

**TOWN OF TRYON  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL MEETING-BUDGET WORK SESSION  
APRIL 19, 2016 4:00 P.M.  
TOWN HALL - MCCOWN ROOM**

Present: Mayor J. Alan Peoples      Mayor Pro Tem Bill Ingham  
Commissioners: Bill Crowell, Roy Miller, Crys Armbrust

Staff Present: Town Manager Joey Davis      Town Clerk Susan Bell  
Comm. Dev. Dir. Paula Kempton

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Peoples called the meeting to order at 4:27 p.m.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Town Manager Davis stated if the Board wants him to ask for the tax increase for the fire department he will have to go before the Polk County Board. The property evaluation will be done by next year. You are not obligated to go with revenue neutral. Mayor Peoples stated you have promised 24 hour coverage to the people. How do we do that with what we have? Davis stated if you eliminate the sleeping quarters you could do it. You would have to work with the numbers, but he could do it. He would have two full time and then part-timers. Peoples asked didn't the general fund balance out the budget for the fire department recently. Davis stated last year. Peoples asked if a plan was setup to repay the general fund. Davis stated it is supposed to be and you will probably see it again this year. He will put a number in the budget  
Crowell asked if he was going to dip into general fund again this year. Davis stated absolutely. Crowell stated then he needs more money or cut something.

Miller came in at 4:35.

Peoples asked about the priorities. Davis stated:

1. Manpower
2. Sleeping quarters
3. Fire Truck

He could ask for the one cent and see what the county says. The SAFER grant will help give funds for a full time position. Miller asked how many employees you have? Davis stated one full time and part timers. One cent covers one full time position. Basically you have two months to decide.

## HARMON FIELD

Davis stated the Harmon Field Board is not requesting a tax increase. HF Supervisor Aldred has a concern that he needs to replace the reel mower (\$28,000). He could get financing or you could take out of general fund balance and let them repay the general fund. Ingham asked how much could they pay back. Davis stated around \$7,000 a year. The other thing is the Middle School building. PARTF is asking about our appraisal. The state can send someone out to do their own appraisal. Tryon Arts & Crafts is interested, but they don't have a quarter of a million dollars. Davis asked CDD Kempton to get in touch with the state to get them to come in and do their appraisal.

Crowell asked about the BBQ festival. Davis stated they are working on the new contract. He will print out the contract that they are working on and send to the board. Previous Manager Hembree asked to see the books, but he never got to see them. The festival pays for police protection, water and electricity. The fire department is there because citizens expect a level of service and this is done as in-kind services. Crowell stated attendance is dropping every year. Davis stated he will bring back the final contract to the board in May.

Armbrust came in at 4:53.

Davis asked how the board would like for him to get the mower. Peoples stated you will have to find out the rates and payments. Miller asked about the use of the soccer fields. Davis stated the rental fees \$1600 for Polk County this year. You are going to spend more on maintenance that you will get in fees. Crowell asked about the horse shows. Davis stated Blue Ridge Hunter Jumper Association had renegotiated their contract. Their group pays for new items or just replacing items. The town insurance pays for damages, such as the roof blowing off the stables. Their money pays for the horse show area only.

Armbrust would like to strongly urge Harmon Field Board to do RV rentals. The average for other communities is \$150,000. Davis stated that you have the RV rentals for the BBQ festival. You would have to decide if you are going to allow dumping or have a dumping station. He has talked with Attorney Nager about the rezoning. You would be surprised at the number of people that have called for RV rentals. Harmon Field had negative comments on this. Crowell stated they have also been called about bike tours. Davis stated that this is something that you would like to continue dialogue on. The Board agreed.

Davis stated a couple of weeks ago the Polk County Recreation Director came to the meeting to discuss another soccer field. Kempton could look for grants to help with the funding. The Recreation Director asked for artificial turf on a field and seems to think that Harmon Field will pay for this. Davis has talked with the county manager about helping and he couldn't commit to anything at this time.

Miller brought up the idea of putting up a gate at Harmon Field and making people get a permit to use the field to help raise money. Ingham stated that takes the friendly out of Harmon Field.

He has spent a lot time in parks in Greenville and Spartanburg counties. Crowell stated when you go into a state park you pay three dollars.

Miller stated it is a unique park that doesn't have baseball now. Crowell asked how did we lose it? Davis stated that it was with the change of the recreation directors. The fields are too small to hold tournaments, but if one of the fields was expanded, Harmon Field could drop to two fields and softball, baseball may return. Miller stated that those fields are underutilized.

#### **TDDA**

Davis asked Jamie Carpenter, TDDA Director if they will be asking for a financial contribution. Carpenter stated yes about \$12,000. She will bring back a demonstration and present at a later meeting. Armbrust asked what would be the benefit to the Town. Carpenter stated facades, helping with signage-if the new ordinance is passed. It will take some of the financial burden of the businesses. Armbrust asked what commitments you have from the banks. Carpenter stated that they work on the same fiscal year. Parsec, financial institution is helping.

#### **TTDA**

Davis stated TTDA met couple of weeks ago and requested to bump up their budget numbers to use more for advertising. They requested that you take a look at this in December to see if working. Armbrust stated it seems to me that they should have access to the full amount and operate on a zero based budget. Davis stated they seem confident that this is going to work. The numbers have increased because of the Airbnb. Armbrust asked what percentage did that cover. Davis couldn't tell him. Armbrust stated the time is right to add the food and beverage tax. This is the means to Landrum banking \$175,000 a year to promote Landrum. Crowell stated he had asked for this several years ago. Carpenter stated she can help with going to businesses to get them to buy into this. Miller stated it should be a collaborative effort. The Board asked Kempton to check with the attorney.

#### **SANITATION**

Davis stated he had talked with Sanitation Supervisor Miller about collecting the Town of Columbus garbage. The company that they currently have charges \$60,000 a year and Miller feels that he can do it for this price. Sanitation department will need a fourth person and eventually they will have to talk about a new truck. He asked before he sends the proposal does this sound okay with the board. Ingham stated he doesn't want to do this if it is going to be an wash. Ingham stated you need to include maintenance, gas, tires and tipping fees. Peoples stated he would like to see a three year contract with yearly renewals. Crowell stated increasing gas prices needs to be taken into consideration. Davis stated he hasn't seen numbers, but Saluda may be interested in the same thing.

**MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

Armbrust asked about the insurance request from Gary Walker. Davis stated the attorney is working on this. Raises for Commissioners (\$50) and selling the maintenance shed was discussed. Miller stated the reason he had brought up naming an assistant manager was because when the manager is out of the office and checks need to be signed or a decision needs to be made, then someone needs to be in charge. He asked that everyone think about this.

**ADJOURN**

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Crowell so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

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J. Alan Peoples, Mayor

Attest:

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Susan B. Bell, Town Clerk