

**TOWN OF TRYON  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
JUNE 21, 2016 7:00 P.M.  
TOWN HALL - MCCOWN ROOM**

Present: Mayor J. Alan Peoples                      Mayor Pro Tem Bill Ingham

Commissioners: Roy Miller, Bill Crowell, Crys Armbrust

Staff Present: Town Manager Joey Davis      Town Clerk Susan Bell  
                    Police Chief Jeff Arrowood      Comm. Dev. Dir. Paula Kempton  
                    Attorney Bailey Nager

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Peoples called the meeting to order. Commissioner Miller asked for a moment of silence for the victims of the Orlando shooting and our government, both locally and nationally. Commissioner Crowell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**AGENDA ADOPTION**

Mayor Peoples asked if there were any additions or deletions to the proposed agenda. Mayor Peoples stated 7a the sale of the building at 289 S. Trade Street, 7b Museum Update from Happy McLeod, and 14b Closed session for personnel. Town Manager Davis stated that he requested the Board recess this meeting instead of adjourning. Commissioner Miller made a motion to adopt the agenda with the additions. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA ADOPTION**

Mayor Peoples asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Consent Agenda, which includes the minutes and Order of Collection for the Tax Collector, Pam Justice. Being none he entertained a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Miller so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

**APPOINTMENT(S) TO TOURISM AUTHORITY**

Town Manager Davis stated that you have two applications before you for the Tourism Authority. Town Clerk Bell stated that one appointment had resigned, one's term is expiring and Bill Crowell is the Board of Commissioner appointment and his term needs to be re-appointed if he so desires. Commissioner Crowell stated that he would like to remain on the board. The Board agreed. Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to appoint Dan Ferebee and Steve Hammett to the Tourism Development Authority. Commissioner Crowell so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

### **APPOINTMENT(S) TO HARMON FIELD BOARD**

Town Manager Davis stated that you have two applications before you for the Harmon Field Board. Both applicants wish to be re-appointed. One is a four year appointment and one is for the two year appointment. Commissioner Crowell asked if this had been advertised. Bell stated yes. Commissioner Armbrust asked if the board could appoint someone to the board that lives outside the town limits. Davis stated that the applicant has to live in the Tryon Township and pay the taxes. Mayor Peoples asked if this could be re-advertised. Attorney Nager stated yes. Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to table this appointment. Commissioner Crowell so moved. The motion carried unanimously. The Board directed the clerk to re-advertise.

### **SALE OF 289 S. TRADE STREET**

Community Development Director Kempton stated that Jeff Byrd has the listing for 289 S. Trade Street and has an offer for the building. Mr. Byrd stated that in May he had some folks that were looking for a place for their business. He thanked the board for the opportunity to sell the building. He had 15-18 showings. He has an offer of \$95,000 and to close on July 15. Mayor Peoples asked if this had to be advertised for 30 calendar days. Attorney Nager stated that the first step is if there is an offer that is acceptable to you then you have to pass a resolution with that offer and then it has to be published for ten or thirty days. Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to accept this offer of \$95, 000 as presented by Jeff Byrd for 289 S. Trade Street. Commissioner Ingham so moved. The motion carried unanimously. Davis stated that Attorney Nager could look to see how long it has to be advertised and let him know.

### **MUSEUM UPDATE**

Happy McLeod with the Tryon Museum presented the board with a basket of fruit as a thank you. The joint effort of the Tryon Downtown Development Association, the Museum and the Town of Tryon is appreciated. There is an Olde English Proverb that states "You don't know where you are going until you know where you have been." This has become the motto of the Tryon Historical Museum. The Museum has set hours for the public, Thursday – Saturday from 11:00 until 4:00 and by appointment. She told the history, their accomplishments and their plans for the future of the museum.

