

The Board of Commissioners held a budget work session Wednesday, June 1, 2011, at 1:00 pm the Littleton Sales building office. Commissioners present were Patrick McAtee-MacRae, Jimmy Kearney, Heidi Hogan, Clara Debnam and Terry Newsom. The purpose of the meeting was to present the proposed budget to the Board of Commissioners.

Mayor Willis opened the meeting and advised there were a few changes from the previous budgets reviewed by the Board. Discussion ensued on the loan for the Town Hall renovation, various line items, and revising the Privilege License Fee Schedule to include Internet Cafes - \$500.00 for the first 6 machines and \$100.00 for each additional. Commissioner Kearney advised he had received bids on street maintenance, mowing and brush collection and in discussion the consensus was to have the Mayor open all future bids at a board meeting. Commissioner Newsom advised a little had been added to the Police budget and he didn't see where any more could come from. Commissioner Kearney advised his lowest bid for maintenance was about \$1,500 under his estimate but there were a few areas he had left out and guessed \$29,000 would cover everything and he would see if he could negotiate.

Commissioner MacRae advised some citizens had expressed concern about cutting the police force and paying for a new Town Hall and suggested doing like the Library and paying as you go. Discussion of the bids and budget for the new Town Hall continued including the necessity for a suitable place for voting and the need to move from the old building. In response to question, Mayor Willis stated the architect and USDA had worked on the estimates, the architect would send a certified bid package to USDA to review and the project had been started years ago. In discussion it was brought out that doing away with the Town Hall renovation would not generate enough to hire another police officer and Mayor Willis would let the Board know when the preconstruction meeting was to take place. Concern was expressed about unexpected expenses.

Commissioner Kearney reviewed the street maintenance bids: grass cutting – Peter Decilles \$4,500, Larry West \$5,125, Annie's \$5,000, Owen \$9,577 and Snyder \$16,800. He wanted to allow \$500.00 for additional work. The Board discussed using volunteers to mow around the welcome signs. The bids for debris collection were: Decilles \$24,000, Owens \$44,000 or \$33,000 for 26 weeks, and Annie's \$28,000. Commissioner Newsom reported a citizen concern about rocks on the edge of the road on Spring Street and Mayor Willis stated she would be meeting with DOT and bring it to their attention. The Board discussed possibly combining the cemetery and street maintenance with one contractor and negotiating an even better price.

Commissioner MacRae brought up a confrontation with Freddie Williamson and reported Mr. Williamson had threatened him. In discussion the consensus was to allow Annie's Construction to finish out the street contract and not hire them to do any other work to allow them to finish work on the wyes and tees. Commissioner Debnam reported she had received some complaints on shabby work done by Freddie.

Commissioner Newsom made a motion seconded by Commissioner Kearney, to adjourn at 2:24 pm.

Clerk

