

Armbrust asked about the Fire Chief's position. Ollis stated we are paying him. Didn't want to grow the budget a certain way and then if he leaves have to come up with money to pay a chief. He does put in a lot of time.

Ollis has been looking at possible raises and possible positions. This budget includes \$60,000 for a public works director. He has looked at a salary study from the League, which includes Towns that participated, different positions and population. He will send this to the board.

- He has rounded up a few salaries and looking at salary increases for Ms. Rogers & Jeff Arrowood
- Have been discussing part time admin assistant (Pam has put in 30 years and obviously at some point she is going to retire) and discussed someone coming in and doing some part time work for us and then learn from Pam so that when she does retire we would have someone to fill in for that position
- Public Works-small changes to bring up-hiring high school kids for part time summer help
- New position for streets to run two to a truck
- Request raises in the sanitation department
- Request raises in the water department
- Biggest increase is for Asst. Fire Chief-he has compared him to assistant chief salaries-Our current Chief is still underpaid

These are just requests. We need to start training someone in the water plant because of future retirements.

Ollis met with Withers & Ravenal about the Capital Improvement Plan – interview you as a board to see what you would like to see for the future. They will then interview Andrew, Greg, Deborah and Michael. There is discussion about an assessment grant that will take an inventory of the pipes in the ground. There is software on the computer that the guys will be able to use to help locate the pipes. The grant is around \$150,000 with the town's match around \$30,000.

Armbrust asked if we had a file of the last retreat visioning session at the Fire department. He asked that the minutes be forwarded to them so they can have a contextual background of what was done. Bell will send out the minutes for the last retreat.

Armbrust stated we have gone from a completely volunteer operation to a volunteer crew with paid fire chief. A volunteer crew with benefits, an assistant fire chief, a fire chief, he asked do we need two paid chief positions, especially the way we got Tank. The previous administration saying he was being paid for by a grant, in which he was not. Ollis stated you have to be prepared for the level of service to change if changes are made. It's like with dispatch, some say it's too expensive until during times of need like fires, mudslides, tornados and snow storms, when you really need them. Ingham stated we have a top notch fire department. Ollis stated the budget supports it. Crowell stated we are getting descent revenue from the township and Lake Lanier. Ollis stated the town was promised twenty-four hour protection several years ago and it never happened. Put someone on 12:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. This would take some of the burden off the daytime guys. Looking long term it allows us to have more flexibility.

Crowell asked about EMT. Ollis stated Chief said we could get someone for \$28,500. Goal is for them to become financially stable. They are working on it. Even with additional person they could put back

\$63,000. Our response time is pretty good, but how much better would it be to have someone in the fire station at night. It would be money well spent. Crowell stated he would like to see someone there between 3:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m., because that's when you have most cardiovascular problems.

Ollis stated the positions mentioned today, there's not a down side to them. The admin position needs to be looked at, whether we do it or not. Long term it needs to be looked at with retirements. A lot of Pam's stuff is technical and it would be good to have someone trained to take over. He doesn't want to see Pam retire and leave the town not prepared. It may not happen for 2-5 years.

Crowell would like for us to start looking at sidewalk repairs and streetlight repairs. Ingham would like for us to replace sections of water lines and sewer lines that need replacing.

Ollis is working with Jamie to see about a state grant for projects. His idea is start with streetlights. The light poles can't be replaced with the same. Jim Becker is working on trying to find lights. What he found costs \$8,000 a light pole. Armbrust asked if the light fixture would be replaced at the end of McCown Street. Ingham suggested going with a street lamp. Crowell stated it wouldn't matter if it was mix and match. Ollis asked do you want similar or something new. Armbrust stated they were supposed to look like the ones on Howard Street. Crowell requested LED lights. Go by and see the LED lights on New Market. The Duke Energy cost would be reduced. Ollis will contact Jim Becker.

Ollis would like to have two men to a truck. He feels this would accomplish more. Crowell agreed.

Armbrust would like Palmer Street to be added to the list. It is the most underutilized retail space. Crowell stated retail businesses are moving out now that their lease is up and we need to be looking for businesses that have five to ten employees. Armbrust stated there is a business currently waiting on the right place to come open. Ollis stated he has talked to a brewery about coming here.

Armbrust asked to add the Pedestrian Walkway-Boardwalk.

Ollis has a list of items and as we build the budget you can add to it

- Boardwalk-was told cost would be around \$10,000-to give direct access to the back of the buildings
- Clear well that needs replacing \$60,000, at the plant (main well & a secondary) is a patching job, was built in the 20's, a new one would cost a lot more
- Lynn sewer project around \$800,000
- Water line at Country Club Road \$900,000 to bring fresh water to the plant-board has discussed this, the pipe was intended to feed the plant, permission given to property owners to use for gardens, somehow throughout the years people use for drinking water, line from Pearson's Falls ties in below these connections-5 homes and the camping facility-working with Rural Water and SERCAP-going to look at putting a well up there, wells are low in pressure, small chlorine package plant-state requires plant to be manned
- Finance Utility Software
- Discussion about a server (\$12,000)
- Palmer Street
- Gateway Project-he will contact Paul Mills to see what he found out

- Ask Duke Power to consolidate and put lighting on Palmer Street. They asked us to do Trade Street at their cost and council turned them down. Underground is \$1,000 a foot.
- Police Department camera installed-body cameras & dash cameras-can we at all costs avoid equipment mal-functions-body cameras we have now and can be purchased where officers can't turn them off-\$10,000 for install and \$4,000 a year-car cameras are what we are looking at-to have the footage streamed from the car to the cloud

Ollis asked if there was anything that the board needed for the next meeting. He asked them to e-mail him and he will get the information ready. He will continue to adjust the revenue. He will e-mail the board the budget, his salary proposals, the salary study from the League and the minutes from the last visioning retreat.

Armbrust asked if everyone could attend the 11:00 a.m. meeting on February 15th. Ollis will be in Chapel Hill. Armbrust questioned to see what he needed to do to get a building permit. Ollis stated he would need to get a zoning permit and then you would take it to the county for a building permit.

Armbrust stated the Governor has declared 2019 the year of music. The Arts Council and the Nina Simone Project are doing a series of concerts in Raleigh. He will send the board updates on this.

Crowell asked if the town is going to dig up the fire hydrant at Tryon Arts & Crafts to find the leak. Ollis stated fire hydrants have weeping valves on them and leak some when turned off. He, along with Crowell fill this is a spring head.

Crowell reminded everyone that Harmon Field Board is coming to the next work session. Ollis stated that William will have the agreement ready for them to look over.

Commissioner Armbrust made a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

J. Alan Peoples, Mayor

Attest:

Susan B. Bell, Town Clerk