

**MINUTES  
OCTOBER 12, 2009**

**REGULAR MEETING  
7:00PM**

Mayor and all Council Members present.

Mayor Swaim called the meeting to order and led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Judy Wolf addressed the Bicentennial Updates. The name of Old Jonesville Day will change to Jonesville Jubilee. The date will still be May 1<sup>st</sup> of every year. We are going to have a Christmas show December 6<sup>th</sup> from 2-6pm at the Starmount Plaza Skating Rink. The rental fee has been donated to the Historical Committee for the show. Judy would still like approval for tree removal in the park area adjacent to the playground. The Mathis building has been offered to receive and store museum items until we have a museum facility, effective this month. Three properties are now being considered for the museum and Bicentennial activities. The Historical Committee will be applying for tax-exempt status to facilitate donations and the collection of artifacts for the museum. Judy addressed again the use of the old Town Hall. Due to the mold problem, please consider offering designated areas for rent (with prorated rent exchange for repair to ceiling and side wall). Allow the Bicentennial Commission to receive/share future rental income with the Town. Also with the sewage system processing being transferred to Elkin, please consider the sell or exchange of the current plant (approx. 6 acres with easements) for property and/or facilities to be used for the Bicentennial celebration and as future recreational land.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Council Member Martin made the motion to approve the Minutes from September 14, 2009 and Special Meeting September 28, 2009 and Council Member Pardue seconded the motion, unanimous vote.

Council Member Moore had one correction on the minutes from September 14<sup>th</sup> the motion taken was not added to the minutes.

## **PRESENTATION – DR. BILL BLACKLEY**

All of the information below came from the website <http://www.yadkinriverkeeper.org/fibrowatt>. Dr. Bill Blackley gave a very interesting and brief description of the information below in a short period of time during our meeting. He is really sincere about what happens within our environment.

A company named *Fibrowatt* is trying to build three poultry litter incinerators with steam-driven turbines to generate a relatively small amount of energy (somewhere between 40 to 55 Megawatt per plant which is enough to power about 30,000 homes). Each plant would be allowed to emit more toxins per megawatt than a new coal plant and consume approximately 1 million gallons of water per day of which 75% will evaporate and be lost to the local watersheds.

### **The Fibrowatt Formula for Business**

State Law + long-term Power Purchasing Agreements + Higher Prices for dirty, but “renewable” energy =

Great Investment for a Few, but a Very Bad Deal for Tax Payers and Consumers  
Three incinerators are planned to be built in North Carolina:

- one in Surry County (Northwest North Carolina, at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains),
- one in Sampson County (Southeast of Raleigh) and
  - one in Montgomery County (South of Greensboro).

### **Negative Economic Impact on Farmers**

Currently, poultry litter is being used as a natural fertilizer that adds micronutrients, minerals and other components to the soil. A holistic, sustainable farmer-to-farmer economic model now exists on a local/regional level. If this model gets broken due to Fibrowatt’s demand for fuel, crop and livestock farmers stand to lose a cost effective source of natural fertilizer while poultry farmers stand to lose a viable source of income. Fibrowatt is working to secure long-term contracts with poultry farmers for a significantly lower price than the farmer-to-farmer market offers. For each Fibrowatt plant, local crop and livestock farmers will have to pay roughly \$40 million dollars more annually for the purchase of chemical fertilizer than they currently do for the same nutrient value found in the poultry litter (which would be incinerated by Fibrowatt).

### **Other Negative Economic Impacts**

Besides the farmers, particularly in Surry County, the vineyards and wineries will suffer as tourists avoid Fibrowatt’s heavy industry impacts that include 240 18-wheeler truck movements through the region each day and views of the 300 foot smokestack located on the otherwise scenic Yadkin River. The wine industry is currently one of the most booming business sectors in NC with an estimated total economic impact of the wine and grape industry in North Carolina of \$813 million (2005). There are over 21 vineyards in

the Yadkin Valley region, which has been referred to in media as “The Napa of North Carolina”. Why jeopardize it?

The counties where Fibrowatt is trying of building a plant are all offering huge tax incentives (ranging between \$3 and 8 million each) in exchange for very few jobs (30-45 max per plant). These are incentives that will NOT be available to other companies that might create hundreds of jobs, nor will it go to help grow existing companies and preserve jobs. In Surry County’s case, this “investment” in Fibrowatt will work directly against the \$83.32 million dollars in tourist revenue as the Yadkin Valley wineries and other parts of the tourist industry are negatively impacted.

