



**City of Boiling Spring Lakes  
Board of Commissioners Police Department  
Feasibility Workshop  
April 6, 2016  
City Hall – 6:30 pm**

**PLEASE TURN OFF CELL PHONES**

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**1. Call to Order ~ Mayor Craig Caster**

The Board of Commissioner Workshop was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

**2. Attendance ~ in attendance at the meeting were ~**

Mayor Craig Caster  
Commissioner Mary Stilwell  
City Manager Jeff Repp  
Police Chief Brad Shirley

Commissioner Mark Stewart  
Commissioner David Putnam  
Commissioner David Crawford ~ **Excused**  
City Clerk Jane McMinn

**Prior to the start of the workshop Commissioner Putnam read from a statement which is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.**

**3. Public Comments ~**

**George Ball ~ 341 Fox Squirrel Rd.**

Mr. Ball praised the police department for the fine job they do and the police department definitely needs improvement. Mr. Ball commented it is not about what is wanted but what is needed as a city. Mr. Ball addressed the board and stated they were elected to do what the citizens want done. Again it is not what we want it is what we need.

**Shirley Desnoyers ~ 341 Fox Squirrel Rd.**

Ms. Desnoyers read from a written statement. Ms. Desnoyers stated a project of this size deserves a referendum. Everyone is in agreement that we need to upgrade the police department; there have been some good suggestions. Ms. Desnoyers questioned if anyone has looked into any of the other buildings in town, are there grants available. Will the mayor appoint a committee to work on the questions citizens have raised and put the answers on the city website? When these questions have all been answered the public can make an informed decision.

**Jon Weaver ~ 1412 Longleaf Dr.**

Mr. Weaver stated he has a law enforcement background and has lived in BSL for 14 years. We all know our city is growing, not only does this mean the population is growing but the tax base is growing and therefore the demand for services is growing. The police department has continued to grow; there has been a 100% increase in the police department since 1998. I support a new building attached to city hall. I have gone

through the current building and it is obsolete for its intended purpose of a police department, the building is 40+ years old and has gone under three renovations and has outgrown its usefulness; the evidence lockers are at their capacity. There was an overdose and a shooting this past weekend. Evidence gathered could not be stored in those lockers. The building is not secure and has no alarm. This is not what we call “best practice.”

**Al Scharper ~ 67 N. Shore Dr.**

Mr. Scharper stated the police force needs and deserves a functional updated facility to continue the fine work they perform. This is about the why, how and how much will the taxpayers have a say in how our money is spent. Mr. Scharper supports a public referendum along with a large majority of the citizens. We are not convinced that this board has done their due diligence. The majority thinks the renovation of the police department is the way to proceed.

**Heath Smith ~ 384 Cedar Rd.**

Mr. Smith stated the police department is doing a fine job with the current facility they have. He questioned why the city would need to incur even more debt than we currently have. Mr. Smith commented this is small bedroom community which I like very much. We need to focus on keeping the tax rate low while enjoying the services we currently have.

**Davey Williamson ~ 713 S. Shore Dr.**

Mr. Williamson commented this issue is not about the fine work our police officers do, but about the building. Without a referendum how do you know what the people think, if there is a strong base it will be approved.

**Van Eddinger ~ 760 Barber Rd.**

Mr. Eddinger stated his background has been in law enforcement for 30 years and I have recently retired. I have visited this police department building many times; I support the construction of a new building. I have been through this process twice as a police chief, the last one being the Oak Island PD. The State Department of Labor came down and shut the building down due to the mold problems, at that time the elected officials did not think a new building was needed. As stated the PD building is a house, and not secure at all externally or internally. This police department deserves a new building, our officer's work 365 days a year, holidays, weekends and they are on-call; asking our police officers to work out of a building that is inadequate is ridiculous for a city this size, BSL is the third largest town in the county. This is the only police department in Brunswick County that does not have a modern up-to-date police department.

**Nancy Crawford ~ 241 Ash Rd.**

Mrs. Crawford stated we as citizens must figure a way to build a new police department. Currently our police department is operating in a building that was built as a city hall not a police station. The safety and health of our citizens and police personnel should be our first and foremost concern. If we as a community put as much positive effort into getting



a new police station built as is being put into the negative, our police department will have the facility they deserve. Our police department deserves the best.