### **PUBLIC HEARING: SIGN ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**

Mayor Peoples opened the public hearing on the sign ordinance. Town Manager Davis stated that we've had a lot of ongoing debates on how to regulate sandwich boards in the central business district. Davis stated that CDD Kempton had talked with business owners and received a lot of feedback. She and the Planning Board came up with: 11) Sandwich board signs are allowed in the Central Business District provided that they shall not exceed 6 square feet on any individual face or 12 square feet in the aggregate of all faces, and their placement must leave at least 4 feet of sidewalk clearance for pedestrian traffic. Commissioner Armbrust asked if Kempton is okay with this text. Davis stated yes. Mayor Peoples stated that this has went through the planning board and received many comments from businesses. Many of the business owners are here this evening. Joyce Kimpton asked, how wide are our sidewalks? Mayor Pro Tem Ingham stated some are eight feet, some are six feet. Mayor Peoples stated that the signs sit parallel to the building. Miriam Ray asked where does this ordinance stop and start. Davis stated in the Central Business District, from Stott's Ford to New Market. Then up Pacolet Street. Ms. Ray asked, who does she talk to if she wants a sign. Davis stated Kempton.

Mayor Peoples closed the Public Hearing. He entertained a motion to approve the sign ordinance amendment: Sandwich board signs are allowed in the Central Business District provided that they shall not exceed 6 square feet on any individual face or 12 square feet in the aggregate of all faces, and their placement must leave at least 4 feet of sidewalk clearance for pedestrian traffic. Commissioner Miller so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

### **PUBLIC HEARING: FY 16-17 BUDGET**

Mayor Peoples opened the Public Hearing on FY 16-17 Budget. Town Manager Davis stated that it's always a learning curve when you bring in new council and this was a good year.

The FY16-17 budget has no property tax increase, no fire tax increase, no water & sewer rate increase, no sanitation rate increase, except a \$15 fee for television disposal. Overall the General Fund revenues have done pretty good. Sales tax numbers look pretty good. When a new manager is hired he recommended he look at the numbers again in December, especially the water & sewer and sanitation rates. He thanked the board and staff.

This is the first time since Justin Hembree that the town has had to look at an increase for employee insurance, which is about \$800 per employee per year. There is no proposed employee raises at this time, not saying that Council can come back and look at this later, depending on how our revenue numbers look a little further in the year. It does include the removal of fund balance to pay for the sidewalks and a repayment plan to pay back the fund balance. We're going to take money out, do the sidewalks and then start paying it back. This meeting will be recessed until Tuesday morning. In public works, the discussion continues concerning early retirement, he needs to know what he needs to do with that.

Mayor Peoples asked how many trash pickups. Bell stated maybe 1000. Peoples suggested a twenty-five cent increase. Davis stated that Polk had increased tipping fees. Recycling helps. For years the Sanitation department ran for an expense on the general fund. It was changed around 2002 to an Enterprise Fund. Peoples stated that if we outsource this, we will still get the complaints.

Armbrust asked what the anticipated date was for a decision from Columbus. Leah Justice stated that their budget had been adopted and it didn't include Tryon. Armbrust stated it would require us to hire a new employee and he is against that. Commissioner Miller asked if we had a solid number on the sanitation. The board will study this and make a decision on Tuesday.

Miller asked if we asked the county for a tax increase for the Fire Department. Davis stated that last year we looked at a three cents increase. They gave us two cents. So this board advised him to go back to the county again. He did and didn't receive an increase.

Peoples asked if there were any other funds that we are going to have to pull funds for to balance the budget. Davis stated Fire Department and Sanitation. The Fire Department has already been working on the numbers to pay you back and he is going to propose something else here in just a minute. Peoples stated that he wants to see every department balanced next year and it needs to be done with what we have. Davis stated that the numbers look a little rosier next year. With him moving back to the Fire Department that opens them back up to some grant opportunities that we didn't have with limited staff. They offer salary packages that are big numbers that will be a savings for them. He is very optimistic for next year. Peoples stated that he would like to see it balanced for next year.

Miller asked about a budget amendment. Town Clerk Bell is working with our auditor's to get the budget amendment done. Armbrust stated that the auditor's will see the numbers before us. Bell stated yes they have them now. Miller asked if all grants have been received. Davis stated no, his hadn't. Some will come in next year. He needs to have direction on personnel-early retirement.

