

TOWN OF TRYON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING-PUBLIC HEARING
HARMON FIELD BUDGET & FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET
MAY 12, 2015 2:00 P.M.
TRYON FIRE STATION

Present: Mayor Jim Wright Mayor Pro Tem Roy Miller

Commissioners: George Baker, Bill Ingham Absent: Happy Mcleod

Staff Present: Town Manager Joey Davis Town Clerk Susan Bell

Absent: Harmon Field Board of Supervisors & Tryon Fire District Commission

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Wright called the special meeting to order. Town Manager Davis stated that there are two things for you to look at today. The Harmon Field Budget and the Fire Department Budget. These are the two funds that you receive township contributions, which means that Polk County has to look at them. Polk County's budget workshops are next week. These are just numbers. The revenue numbers are probably pretty accurate. The expenditures side we can play with a little. When you adopt your budget next month the numbers will be firm. Polk County just needs to know the ball park that we are playing in and what tax increase if any that we are asking for these funds.

PUBLIC HEARING: HARMON FIELD BUDGET

Davis stated that Harmon Field is not asking for an increase. There numbers are okay, within about \$300 of where they were for this current year. We can adjust as we get a little closer and look at their repayment to general fund for middle school purchase. He split the number in half, but you can change it later if you like.

Mayor Wright asked if Davis could give highlights of where we are on the rental deal. Davis stated the Arts & Crafts lease had been done by the attorney. It mirrors the Andy Millard Depot lease. The attorney had changed a few things based on the manager's comments. Once it is finalized it will come before the board and then to PARTF for their review. Only after PARTF has looked at it, will the Arts & Crafts see it. Anticipating July or August deal. The biggest thing that you will see will be the repairs listed for each year. PARTF has agreed to work with us in anyway. Other than that there are no major issues at Harmon Field. Commissioner Baker stated that Harmon Field is in better financial shape than it was last year. Davis stated that he has asked their board if there was anything that they needed increased. They have no capital outlay projects. Mulch is about \$1500-2000 every two years for the playground. Most of the playground equipment repairs is being funded by the Rotary. Baker stated that the Dallara project is still being talked about. They have added a splash pad. Mr. Byington will be attending the June Harmon Field Board meeting to give an update. The big fund raiser is in July and then they will know if it is attainable. Baker stated that they have to leave money for the maintenance.

Miller asked about the insurance increase. Davis stated that the previous employee declined insurance and with the new budget we will have two full-time employees with insurance.

Mayor Wright entertained a motion to approve the Harmon Field Budget without a tax increase. Commissioner Baker so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING: FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET

Town Manager Davis stated that the Fire Department has different options on the tax increase. When the Fire Tax Commission met they decided on a three cent tax increase. He split it out to show you the different options. There has not been a tax increase since the early 1990's. Baker asked what a three cent increase on a \$100,000 home was. Davis stated two cents on a \$200,000 appraisal is \$136 a year. Baker stated that on a \$100,000 it would be approximately sixty seven dollars. There was discussion on four cents, three cents and two cents. Baker stated if you could put away some money for sleeping quarters that would be good. He is against the one and half cents. He asked what if you did two cents. Davis stated that would give you some room, depending on the tax collections. Baker stated that if you could put away \$15,000 to \$20,000 a year for the next three or four years, then he feels the board would be doing their job in his opinion. Davis stated that he has to look at apparatus and a new truck. This would take some time.

Mayor Wright asked if you did the two cents would you eliminate one of the projects entirely or spread them out further. Davis stated that he would have to spread them out further. You've talked about cost sharing with the police. Miller asked what type of number are you looking at for the beds upstairs? Davis stated that we are waiting on Dean Trakas for the design, but the biggest thing will be an elevator. Baker suggested figuring \$80 a square foot, maybe 5,000 square feet (\$300,000). Davis stated not a bad payment spread out for years.

Miller asked about the foothills fire tax. Davis stated that you can only raise it by two tenths a mil. Landrum wants to break away from them to set their own fire tax. Baker asked what would happen if we told them we needed an increase. Davis stated they ask each year about our tax rate. The \$25,000 a year that we get is pretty good considering we are only running about thirty calls a year. Legislation might could be changed.

Ingham asked about the contingency. Davis stated the numbers are in there in theory to make the budget balance, for a future vehicle payment or sleeping quarter's payment. Three cent increase is about \$90,000 for the fire department, one cent personnel, one cent truck payment and one cent sleeping quarter's payment. It's not allocated at this time because he doesn't have rates yet. Baker asked about the current tax rate. Davis stated .048 cents per \$100. Baker stated \$4.80 per \$1,000. Ingham stated he needed to know how to answer questions when asked.

Miller asked about the salary increase. Davis stated that includes a full-time employee, with part-time employees included to fill in when he needs help or is off. Miller would like to see a \$5,000 decrease in part-time employees.

Davis explained details on the two new vehicles. Currently the fire department would be paying for the new vehicle that the fire chief/manager would drive with financing at 1.75% at Macon Bank. The prices for the community development vehicle is \$21,192, the used vehicle for fire \$34,131 plus equipment or the new vehicle for fire is \$41,490 plus equipment. At one point if you separate the manager position

and the fire chief position, then it could be used as the manager's vehicle. Baker stated he should buy the new vehicle for the fire chief/manager position. The community development vehicle could be cost shared between departments.

The Board agreed to purchase the 2012 vehicle for the community development employee and the 2015 fire vehicle.

Commissioner Baker made a motion to ask for the three cents on the fire tax with contingencies discussed. The motion carried unanimously.

Davis stated that he would let the board know when he is going before the Polk County Board to ask for the three cents, if some of the board members would like to be there for support.

ADJOURN

Mayor Pro Tem Miller made a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Jim T. Wright, Mayor

Attest:

Susan B. Bell, Town Clerk