



welded. The State says the \$15,000 is a good quote. The main thing in the budget will be the clarifier. The clear well at the water plant also needs to be repaired.

Ingham stated when you are sitting on a forty percent fund balance, he can't see raising taxes. Armbrust stated he would not have voted for thirty percent fund balance if he had recognized that. He will make a motion in our next meeting to reduce this to twenty percent. Ollis stated it was designed to help us in case 2009 happens again. It is up to the board. Armbrust stated we weathered 2009. Mayor Peoples stated weathering it is all that we did. Ollis asked how many employees were lost.

Ingham stated we would have \$150,000 to do what we want and still have thirty percent. Armbrust stated as it stands now, if we go below the thirty percent then we have to come up with a plan to pay it back. Ollis stated the fund balance has gone up substantially in one year. This will never happen again. Ingham asked if our goal was to put another \$300,000 in. He would like to use the extra for things that we need. Armbrust feels that is inherently dishonest to send a message to our citizens that the town doesn't have the money to do x, y and z, when in fact we do have the money. To neglect things that we should be doing is a non-performance of duty. Ollis asked what the board proposed that we do with the money. Ingham stated we have a list of things needed. If we need a garbage truck then buy a garbage truck. Mayor Peoples stated that's another fund.

Ollis stated the budget he is building will be done without raising taxes. We are becoming financially responsible. Armbrust stated he would like for us to lower taxes this year. Ollis stated we have lowered taxes in a sense, but we have also put out a better quality of service. He doesn't know of a town in western North Carolina that provides the number of services that we do.

Mayor Peoples stated we had 3.2 cents tax reduction in eighteen years. Ollis stated that taxes are low. Ingham stated if you live in Tryon, you pay double taxes (County & Town). Mayor Peoples stated that's a choice you make, because you want those services. It's a conscience decision.

Ollis asked if the Board was on board with the capital improvement plan. Everyone agreed.

Peoples asked about the water line on Country Club Road. Ollis stated he doesn't feel the inside people should pay for the water line. It should be paid by the users of the water line. It's not fair to them either. This is something that should have been taken care of many years ago.

Ollis stated we needed to discuss a public works director. He has budgeted \$60,000 currently for this. He also asked about two, thirty thousand dollar positions. We could run different trucks and get more done. Ingham stated he doesn't know. Armbrust stated he feels we need a public works director. He appreciates that you have the ability to do everything, but you were hired to be Town Manager. He also appreciates having a public works director sitting in this meeting to answer questions. Ingham stated he would like to hear what you and the guys think. Ollis stated they have different opinions. Some think they need people, not a middle man. You as a town are really lucky to have the crew that you have. To have the experience you have, is very lucky. They will do whatever it takes. There are pros and cons. Great to have extra hands, but it would be great to have a director. Armbrust asked if we were considering hiring a director that would not do field work. Ollis stated no. You need someone that can do field work, along with the paperwork.

Ingham suggested if hiring inside, it would have to be someone that has respect and could tell the others what to do. He asked about Paula's position. Ollis stated currently he is going to hire a Planning Director. Currently we are receiving applications. On the community development end we can discuss that at a later date. Armbrust stated that is not a good savings for us. You would need three people to do what Paula's job description was.

Mayor Peoples stated we are already paying TDDA. Ollis stated there are things that TDDA can help with. We will have to evaluate the situation. Armbrust asked if Jim Edwards was with us one day a week. Ollis stated yes. He is filling out zoning permits and answering questions. The ad will close in a couple of weeks.

Ollis stated the projections have come in for this year. Last year the projections came in at 153,571,000. This year the number came in at 152,895,000. He feels that people came in and questioned there evaluation. The county reduced the property values and this is the reason for the reduction.

Ingham asked about the money received from sales tax. Ollis stated on the front page Article 39-44 shows the money budgeted and received at this time. Ingham stated we have more being sold in town than before. Ollis stated we only have six percent left to receive and we have three months to go. He has budgeted to receive ninety-eight percent.

Harmon Field will have some issues. He is going to talk to the county about raising taxes for them. The fund balance will actually be around \$670,000 because of a transfer to Harmon Field. The auditor's will explain.

Armbrust asked for a line by line breakout of all unassigned monies. Ollis asked what he meant. Armbrust stated money that is budgeted, but not used. Such as an additional police officer. Ollis stated the ninth officer was removed. This budget is for eight officers. The figure he gave you was for \$28,000 plus benefits. He will do his best to find what he is looking for. He feels this is a hardworking budget. Armbrust stated we decided that we weren't going to have nine officers. Ollis stated this is for eight officers. Armbrust asked about Theda's position. Ollis stated they have someone to replace her. Ingham stated if Tim gets elected that will be another one to replace.

#### **ADJOURN**

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