Davis stated that the overall final numbers on the budget is \$4.3 million. That is a \$200,000 increase from this year, because of the transfer out of fund balance to cover your sidewalk projects. The tourism board has seen an increase in the occupancy taxes.

Armbrust stated as a reminder that the monies from the sale of 289 S. Trade Street building be designated to the sidewalk projects. Davis stated if the offer goes through then you will do a budget amendment. Peoples stated that the building was given to the Town, once sold, it will go back on the tax scrolls.

Wanda May asked when you took money out of fund balance to do the sidewalks, what percentage of fund balance is left. Davis stated that we are still above the minimum required percentage. Davis stated that there was \$500,000. Peoples stated about sixteen percent. He knows that a letter from the state will come. He also wanted to get the work downtown done, without raising taxes. Davis stated that he probably would have fought tooth and nail if he thought the fund balance would be jeopardize. Fund balance is set aside so that you have money to cover everything if something falls apart. Typically it covers a month and a half of expenses. Some places have a lot more in fund balance.

Being no more comments, Mayor Peoples closed the public hearing.

### **FINANCING PROPOSAL FOR BRUSH TRUCK**

Town Manager Davis stated that this is kind of a reminder, remember several years ago the board entered a contract to purchase a brush truck. It has been used more under his tenure. A couple of weeks ago a used truck came up for sale. He was on the committee that designed this truck. He took Tank to see the truck, drove it and it's in good shape and can do a lot of things that ours can't and it may save the life of Engine 1. Perry, from Oak Grove thought he might could give them a good deal on the truck. The current brush truck that they have has been appraised. Green Creek Fire Department has expressed a solid interest in the truck. If you finance the truck, the payment is \$10,000 a year starting next year and the Fire Department can handle that payment. He sells the current truck for \$20,000, the Fire Department will turn around and give that payment to the General Fund as part of their shortfall. It's a 2004 with 19,000 miles on it, has a bigger water tank, better phone system, a three quarter compression line and a compartment space that they can much better utilize.

Mayor Pro Tem Ingham stated that it's not that we don't want to do this. You said the payments would start in a year and the Fire Department can cover the payments. Davis stated yes sir, its \$10,000 a year. Ingham stated it's like the mayor said you have to stay within your budget. Davis stated looking at those numbers he could do that.

Armbrust made the suggestion that we table this until we have a discussion about the overages in the Fire Department budget and then we can reconcile the numbers and bring it back on Tuesday. Everyone agreed.

## **BUDGET AMENDMENT**

Town Manager Davis stated that this will be discussed next Tuesday. Mayor Peoples stated that we have a budget amendment that will be brought back to us to help fix our overages.

## **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

Town Manager Davis stated the Blue Ridge Barbeque Festival went well. They are dealing with a wreck incident and repairs. They don't have the numbers yet for the attendance. Remember next year that you will have to consider a new contract with the Chamber. He thanked the public works staff for getting the field looking good. Thanks to the Fire Department and Chief Arrowood's crew for being at the festival. Summer Tracks is well underway. At the next meeting in August there will be only one concert left. Come and enjoy the music. Town Council will not meet in July, unless they hire a new town manager. The Visitor's Center is open and running. Anne Day stated they are looking for volunteers for an hour and a half shifts. Right now they are open Friday and Saturdays 10:00-2:30 and Sunday 12:00-3:00. Davis reminded everyone that this Sunday is the Farm to Table event. TDDA Director Jamie Carpenter stated they closed their ticket sales yesterday with 260 sold. They will have a few to be purchased at the event in case you missed the cut off date. They have a lot of generous contributions, meat and produce from local farmers. All the restaurants are helping, especially Huckleberry's. There will be live music and beer to purchase. She also wanted to thank the Polk County Community Foundation and TFAC for their help with the community event. She reminded everyone the day after the event will be our Board meeting.

## **COUNCIL/MAYOR REPORT**

Commissioner Miller thanked Anne Day and Michaila Cowles for opening the Visitors Center. This is the perfect opportunity to thank the citizens and businesses for supporting our government. The Board is in search of a new town manager. Those of you who watch FOX news in the morning. The picture that they are showing is of the Equestrian center, but Tryon did get mentioned. He thanked the volunteers.