**Herb Glidden ~ 402 N. Shore Dr.**

Mr. Glidden stated he would like to see the police department have the best equipment available, I believe everyone here agrees with that and our police department is doing a great job. Do we really need to tear down a building that can be renovated?

**Barbara Glidden ~ 402 N. Shore Dr.**

Mrs. Glidden stated she hopes to have the confidence in this board to do the right thing and listen to the people. If you do not want to do a referendum then educate the public, not the wants but the needs. Mrs. Glidden questioned where the need for new police department came from? This should not be a power struggle but a decision made in the best interest of the police department. This board is showing the citizens they do not want to listen; they do not want to work together.

**Chuck Wojda ~ 161 N. Lake Dr.**

Many good points have been brought up; however the board should have done some analysis and requirements of the needs of the police department. The second consideration we need to touch on is the wasted money on litigation over Spring Lake. Analyze the needs of the police force. Mr. Wojda suggested organizing a task force, there have been many good suggestions by citizens, I hope the board will address those.

**Gerri Sovak ~ 443 S. Shore Dr.**

Mrs. Sovak agreed we do need something for the police force. Citizens I have spoken to have talked about the expenditure of money. We need new roads, property flooding, not proper drainage, speeding on Fifty Lakes Dr. Please take care of what needs improvement before spending more money,

**Lynn Henry ~ 1191 Bream Rd.**

Mr. Henry stated in his opinion the feasibility study that has been done is not a good one in his opinion. I find it confusing and the numbers do not agree in various places. I am very surprised that someone in the town or council did not pick up on those things. Mr. Henry confirmed that he does not have a law enforcement background; I do not know what is needed for the police department; however I am going to try to attempt to get what is needed and to cut out the excess in the feasibility and proposals. Option #2 of the feasibility study is preferred which would be to tear down the current police department. Mr. Henry questioned is the existing police department suitable for occupancy and use? If it is, then why tear it down. The feasibility study states the structure has been well maintained.

Mr. Henry provided each BOC member a copy of the page from the feasibility study which Mr. Henry proceeded to go through. **Page 2 of the study is here by incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.**

**Earl Tharp ~ 39 N. Shore Dr.**

Mr. Tharp stated he has lived here for 44 years and commented our police force is superb. I am disappointed to see such negativity in a town like this; I have never seen it like this in the 44 years I have lived here. There has been no growth on NC Rt. 87. Taxation without representation is not the way to get positive things going. If there is a way to save money, give our police force what they need to work with then we need to do it.

**Jerry Wolf ~ 1059 Acacia Dr.**

Mr. Wolf complimented Chief Shirley and the BSL police force. They all do a fine job and there is no doubt about that. I am not in favor of the \$1.6M expenditure. Mr. Wolf stated there is space in city hall and I do not see the city growing. Mr. Wolf suggested taking some of the city staff in city hall and bring them over the police department and we can use city hall for interrogation rooms. There are many people in town on a fixed income and just cannot afford a tax increase. For me it comes down to simple economics.

Mayor Caster thanked everyone for attending and there are pros and cons between everyone.

Commissioner Putnam stated that the citizens are looking for answers. The city can try to get answers by soliciting RFP's. There is no cost to the city to request a proposal. Based on the comments tonight everything will be taken into consideration first. That would be my direction to the city manager.

Commissioner Stilwell commented there are so many faces I see tonight that have not been to one presentation or workshop meeting. All our meetings are open to the public and we talk about this issue a lot. I have not seen half the people who are here tonight. I see strange faces here that I have not seen at our commissioner meetings. If you want facts and information you need to attend our meetings.

Commissioner Stewart thanked everyone for coming tonight and agreed with Commissioner Stilwell there are many new faces tonight that have not been to one meeting or workshop. We are on a fact finding mission, we have not made a decision to build anything at this time. We are exploring all avenues. We have many issues that need to be addressed in this city. We are putting the priorities in place. If anyone wants to talk about give me a call lets discuss it.

**4. Adjourn ~**

The workshop was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

ATTEST:  
  
Jane McMinn, City Clerk

  
Craig Caster, Mayor

  
Date