

The Board of Commissioners held a budget work session, Wednesday, May 30, 2012, at 1:00 pm at the Town hall. Commissioners present were Diana Bobbitt, Terry Newsom, Jimmy Kearney, Heidi Hogan and Clara Debnam.

Mayor Willis called the meeting to order and asked for an update on the USDA funds and the Clerk/Finance Officer reported quite a few things that had been discussed had been purchased, about \$17,000 had been spent, the first years interest had been reimbursed, there was about \$7,017.81 remaining from the grant that needed to be spent. The Clerk's office still needed a lap top computer, some shelving and odds and ends for about \$2,000.00 and then whatever others could come up with. It could be used for furniture, equipment and supplies. Consideration was being given to purchasing a heavy duty copier, and asked for any other suggestions. The other thing discussed was carpeting in the Clerk's office and the consensus was for the Clerk to continue with purchases to use up the grant funds.

Mayor Willis stated she had a name for the Halifax County Alternate for the Board of Adjustment, Marie Robinson had agreed to serve if appointed. Brief discussion followed and Commissioner Kearney made a motion seconded by Commissioner Debnam, to recommend Marie Robinson, as Halifax County Alternate to the Littleton Board of Adjustment. The motion was voted and carried.

Mayor Willis stated she and the Clerk would be working on a Resolution for DOT for no thru trucks on Spring Street.

Commissioner Hogan advised she needed a Resolution expressing continued support of the Library at the next meeting and she was working on the resolution.

Mayor Willis reported resolution was also needed opposing uranium mining.

In discussion of the cemetery budget, Commissioner Bobbitt stated the contract needed to be revisited and reworked as citizens weren't happy with its maintenance and it was suggested taking the monies budgeted for Codification updating and moving that \$2,500 to cemetery. Also discussed was Larry West taking over the contract again and redoing the contract and asking the existing contractor to do a little more.

Mayor Willis reference a letter from Local Government Commission concerning the Water and Sewer System indicating potential problems. Commissioner Kearney addressed some of the reasons for the \$60,000 short fall including contractor cost up about 7,000 over last year because last year cost us almost \$14,000, the sewer jet another \$7,000, Town Hall payments were not much, that came up to \$15,700, and with cost of living of 2% that came up to \$18,000 and asked where the other \$42,000 had gone. The Clerk advised the Water Dept. had been partially funding the sewer dept. for some time, and back in 2007-08 the Town was getting \$20,000 per year in interest and that had all been lost, we've also been using fund balance which can't go on. In response to a question from Commissioner Kearney, the Clerk advised the Town had to pay Halifax County for 100,000 gallons of water a day and was only using an average of 84,000 gallons a day costing about \$15,000 per year and the contract needed to be changed. Commissioner Kearney noted that came up to about \$40,000. Mayor Willis stated the Town Attorney needed to address the contract. It cost aver \$2.00 per customer to make up the difference in the Halifax County contact. Discussion continued and addressed two proposed rate increases and Commissioner Newsom advocated for the lowest possible increase for the minimum bill and charging more for the more one used. One rate would raise the minimum \$3.00 and raise water and sewer \$0.50 each for each additional thousand gallons and the other \$1.50 Increase in Sewer minimum plus an additional \$.50 increase for each 1,000 up to 10,000 for water and \$1.00 increase for each 1,000 of sewer to 10,000.

Following lengthy discussion, Commissioner Debnam made a motion seconded by Commissioner Bobbitt to use the \$1.50 Increase in Sewer minimum plus an additional \$.50 increase for each 1,000 up to 10,000 for water and \$1.00 increase for each 1,000 of sewer to 10,000. The motion was voted and carried with Commissioners Debnam, Bobbitt, Hogan and Kearney voting in favor and Commissioner Newsom opposing.

Commissioner Debnam made a motion seconded by Commissioner Bobbitt, to make the rate change effective July 1, 2012. The motion was voted and carried.

The Board briefly discussed the pay raises included in the budget with Mayor Willis advocating for merit pay increases with the Board dissenting . A copy of the proposed pay increases are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Also discussed were travel and training expenses for the Mayor and Clerk, the Clerks would be incorporated into her salary and the Mayor was budgeted \$800.00 for attending the NCLM Conference.

The Board discussed the Police Department's budget with Commissioner Newsom stating the Town needed three full time officers and discussion included there would be no funds for part time officers with three fulltime and getting better value with part time officers, collecting extra revenues by diligently collecting privilege licenses, getting rid of the Durango, which Commissioner Newsom stated was needed to pull the trailer with generator, and the Chief was looking at a Malibu to trade for the Durango. Commissioner Newsom asked the other Commissioners to look for any money they could spare from their budgets.

Commissioner Kearney advised the Powell Bill had enough to patch and pave.

Mayor Willis recommended cutting the Sewer Contractor budget from \$15,000 to \$10,000 and discussion followed and the consensus was to leave it as it was.

The Board agreed to meet for another budget meeting on Tuesday, June 5, 2012, at 10:00 am. The Clerk advised she would not be ready to present the revised Water and Sewer Budget including the new rate structure on such short notice.

The meeting adjourned at 2:41 pm.

Clerk