



**Board of Commissioners**  
**Thursday, September 5, 2024**  
**7pm**  
**Special Meeting**

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Mayor Huneycutt called the meeting to order and asked the town clerk to do the roll call. Commissioner Barbee, Commissioner Carpenter, Commissioner Hathcock, Mayor Huneycutt, Commissioner Jackson and Commissioner Smith were present. Town Administrator Harvey was also present.

Mayor Huneycutt asked Commissioner Barbee to open in prayer.

Mayor Huneycutt shared that Oakboro was special to him and his family. He said his great grandfather helped build the railroad before it was Oakboro. He said there is no place in this entire world he would rather live other than Oakboro. He stated that "we are here to serve the town to the best of our abilities and I feel like we are doing that."

Mayor Huneycutt told the audience that the board would be moving upstairs to hold their closed session, so they wouldn't have to leave the room. He stated that because closed sessions are not open to the public, he assured them that the board would return to open session for any actions needed by a vote.

**Closed Session**

Commissioner Smith made a motion to go into closed session to discuss personnel (G.S. 143-318.11(6)) and contracts (G.S. 143-318.11(5)). Commissioner Hathcock seconded. Voted and carried unanimously. Mrs. Murray was asked to not attend closed session.

**Open Session**

Commissioner Jackson made a motion to go back into open session and Commissioner Carpenter seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

Mayor Huneycutt shared that the first priority of the board is to maintain safety and security of Oakboro and the citizens. As a result of the current loss in the police staff, the board is moving forward with an agreement with Stanly County Sheriff's Department to provide those services.

Mayor Huneycutt recognized Sheriff Crisco to make a brief statement so everyone can have a better understanding of where we are at and where we are moving forward to.

Sheriff Crisco stated that at the last board meeting, the board decided to give Ms. Harvey the authority to go into the contractual negotiations moving forward with the position the town's police department is currently in. He stated that motion was already made and it was agreed upon. Sheriff Crisco added that all that is happening now is continuing to move forward with those negotiations. He shared we already have a temporary contract in place to fill the voids. He does not want any of the county to go uncovered, but he said he does have a vested interest in Oakboro because he lives one mile from the town limits. He and his wife come and shop in Oakboro. He stated that he will use every resource he has to make sure Oakboro is protected.

Mayor Huneycutt thanked Sheriff Crisco for speaking and shared that there will be some information on Monday such as questions and answers regarding this. Mayor Huneycutt asked if Ashley or Chris had anything they wanted to say. Mr. Ashley Thompson stated that this is not just the sheriff's department pulling people from random parts of the county, that Oakboro will have the same officers each day and they want them vested in the community. He shared this will be their only assignment. There will be an Oakboro division and the same officers will be present once the sheriff's department is fully staffed. Mr. Ashley Thompson asked if anyone had any comments or questions.

Mr. Suhay introduced himself and questioned how we got to this point. He stated that he was unable to find the minutes on the website. He stated he did not know how we got here. He's unsure if this is a temporary contract and what is the long-term goal? He hasn't had a chance to speak to anyone on the council and feels like he is a little in the dark. He asked the board to not take this the wrong way and simply wants to understand why we are here and what we are moving forward with. He wants to be able to participate and help in any way we can. He's not asking for answers, but he's hoping that Mr. Barbee or someone can sit down and talk with him.

Mayor Huneycutt mentioned again that there would be some information released next week on Monday with some questions and answers that he is sure he has. Mayor Huneycutt also asked the citizens to prepare questions for the meeting on September 16, 2024 and they will have an opportunity to share at the open forum then.

Mayor Huneycutt asked if Ms. Harvey has anything to share. She said she just wanted to reiterate that some questions and answers will be added to our website.

Commissioner Barbee added that meeting minutes should be updated. Mr. Suhay stated that there are links to agendas but no details about the meetings. The town clerk verified the minutes are right under the agendas and shared that she would help Mr. Suhay find them.

Mayor Huneycutt finished up by saying he appreciated everyone being in attendance tonight at the meeting. He appreciates Sheriff Crisco, the board and Ms. Harvey and everything that has been done tonight. He appreciates the citizens for being present and their vested interest in the community. Mayor Huneycutt ensured that safety would continue for Oakboro. He shared he wasn't going anywhere and he would live here for life.

Mayor Huneycutt entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Barbee made a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Carpenter seconded. Voted and carried unanimously.

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Christopher N Huneycutt, Mayor

*Leslie Hatley-Murray*  
Leslie Hatley-Murray, Town Clerk