

**ERWIN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
JULY 14, 2011
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
ERWIN, NORTH CAROLINA**

The Board of Commissioners for the Town of Erwin with Mayor Patsy Carson presiding, held its Special Called Meeting in the Town Hall on Thursday, July 14, 2011 at 5:30 P. M. in Erwin, North Carolina.

Board Members present were: Commissioners, Norma Ennis, Michael West, Randy Baker, and William Corbett.

Board Members absent were: Commissioners Frank Taylor and Mark Whitman.

Town Manager Bryan Thompson and Finance Director Debbie Chestnut were present.

Town Clerk Cynthia Patterson was absent.

Mayor Patsy Carson called the meeting to order at 5:30 P. M.

Commissioner West gave the invocation.

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSIDERATION OF HOLDING PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PURPOSE OF
CONSIDERING A RESOLUTION TO POSTPONE THE 2011 ERWIN TOWN BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS ELECTION**

Town Attorney Mac Hunter came forward and spoke to the Board. Mr. Hunter stated that there was a requirement for redistricting for the upcoming elections. In doing the redistricting, there are several ways to approach this. The first approach is to not adopt a Resolution to delay; this is not something that Mr. Hunter recommended, however other Towns are doing this. The Department of Justice has a great control over what happens and would not think the Board would want to handle it this way. The second approach is being used by some Towns; however, Mr. Hunter does not recommend this approach as well. Just hold the elections based on what the Town has proposed with the Dept. of Justice and hope they approved it. Mr. Hunter recommended the third approach, which delay the elections if the Town does not hear back from the Dept. of Justice. This will be the safest approach the Board could do. Since the Town has adopted the proposed changes that we have sent to the Dept. of Justice then if the Dept. of Justice approves it prior to the third day of declaring candidacy you will go ahead and have the elections based on the proposed changes. Mr. Thompson and Mr. Hunter have both talked with the Dept. of Justice and had two calls from the Dept of Justice in the last couple of days and both of us feel very confident that this will go through. It would be very helpful as well to have the support of the NAACP. What we are doing tonight is to set a Special Called Meeting to have a Public Hearing to determine whether the Town will pass the resolution delaying the elections. This will need to be set on Friday, July 22, 2011 at 8am. This will also need to be advertised which is required by law and if I understand correctly the advertisement has been done. Please keep in mind, that if we get approved by the Dept. of Justice we will cancel this Public Hearing.

MINUTES OF JULY 14, 2011 CONTINUED

Commissioner Baker made a motion for the Town of Erwin to hold a Public Hearing on Friday, July 22, 2011 at 8am in the Board of Commissioners meeting room for the purpose of adopting the Resolution to postpone the 2011 Town of Erwin Board of Commissioners Election and also add that if the Town of Erwin receives prior approval from the Dept. of Justice this meeting will not have to be held and was seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The Board voted 4 for and 2 absent (Commissioners Whitman and Taylor).

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Baker made a motion to adjourn at 6:05pm and was seconded by Commissioner Ennis. The Board voted 4 for and 2 absent (Commissioners Whitman and Taylor).

**MINUTES RECORDED BY FINANCE DIRECTOR DEBBIE CHESTNUT AND
TYPED BY
CYNTHIA B PATTERSON TOWN CLERK**

Patsy M. Carson,
Mayor

Cynthia B. Patterson, CMC
Town Clerk