

**TOWN OF TRYON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING-BUDGET WORK SESSION
MAY 17, 2016 3:00 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

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Peoples called the meeting to order.

Town Manager Davis welcomed TDDA Executive Director Jamie Carpenter to the meeting and asked if she would like to go first. Carpenter stated that TDDA is requesting \$12,000 from the town. It will help the relationship with the Town of Tryon and Polk County Community Foundation. For them to be nationally accredited as a Main Street, then they have to have support from the town. This is the one mark that was against us this year. TDDA had the support of the Community Foundation. Wanda May asked when their request would be approved. Mayor Peoples stated by the end of June.

Town Manager Davis stated that if you gave TDDA \$12,000 and went with the 100% paid insurance, then you are looking at placing \$8,300 in fund balance. He expects the sales tax numbers to be higher than he has projected. The Board knew at some point that TDDA would be asking for financial support.

Commissioner Armbrust stated that \$12,000 has been allowed for streetscape. He doesn't think a monthly disbursement would be a bad idea, but he doesn't want the money to be used for operating expenses, beer, alcohol, etc. Davis stated that we could have an agreement signed. Mayor Peoples suggested \$700 a month.

Davis stated that the insurance broker met with us this week and stated that our insurance premiums are going up on our employees about 15%. It will add about \$777 increase per employee. Town Clerk Bell stated that over the last five years the town has saved over \$100,000 with our insurance. Davis stated that you have several options. You could fund it at 100%, you could fund it at a split 90% to 10% or 80% to 20%. You could cover this year and say no employee raises, because your insurance went up. He learned today that one of police employees will be leaving in August, you could freeze that position. The Board felt that would be a good idea, considering the complaints that they have had.

Commissioner Ingham stated that he would like to rescind his request for a raise for commissioners. He hates to give them a raise and not employees.

Mayor Peoples stated that we need to look at dental and vision also. Ingham stated let's fund it and have employee meetings. Give it a year and let's see. Crowell stated that the employees are getting a

raise with their insurance. It was decided to hold meetings with employees to see what they think. Davis stated that he wants the new manager to get here and see what he suggests.

Leaf Pickup

Davis asked if the board wanted to do the leaf pickup in house or outsource it. He stated that we've always received complaints about the leaf pickup. Crowell stated that we shouldn't outsource. Ingham agreed that it should be done in house. The crew could take one or two days a week and pick up leaves only.

Public Works Director

Davis asked who would be in charge of public works on July 1. Ingham suggested letting the supervisors report to the manager. Davis stated that it would save a lot of money. Crowell stated the manager could be the public works director, he needs to be strong and unlock the gate at public works every morning.

Street

Davis told Street Supervisor Morse to get a quote for a new mower. He asked if the board would like to see financing proposals or not. The cost is roughly \$100,000 for a new mower. Repairs would cost approximately \$9,000. The Town of Columbus has one that they will loan us. Ingham stated it wouldn't cost us anymore to fix it for a year and see what happens. Peoples asked how many front end loaders do we have. Davis stated two. The Board agreed to make repairs and see what happens.

Sanitation

Davis stated that we are still waiting on Columbus to decide about the sanitation contract. You could leave the rates the same and take another look at them in January if Columbus doesn't come through. Armbrust asked if we were making money off the recycling. Davis stated some, the revenues fluctuates.

Water Distribution and Water Plant

Davis stated that based on the revenue this department will come out \$23,000 to the good. One position that has been talked about is the meter reader (\$47,361). The position has been looked at before when looking at a reduction in force. There is one position at the water plant that could be looked at. He could retire at any time. Part-timers at the fire department could be used as meter readers. Half of the time could be at the fire department and half of his time he could do meter reading. Turn on and turn offs was discussed and knowing where the meters were located.

Sewer

Davis stated that Deborah is looking at retiring early. Ronnie Pack could run the plant if she retires, while Chris gets his certification. Davis stated there is no fluff in the sewer plant budget.

Commissioner Miller came in at 3:40. Davis stated money is tight in her budget. Ingham stated you have Ronnie, Chris and Deborah with Deborah and Chris as full time. Davis stated Chris position was split between the sewer and street department. If you would like for me to get new numbers from Deborah he will. The board agreed to at least look at this.

Water

Davis stated in discussing the meter reader position, you could split with the fire department. Half the time he could be doing inspections for the fire department and the other half he could do the meter reader position. This position usually handles the turn on and offs and if you had a map of everything it could be done.

Miller stated that the water plant has three in house people and asked if Andrew could read the meters or maybe Adrian could be cross trained. Davis stated that it could be done, but what if you have a water line break and you are reading meters, you might have a problem.

Miller stated that if you didn't fill the three positions you could save \$150,000. He had concerns about the public works and who they report to. Davis stated that was discussed earlier and public works would report to the new manager. Armbrust wanted weekly reports.

Summary

Davis stated that you agreed with the General Fund increasing the insurance and covering at 100%. Then you will meet with the employees to see what needs to be eliminated if anything. The increase is \$777 per person and there will be no raises. Leaf pickup will be done in house. Public Works supervisors will report to the new manager and freeze the police opening. Ingham stated that if there becomes a safety issue then they could call the sheriff's office for backup. Miller stated that the meth labs are increasing daily. If the county officers are down on highway 9 or in Sunny View then it will take some time to get to us.

Davis stated that it is agreed to fund \$700 a month to the TDDA, along with conditions. They have to show they are making progress. Armbrust stated that the town has offered TDDA a free space. Miller stated they are running the Main Street Program and partnering with the Town. He agrees with the idea of \$700 a month for six months and do a re-evaluation. TDDA is moving into one of the offices in John Garguilo's building. The Board agreed to the \$700 a month for six months and re-evaluate them at that time. The Board also wants TDDA in our building.

Sanitation there are no changes. He is assuming that the deal with Columbus goes through and you will look again at the rates in January.

Davis asked what the board wanted to do with the meter reader position. Peoples stated that he thought they were moving Adrian to street. Miller stated that he didn't think moving Adrian is a good idea. Make the position meter reader half the time and the other part as street department. Ingham stated half time meter reader and half time sewer plant operator and get certification, if Deborah retires. Davis will ask Deborah to bring new numbers. He will also ask Roger Durham about retirement. You will have to hire someone else at the water plant if he took it. The savings will be at an entry level person. Miller stated that Roger and Deborah are great workers.

Davis stated that we've decided to make the repairs on the side mower and talk about the issue later. Columbus wouldn't charge us because we haven't charged them for the use of our bucket truck. Let's get through grass cutting season and then take a look at it again.

Davis was asked to get the state to cut the right-of-way. Maybe they will help us out some. Davis stated that they will be cutting right-of-ways soon because of the BBQ festival.

ADJOURN

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

J. Alan Peoples, Mayor

Attest:

Susan B. Bell, Town Clerk