

**TOWN OF GRIFTON**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**WORKSHOP MEETING**  
October 2, 2018

**Present:** Mayor B.R. Jackson; Commissioners Will Barnes, Mary Grace Bright, Johnny Craft, Claude Kennedy, Raymond Oakes; Interim Manager Mark Warren, Clerk Angel Hudson

**Absent:** None

Mayor Jackson called the meeting to order.

Mayor Jackson led the Board of Commissioners in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**Recognition of Persons to be Heard:**

\*Roy Capps of 621 Casey Drive came before the Board to express his concerns about losing power for 5 days due to the Duke Energy Substation being flooded. He feels we do not need to stop pushing Duke until something has been done to prevent this from happening again.

Mr. Capps also expressed his concerns about the drainage on Casey Drive as well as the surrounding areas and the problems it causes the homeowners when it causes flooding. He feels the drainage needs to be improved to help keep this from happening again and again. Mayor Jackson commented that we have been working on drainage issues for the last 13 years and we will continue to work on drainage.

\*Jackie Coley of 655 Village Drive came before the Board to express her concerns about the drainage issues on Lewis Drive and Dogwood Lane as well as the surrounding areas. She feels nothing has been done to the ditches in a number of years and something needs to be done to prevent this from happening in the future.

Ms. Coley also stated that we need to keep pushing Duke for a solution to help with the flooding of the substation so Grifton residents do not have to go without power for several days at a time.

Mayor Jackson informed the audience that he had a conversation with the Governor. He explained to the Governor that we have been patiently waiting since 1999 for the problem with the substation to be corrected and nothing has happened. He told the Governor that we have nursing homes, elderly residents, group homes and businesses that are affected by lengthy power outages. He also commented that if CMSD is affected then not only will it be Grifton that feels the pain but Winterville and Ayden as well.

Mayor Jackson stated that the Governor assured him they would be having conversations with Duke Energy concerning this issue.

Mayor Jackson also stated that the Board has conversations concerning drainage on a regular basis.

Manager Warren stated that 5 beaver dams were extracted from the Buckleberry Canal the week of the storm.

\*Carroll Oakes of 6727 Church Street came before the Board to express his concerns about the drainage and ditches near his property. He made the Board aware of how far the water came in his yard via photos. He also expressed his concerns about the power being out for a number of days. He feels we should be pressing this issue with Duke Energy.

\*Joe Grimes of 613 Casey Drive came before the Board to express his concerns about drainage in Grifton. He feels more effort needs to be put into cleaning the ditches.

\*Iris Davis of 709 Casey Drive came before the Board to express her concerns about the drainage and the ditches near her home. She feels they need to be cleaned to prevent further flooding.

Mayor Jackson stated that he feels each one of the speaker's grief. He thanked all speakers for being reasonable. He also stated that he and the Board feel their concerns and are going to do what they can to relieve those concerns.

\*Doug Dietrich of 6101 Weyerhaeuser Road came before the Board to offer suggestions on replacement and painting of the Depot roof.

### **Discussion Items**

None

### **Manager Report**

Manager Warren stated that he will try to have a full FEMA report for the Board at the next meeting.

Manager Warren stated that Mario Perez has requested to speak at the next meeting.

### **Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Bright commented that she appreciates everybody pitching together and making sure that things happened and people were kept safe.

Commissioner Bright asked Manager Warren to check with building inspections concerning the awning at the vapor shop. She is concerned with liability issues.

Commissioner Bright stated that the Town needs to look long and hard at an emergency plan to make sure all things go smooth and there is no question about who is supposed to be doing what during an emergency.

Commissioner Bright stated that we need to find out which ditches the Town is responsible for and be responsible for them.

Commissioner Kennedy commented that he feels the audience's pain and their concerns have been heard. He agreed that something needs to be done about the drainage problem in this Town.

Commissioner Oakes thanked all who came and spoke at this meeting. He commented that we have addressed the problems and talked about correcting the issues. However, the manmade problem such as the power station needs to be addressed until something is done. He feels we need to put the heat on Duke Energy until progress has been made.

Mayor Jackson stated that he has asked that the ditches be watched every week on more than one occasion. He commented that if anything is seen in the ditches it needs to be removed immediately.

Commissioner Barnes acknowledged that drainage was one of our biggest issues. He also commented that litter is a big problem with drainage.

Commissioner Barnes stated that the Police, Fire, EMS , Town Board and utilities needs to get together and see if we can come up with an emergency plan and how we can improve upon what is already in place.

Commissioner Barnes asked Billy Raynor if we have the equipment to clean the ditches.

Mr. Raynor replied we would need the type of equipment with a long reach on it to clean the ditches.

Commissioner Craft stated that he appreciated everyone coming to the meeting tonight and voicing their concerns.

Mayor Jackson also asked for the property owner's cooperation when we are trying to get to the ditches to clean them out. He commented that the Town will need access to the ditches and that may involve having large equipment on your property.

There being no further business Commissioner Bright made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barnes. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Angel Hudson

Town Clerk