

BUDGET WORK SESSION

April 5, 2018

In Attendance:

Members Present: Mayor Janet Winkler, Commissioners: Larry Chapman, Jonathan Greer, Barry Mitchell, Rick Shew, Ann Smith and Bill Warren

Others Present: Town manager, Rebecca Bentley and Town Clerk, Tammy Swanson

Call to Order:

Janet Winkler called the Budget Work Session to order. Bill Warren led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and opening prayer.

Closed Session – N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5) – to discuss a contract:

Janet Winkler stated that the Board was going into Closed Session in accordance with N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5) - to discuss a contract.

Motion: (Bill Warren/Larry Chapman) to go into closed session. Unanimously approved.

Return to Regular Session:

Motion: (Larry Chapman/Ann Smith) to return to regular session. Unanimously approved.

Discuss the FY 2018-2019 Budget:

The Board discussed the entire proposed budget for FY 2018-2019, and the following items were highlighted in the discussion.

- Salaries – 2% COLA and 1.5% Merit – The Board asked for different scenarios – different percentages and possibly the implementation of bonuses instead of merit.
- Increase in Salaries for Boards (Board of Commissioners and Planning Board)
- Chief Day's Retirement
- Janice Beck's Retirement
- Percentage of Powell Bill funds used to pay Public Works/Street Dept. – The Board asked that Rebecca research the percentage of Powell Bill funds being used to pay salaries for the Street Dept.
- Planner's Hours – Possibly add ½ day to make Teresa available in our office 1 ½ days per week.
- Build addition to Police Department to house evidence and detective – Rebecca mentioned that this would probably need to be funded from Fund Balance.
- No Tax Increase
- No Sanitation Increase

Approval of Audit Contract:

Rebecca stated that the cost of our audit contract with Martin Starnes has increased over 60% for the upcoming audit. She commented that she realizes this is a huge increase in cost; however, at this point in the year, it

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could be a challenge to find another auditor. Rebecca suggested that we keep Martin Starnes for the upcoming audit, and go out for bids next year.

Motion: (Larry Chapman/Ann Smith) to keep Martin Starnes for the FY 2017-2018 Audit, and go out for bids for auditing services next year. Unanimously approved.

Next Budget Meeting Scheduled:

The next Budget Work Session was scheduled for Monday, April 23rd at 5:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Donation to Fire Department Paid Twice:

Rebecca stated that in July 2017, the Board approved a donation of \$1,000 to Hudson Fire and Rescue toward helping to purchase a Lucas Device for the Department. The funds for the \$1,000 donation were to be taken from Fund Balance. Rebecca stated that she had inadvertently made this donation twice, doubling the amount approved by the Board. She asked if the Board would like for the money to be requested back from the Fire Department, or a Budget Amendment made to account for the second payment.

It was the consensus of the Board to do a budget amendment to take care of the extra payment.

Adjournment:

Motion: (Larry Chapman/Rick Shew) to adjourn the meeting. Unanimously approved.

Tamra T. Swanson, Town Clerk