Commissioner Armbrust thanked everyone involved in opening the Visitors Center. He then thanked NCDOT for implementing the three pedestrian crosswalks that will be stained and stamped. This request was made last April and May. It's a wonderful example of your tax dollars coming back to help our community. The money comes from the NCDOT small construction fund. The cost is approximately \$24,000. Thank NCDOT. He would like to make the request that we reinstitute the monthly grant reports. He feels that it is a valuable tracking information, not only for this board, but for the citizens. He thanked everyone for coming out tonight.

Commissioner Crowell thanked TDDA for everything going on in town. He thanked Anne Day and Wanda May for their efforts with the visitors center, Happy McLeod with the museum opening. Hopefully with better marketing there will be more people on the streets and this will bring a healthy retail. He encouraged people to shop local.

Mayor Pro Tem Ingham stated there is construction in town, he listened to the Firecracker Jazz band Friday night, Farm to Table, the barbeque festival, the Museum with regular hours and the Visitors Center has regular hours. There is a feel that things are looking up. He appreciates everyone's co-operation.

Happy McLeod stated the museum tracks their visitors and where they come from. They have had over 500 visitors since the opening in September. Peoples stated that a percentage of people will eat, buy gas and come back.

Mayor Peoples stated that we are looking for a new town manager, received 35 applications, some have withdrawn, have a few more interviews to go and if we don't like those then we will re-advertise. The Board wants to find the right person. He went to Huckleberry's to get something to eat, wanted coffee so he went to the coffee shop, needed a prescription filled so he went to our drug store, needed to buy a book, so he went to the local book store. He loves cracker jacks so he went to Happy Fish. Shop local and this will help keep your taxes lower.

### **CITIZEN COMMENTS & RESPONSES**

Colleen O'hara, at 110 E. Howard Street, stated the traffic speeds passed her house. Children live here and she would like to ask for speed bumps to be installed while the repaving of that section of Howard Street is being done. Her neighbors were also in attendance. Mayor Peoples stated that this needs to be addressed with the Town Manager and Police Chief. Chief Arrowood asked her to stop by the police department.

Anne Day thanked Chief Davis, the Columbus Fire Department, the Saluda Fire Department and the gas department for checking on a natural gas smell near her house. It wasn't at her house, it was at her neighbors and she thanked them for the quick response. There were nine firemen there.

Joyce Kimpton stated that the speed bumps don't work. They have them on her street and the cars still speed by. Last week her garbage pickup was at 7:30. This week it was at 7:20 or so. She asked what time is garbage pickup. Town Clerk Bell stated that garbage has to be out at 7:00. Kimpton stated that it is getting earlier and earlier. In the winter time it is around 8:30 or 9:00. Mayor Pro Tem Ingham stated if they miss you, call and they will come back and pick it up.

Jerry Soderquist, Chairman of the Cemetery Committee thanked the Mayor and Susan for coordinating the grass cutting and the volunteers that placed the seventy flags on the veteran's graves for Memorial Day. Commissioner Miller asked about the \$8500 for Parks and Cemeteries. He asked if they were going to replace the head stones. Mayor Peoples stated that someone had looked at the cemetery and said it would cost approximately \$50,000 to replace the head stones. The \$8500 is set aside to help with grass cutting. We are trying to get it cleaned up and then we are going to work on fundraisers. Miller stated that we should invest money in the head stones, especially if we are trying to make it aesthetically pleasing. Some have been broken for thirty years. Mr. Soderquist stated that the cemetery has many issues. This committee was just recently reorganized. The committee is picking and choosing what we can do right now. Cemeteries are a place that people can visit and get history. Miller suggested getting a cost to replace head stones and bring it back to the board. Mr. Soderquist stated as we go through this maybe we can come back to you and ask for matching grant funds. Peoples stated that he received a call from a man recently who was visiting from Louisiana looking for his mother's grave. He got out his cemetery book to help find his mother's name. Found it, let the gentleman know where to look. He then went to the barbeque festival and there the man was, spending money in our town.

