some of those bridges down there are two to three years off. They already have a study on this down through here, so I figure we can request it and all they can do is tell us no."

**Councilman Belcher** said, "I think it is certainly worth a shot."

**Mrs. Ward**: "I did call Mike Mills in Greensboro (NCDOT), to see if he had a copy of a letter about the cost for widening this road, and he could not find one either, but said he recalled that it was a verbal conversation. He did say, though, that he thinks he still has the figures somewhere."

**Mayor Paschal** concluded, "I'll get a letter off then, but I just didn't feel right about doing it without talking to everyone first."

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**Mrs. Ward** advised that she attended the **Transportation Improvement Plan Meeting** where representatives from the county and municipalities agreed on a priority list. She said that Hanna Cockburn (PTCOG) would be compiling the list and that she would make copies for Council.”

“The Rock House Creek Bridge contract is going to be let in December of this year, but it will be a two to three year construction job.”

“The TIP report noted, ‘resurfacing on various Federal aid routes’ in Rockingham County, and I have asked Hanna to get us a list of which roads they are.”

“That’s all I have,” **Mrs. Ward** concluded.

**Article VIII. Public Comments**

**Mayor Paschal** advised that no one signed up for Public Comments.

**Mrs. Ward** said she had a comment, and asked Council, “Did you notice that the old Town Hall sign has been moved from the National Guard Armory to the driveway entrance out here on Peach Tree Road?” She thanked Mr. Witherspoon and his son, Chris, for getting the sign moved.

**Article IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The **Town of Wentworth Planning Board** will hold their regularly scheduled meeting on **Tuesday, September 15**, at **7:00 p.m.** at the Town Hall.
- The **Public Hearing** for a Request by Rockingham County for a Special Use Permit (Animal Shelter) was continued until the September 15<sup>th</sup> Planning Board Meeting.
- The next regular meeting of the **Wentworth Town Council** will be held at the Town Hall on **Tuesday, October 6, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.**

**Mayor Paschal** said he noticed that the Fire Department has their stew sign out and said anyone wanting to purchase stew should give them a call.

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**Article X. A D J O U R N**

**Mayor Paschal** said, "If that's all, *I make a motion that we adjourn.*"

**Councilman Belcher** seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

**Respectfully Submitted By:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Brenda Ward, Town Clerk**

**Approved By:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Dennis Paschal, Mayor**