### **Negative Environmental Impacts**

Each Fibrowatt will be ALLOWED to pollute at the rate of around 4,800,000 pounds of toxins per year. These include very nasty chemicals like dioxins (remember Agent Orange?!), arsenic, hydrochloric acid, and others. According to existing permits, their plants are allowed to be more polluting than new coal-fired plants (i.e., emissions per kilowatt-hour of energy). The equation does not add up; providing tax payer funded incentives for very few jobs and lots of negative impacts. The cost is too high, green-washed and hidden under the pretense of “renewable” energy (but not clean), the pretense of being “carbon-neutral” (but not if the supply chain is considered), and the pretense of helping the environment (which is very far from the true, net impact).

For more information, contact us via [riverkeeper@yadkinriverkeeper.org](mailto:riverkeeper@yadkinriverkeeper.org) and put “Fibrowatt Question” in the subject line.

Please sign up for our email notifications at [riverkeeper@yadkinriverkeeper.org](mailto:riverkeeper@yadkinriverkeeper.org) and put “List Serve” in the Subject line.

If you are interested in a “Stop Fibrowatt” yard sign or car magnet, send an email to [riverkeeper@yadkinriverkeeper.org](mailto:riverkeeper@yadkinriverkeeper.org) and put “Fibrowatt Yard Sign or Car Magnet” in the subject line.

Thank you for your interest and concern. More importantly, thank you in advance for being a part of the solution by taking action today! Public response will make the difference.

### **CONTRACT TO INSPECT TOWN BRIDGE – NCDOT**

The Town is required to have each of its bridges inspected at least every two years. The Town on has one bridge near Little Creek Apartments. The NCDOT offers a program to contract with Municipalities to perform these inspections. Under this program, the Federal Highway Administration pays 80% of the cost of the inspection. If the Town wishes to contract with the DOT to perform this year’s inspection, the Council needs to approve the agreement.

Council Member Moore made the motion to contract with the DOT to inspect the bridge and Council Member Pardue seconded the motion, unanimous vote.

## **NC DEBT SETOFF PROGRAM**

Since 2002 the Town of Jonesville has participated in the NC Debt Setoff Program. The program allows local governments to recover any delinquent debts by offsetting debtors' North Carolina state tax refunds and Education lottery winnings. When the Town originally joined the program, the Council approved a resolution listing the Town Manager and Town Clerk that were working for the Town at that time. We need to update the resolution to list the positions instead of particular persons by name.

Council Member Pardue made the motion to update the resolution for the NC Debt Setoff Program and Council Member Casstevens seconded the motion, unanimous vote.

## **REQUEST TO FORGIVE SEWER TAP FEE**

In 2008 the Town installed a sewer tap at Jonesville Elementary School. The school has not paid the tap fee of \$4,500 and is requesting a reduced amount. The new Principal found that the school had \$2,469.88 left in a trust fund account and wanted to know if this amount would be sufficient to take care of this bill.

The Council Members are in agreement with the sum above, but would like a letter sent and signed that the Town of Jonesville will receive the remainder of the debt within a year. The Town of Jonesville needs to receive the \$4,500 for the tap fee.

## **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

Keith Macy had 27 calls last month.

Roger Reece reported 4,547 events for last month.

Roger Martin reported being busy with the new laundry mat. It is completed now and they will be playing catch up for the next few weeks.

Tim Collins was absent tonight. A Jonesville WTP update was left for the Council Members.

Scott Buffkin spoke about the Greenway Project. A part of the Stillwell Property has been purchased for the Sewer Authority and Greenway walking trail. The TDA \$14,388.15 and Sewer Authority \$1,768.00 will be reimbursing the Town back for this property bought. The TDA also voted today on purchasing surveys and deeds in the near future for land that is going to be donated from Harold and Mayberry properties for the Greenway trail. I will also be bringing a draft ordinance to the next Town meeting for "Sexually Oriented Business" to be voted on. I have had several phone calls about this sort of business coming to the Town of Jonesville.

With no pending business to discuss Council Member Pardue made the motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Council Member Casstevens, unanimous vote.

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Mayor, Lindbergh Swaim

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Town Clerk, Lynn Trivette