Peter Piacente asked when you get the crosswalks finished could you get the signs that say stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk. The driver's aren't paying attention to the pedestrians crossing. Davis stated that NCDOT has certain regulations for the signage.

Stephen King with the Thermal Belt Tennis Association asked about replacing the tennis courts. Davis stated we have claims for replacing the entire court. The colors will be different if it's not all replaced. He received a call this afternoon from the insurance company to let us know that they had received the quotes. Hopefully we will have some resolution soon.

Armbrust asked if he could make a comment as a private citizen. He would like to make the suggestion that the loading zone only signs be changed to add between 8:00 and 5:00 and thereafter regular parking. Need to do an overlay of lines to show this. Chief Arrowood stated we need to do an ordinance change. Davis stated that there is money allocated for the striping of the parking areas. Armbrust stated that he is appalled at the striping on New Market Road. Davis stated that he has a second quote on those.

Ms. Kimpton stated that she thinks we are missing the boat on the cemetery. Some of our founding fathers are buried in the cemetery. She would like some history on the cemetery and maybe an article in the bulletin. Mr. Soderquist stated that we are exploring the idea.

#### **MOTION TO CONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION**

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to enter closed session to discuss personnel. Commissioner Crowell so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **MOTION TO RECESS MEETING**

Mayor Pro Tem Ingham made a motion to recess the meeting until Tuesday, June 28, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' meeting room. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION ON JUNE 28, 2016 AT 10:00 A.M.**

Mayor Peoples called the recessed meeting to order.

Town Manager Davis stated Susan has passed out the meeting schedule. He pointed out the December meeting is five days before Christmas. Everyone agreed to the week before, December 13, 2016. Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to approve the meeting dates for FY16-17. Commissioner Miller so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

Davis stated that on the Harmon Field appointments, recall at your last meeting, two appointments were up, Jim Patterson and Linda Ligon, along with the resignation of Libbie Johnson, who is moving out of town. Town Clerk Bell stated the applicants are Carolyn West and Dennis Nagle.

Commissioner Miller made a motion to appoint Dennis Nagle to the four year appointment, Carolyn West to finish out Libbie Johnson's term and Jim Patterson as the two year appointment. The motion carried unanimously.

Davis stated that next you have to discuss the upset bid process. Attorney Nager stated that you were presented at the last meeting an offer to purchase the building on 289 S. Trade Street, but a bid deposit was needed to go along with offer. We now have the bid deposit. We've received the offer now it needs to be published on Thursday, this starts the upset bid process. If no bids are received then you could close on July 15<sup>th</sup>. He understands that there is an upset bid coming. Your options are to accept the high bid or say you are not going to sell the property. Mayor Peoples asked if we could set up a time limit that they have to have remodeled and open within a certain number of days. Nager stated that he doesn't think so. Nager asked if you are anticipating an upset bid. Armbrust stated yes. Nager stated that at the end of the upset bid process, then it will start again if another bid is received. Armbrust stated the sidewalks are going to benefit.

Armbrust stated that Mr. Lynch wants to have his business and residence located in the building. Miller asked if it was too late for him to ask if it is sold "as is". Some were asking about mold abatement, etc. Nager stated it will be sold as is.

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to accept the resolution authorizing the upset bid process with the modifications there now to state that it will be a sealed bid process rather than the first upset bid will restart the process. Commissioner Miller so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

Town Manager Davis stated that Bell had sent it to auditor's twice with no response. He asked if Bell had anything. Bell stated she wasn't sure about the sanitation department, but thought General Fund needed to transfer money to them. Last year we transferred money and they have a fund balance. We are transferring \$26,000 to them. She would check with the auditors to be sure on this. She stated that we are also transferring \$108,641 to the Fire Department. The Powell Bill fund increased because more revenues came in. The Water & Sewer Fund increased \$80,511. Distribution had a \$67,000 increase partly because of the new vehicle (\$23,231) and the supplies increase. Water Plant increased \$17,426. Sewer Plant is in good shape. Sewer Collection increased because of their part of the new vehicle (\$23,231). The installment purchases decreased.

Mayor Peoples stated that this is for FY15-16. Davis stated yes. Bell stated that Harmon Field had \$1000 came in for picnic tables, but it doesn't include the grant that was just received.

Miller asked about the contracted services in department 4510. Bell stated that the street line items went over because of the purchase of two snow plows and two sand spreaders.

Armbrust would like to see the police department broken out by line item. He asked if Davis could tell them how he plans to reimburse the \$108,641 overage. Davis stated that he would explain that with the new budget.

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to adopt the budget amendment. Miller suggested a few more minutes to look over the numbers. Peoples stated that this is based on what the clerk finds out from the auditors on the sanitation. Commissioner Miller so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

Davis started on the FY16-17 budget. Bell asked if this was the same budget that was in the agenda packet. Davis stated no that it has changed a little bit. First of all the Mayor mentioned at the last meeting a twenty-five cent increase in the sanitation rates. This equates to a 1.25 percent increase. Polk County is increasing the tipping fees. Recycling is a good thing. What do you want to do with sanitation? Peoples stated that basically the increase will cover the tipping fees. Davis stated yes.

Everyone was good with a twenty-five cent increase. Bell stated that she had talked with Sanitation Supervisor Miller and he said the television recycling cost was for all electronics. Davis stated that he would list as all electronics. Miller asked if we could tag the white goods for disposal. Let's take a look again at this in January to get people ready for the new procedures. Davis asked if white goods were per year or per item. Miller stated per unit at a cost of \$10.

#### Water & Sewer

Davis stated that we can continue to work on the early retirement. Understand that he shows the position exists as a full time position for entire year. He bumped up the cemetery money. There is still \$25,000 in contingency and it includes the \$8400 transfer to TDDA. Miller asked if the Parks & Cemetery monies covered all the parks. Davis stated all but Harmon Field. Davis stated the costs covered tree cutting and stuff, but honestly his guys could do this. Bell asked if we were not hiring Thompson's to cut grass at the cemetery. Davis stated the idea was to let our guys handle the maintenance. One of the things the fire department will do is help cut the grass. Let's try it internally, instead of contracting that out. If we are doing a terrible job, then we need to address it then. Davis stated Gary Walker had told him that it took all employees two days to cut the grass.

Armbrust stated that Thompson's were to put photo sensors on the lights uptown, but haven't. Miller asked if Davis could follow up on the photo sensors. Armbrust stated that the lights add much to our downtown at night, but our citizens shouldn't be paying for them during the day.

Davis stated that the fire departments overage and how are they going to pay it back is the question. The annual repayments is about \$32,000 which with a little bit of math is about two fiscal years with assumptions. He is expecting \$21,000 from FEMA for Lake Lanier. That will drop you down to \$87,000. \$20,000 from the sale of the brush truck if you say yes to it. If you went through all of that \$35,641 would be left. He has a couple of grants that will be coming in in the upcoming budget that may potentially wipe that out. For example the salary grant is \$45,000 if it comes in. That would wipe out the debt. In theory he is 2 years off.

Mayor Peoples asked if this includes the \$60,000 from last year. Davis stated no, that would pick up the following year. The \$32,000 is doable regardless of whether you add the brush truck debt service or not. Regardless you are looking at two fiscal years past that, so within four years the fire department would be clear and free. Miller asked, what is the plan to bring the fire department in line with a balanced budget? Davis stated completely change the way he was accounting for stuff on his end and the other thing is some of the overages this year are one time purchases that aren't items that you have to turn around and replace. He did a zero based budget when he looked at his numbers and overages as far as what the bare minimum he would need to get by for next year. So he is actually putting money back in fund balance at the end of the upcoming fiscal year or he can use to pay you back quicker. They are a hundred percent confident that they will make this work, plus some of the grants tend to give you more preups when you ask for increases when you've gone over budget. He feels like some of the grants they haven't gotten in the past they will get and this will help offset it as well.

Miller stated that this board knows they have a great fire department and staff in general. What we don't want to see is spending for things that they know might not be needed. Mayor Peoples stated that this is a nice way of doing a little correcting. Miller stated that we want to bring it back in line. Someone had mentioned something about the ATV's. If both are not needed then we could sell one to offset the purchase of the truck. The Board wants you to have every possible tool and equipment to go out and save a life. Peoples stated that you need. Miller wants the people to be educated to save a life.

Davis talked with the firemen about doing as much with the other agencies as they can. So if his guys need to do leaf pickup or weed eating the cemetery they will. You guys have worked with us to make this a nice thing, so we want to intern express our gratitude there. Armbrust told him to track his hours for accounting purposes. Davis stated we want to be able to say the fire department presented a repayment plan that was agreed upon by these two agencies. Everyone agreed.

Davis stated when the town took money from the fire department, the town did right on their end and paid it back over a few fiscal years. Peoples stated that we wanted to pay back every dime that we owed to the fire department. Armbrust stated that's the story that needs to get to our citizens, because he's said this before and will say it again, as long as he sits in that chair, we are not obligated in any way, shape or form to provide fire service to our citizens or to provide police services to our citizens. They do this as a service to them. He also stated that we need to move forward. Davis stated when we get all this figured out in a minute, he will put it in a form so that the next manager will have it, so that he can budget them. Peoples stated that it was setup for the general fund to pay back over a period of twelve years he thought. Davis stated that he doesn't want to drag out the payments when they can do more. Miller stated that the town had to pay over \$300,000 back. It is a team effort from the board to the water plant and sewer plant. They can give constructive criticism to every department, but they need to put on a united front. He would love to see better accounting and better decisions made from the fire department. He does have a question, what is the deal with the Tahoe? Davis stated it is used for medical response and to pull their trailers. Miller asked if it stays at the fire department. Davis stated unless someone has it at school. Miller asked if they were looking at selling the explorer. Davis stated yes, we should keep the vehicle that is paid off. Crowell asked what year the brush truck is. Davis stated 2006, F350, four door, long bed. Crowell asked how many miles. Davis stated 31,090. If you are looking for the value add about \$5,000 to the value for the skid unit. Miller stated that the fire department should be utilized as a central point for public works and police during inclement weather. The one thing that we have done in the past, but it hasn't been utilized as much by the officers is transferring them around on the ATV or in the brush truck. In theory now they are going to have their new police explorer and their Tahoe. Miller stated that he doesn't want the citizens or council or anyone else to feel that it's a stand along department and that no one is welcome.

Town Clerk Bell asked what the final budget was for the fire department. Davis stated until they decide about the brush truck he doesn't know, but right now its \$383,509. Armbrust asked if they could take a five minute break. Miller stated that we do have the best fire department in the state. All departments, council and employees need to be a team.

Davis stated the question while on break was what it would cost to replace the truck. Anchor-Richey came in and looked at the truck. The one entity that is interested is Green Creek Fire Department. He would be willing to suffer the loss, because they are a mutual aid agency. Crowell stated the cost for a 2006 with 53,000 miles is \$27,900 without the equipment on the back which is another \$5,000. Miller stated that we've put vehicles on gov.deals. The brush truck was designed to go places that our large fire trucks couldn't get into. There are streets that an ambulance may not get into. Peoples stated that in 2006 it was what we needed and now it's not what we need. Davis stated that it doesn't necessarily meet the profile of what Tryon needs, based on the 10 years he has been fire chief. Ingham stated he would like to see them get the truck. Armbrust stated that he doesn't want not to support the new truck. Davis stated the advantage of purchasing the 2004 truck is that it was designed to work as a mini-pumper, which flows an inch and three-quarter line which is what is used to fight a house fire. The truck that you have now has a one inch booster line. He can't tell you at a 100% that either truck could or could not save a life. Armbrust stated that he doesn't want a 100%, maybe 90%. Davis stated 90% he

would support. Armbrust stated that he would support his request. Miller stated that he never has an issue when you are talking about saving a life. Peoples stated that the reservations that we have is because of the budget.

Davis read an e-mail from Attorney Nager: He recommends that you propose to the board that they adopt a resolution approving a set of procedures that would apply just for the sale of this particular truck that it would be sold to a local fire department for X number of dollars which is deemed to be fair market value and that there be no publishing of sale. If the resolution is that simple he doesn't feel that you need to write this up before the meeting and it could be just stated in the minutes. You could say that you want to sell to this agency for this amount of money and go from there.

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to sell the vehicle to the Green Creek Fire Department for the amount of \$25,000 and no publication shall be required. Mayor Pro Tem Ingham so moved. The motion carried unanimously. Peoples recommended that the \$25,000 be turned over to the town as part of the repayment.

Davis went over the proposals for FY16-17 Budget:

The budget in its entirety is \$4.3 million with sanitation rates increasing 1.25%, \$15 fee for electronics mirroring fees from Polk County and on January 1 start charging for white goods. Continue to work on early retirement in the water & sewer fund. He's frozen the police position, the board is hiring a new manager, approved the amount to TDDA, approved the sale of the brush truck and the purchase of the 2004 brush truck with the LGFCU at an interest rate of 2.25%.

Armbrust asked on page 5 of 10 Section 21:

- (A) The Town Manager may transfer amounts between line-item expenditures within a department without limitation. The Town Manager must make an official report on such transfers at the next regular meeting of the Governing Board.

Davis stated that wording came from the previous manager's ordinance. The Town Manager will make a report to the Board all expenditure transferred. Armbrust also asked about Section 23 (1) Bid is awarded to the lowest responsible bidder.

Nager stated that the standard is the low bidder, but if the manager has some knowledge of something in their past that might make them not so responsible, like they haven't performed well on previous contracts or possibly in bankruptcy this would give you a way out. Davis stated that it is up to the manager to do the background checks. It states that the Town Manager shall further be authorized to reject any and all bids. Peoples stated that it happened here and a bid was rejected. Nager stated that it doesn't mean that they can't sue you in court, this just gives you the right to reject the bid.

Miller asked if the trash truck was paid off. Davis stated yes. Miller wants to see a replacement plan for the sanitation truck. Peoples stated when we set up a plan for replacement, then the board changes. Davis stated that you need to look at sanitation to see if it is still viable.

Armbrust would like to see in next year's budget a way to purchase a street sweeper.

Davis presented the proposed budget totaling \$4,394,124

General Fund	\$1,919,105
Powell Bill	\$ 60,000
Tourism	\$ 24,350
Sanitation	\$ 224,285
Water & Sewer	\$1,602,757
Fire Department	\$ 383,509 includes purchase of brush truck and financing with LGFCU at 2.25%
Harmon Field	\$ 180,118

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to adopt the FY16-17 Budget Ordinance as presented by the Town Manager with changes specified today. Davis stated that the changes are 1.25% increase in sanitation pickup fees, the electronics fee of \$15.00 per item picked up, white goods will be effective January 1 at \$10.00 per item pickup fee and in the interim the town manager is directed to provide a list and educate our public. Commissioner Miller so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

Armbrust would like to request authorization to re-instate the donation program that was suspended by the former mayor. The Town of Tryon accepted monies for fourteen bricks. He would like the Town to continue to raise money for bricks on St. Luke's Plaza. This was the last element in the citizen donations for the tables and chairs and fountain. Resting somewhere in our budget is the money donated for the bricks (\$100 a brick). He would like to finish this project. Ingham asked how much would this generate. Armbrust stated \$52,000.

Armbrust made a motion to reinstitute the walk of fame brick program at St. Luke's Plaza. The motion carried unanimously. Mayor Peoples asked if there was a particular line item that the money was in. Town Clerk Bell stated yes.

Miller asked if we could do a retreat this fall to continue to look at the strategic plan and to look at the infrastructure. Davis stated that he has a couple of good people at the School of Government that would do this. Peoples stated that he has applied for a four week school and now he has been accepted to LELA.

Davis stated Paula did say that she needed some help and feels the fire department could pitch in and pick up signs or whatever she needed. Miller stated that you are a zoning/code

enforcement person. He thanked the staff and Town Manager for a good budget. He then thanked the Town Attorney.

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

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J. Alan Peoples, Mayor

Attest:

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Susan B. Bell, Town Clerk