

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN OF PINEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
BUDGET WORKSHOP, TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2013**

The Town Council of the Town of Pineville met in a special session Budget Workshop on Tuesday, April 2, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. at the Pineville Telephone Conference Center.

ATTENDANCE

Mayor: Mayor George Fowler
Mayor Pro-Tem: David Phillips
Town Council Members: Debbie Fowler, Melissa Davis, and Les Gladden
Town Clerk: Barbara Monticello
Park & Recreation Director, Kristy Detwiler
Public Works Director, Chip Hill
Police Chief, Rob Merchant
Fire Chief, Bill Griffin

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fowler called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. and stated that discussions with Department Heads regarding budget requests for FY2013-14 would be addressed at the meeting.

Park and Recreation Director, Kristy Detwiler indicated that she had two budgets to manage – one for regular parks and recreation activities and one for Culture and Tourism. Items requested under the Culture and Tourism Operating Fund included a Kabuto Cart to replace the one that went to Jack Hughes Park at an approximate cost of \$15K, about \$6K worth of equipment for the new storage building and a mower to replace the one at Lake Park which is between 8 and 10 years old. This item is a priority for July 1st and the projected cost is about \$8500. Discussion continued with Council Members suggesting that if more than one mower (or any item) is going to be purchased, that they be purchased at the same time and place so as to get the best price possible. Additionally, it was noted that the equipment needed for the new storage building be purchased in this fiscal year and taken out of Departmental Supplies because the building was ready now and there would still be sufficient funds left in the budget for needed items.

There were a number of other items requested under Culture and Tourism including a permanent part-time employee, a Harley Rake or truck with a dump bed which runs about \$15K and \$22K worth of new audio/visual equipment for the Hut. It has been six years since the last system was installed which was an analog system and now obsolete. With everything now being digital, it needed to be upgraded. The \$22K quote was just one that was given but additional quotes would also be obtained. Another priority item needed to drag the ball fields is a Sand Pro Groomer. The one we currently have is 13 years old and not in good enough shape to be able to get anything for it.

Utility expenses were exceeding what was currently budgeted because they are burning a lot of lights and they are headed into their busiest time of the year. Only 15% of what was budgeted last year was left to pay the last quarter power bills. They could try different things to lighten the

load such as changing out to solar lights or just keeping every other light on a timer rather than all the lights. Even though we do get reimbursed for light usage, it goes back into the General Fund and not the Parks and Recreation budget. It was suggested to increase the utility line from \$63K to \$80K but then revised by Mayor Pro Tem Phillips to \$75K.

In addition, there was a request to increase the Supervisor's salary as his job title had changed, he maintains three buildings and has three full-time, one part-time and two seasonal employees. It was suggested that his salary increase by \$8,000. There was also a request to install electrical outlets at the park for Fall Fest and to improve the lighting but there was some question as to whether this had been budgeted the previous year. According to the Electric Supervisor, about 8 or 9 new LED floodlights could be installed on poles that already exist there but Council Member Gladden stated he would come up with some numbers to see how much that would be.

Moving on to the regular Parks and Recreation budget items, the amount for Departmental Supplies needed to be increased as funds ran short this year. A new ID card machine had been purchased and supplies for it were needed but it would also be used to make employee ID cards as well. A new line item was also needed for Building Maintenance. Some money from the Public Works budget would be taken and put toward this item.

Air conditioning units need to be replaced as well as two free-standing picnic tables that also needed to be mounted on concrete pads. The bathrooms at the Belle Johnston Community Center are in need of renovation and the ceiling tiles in the kitchen need to be replaced with washable one. When Mecklenburg County does their inspections, the Town gets marked off for them not being the washable kind. All of these items would cost about \$200,000 - \$250,000.

It would take an additional \$8,000 for sidewalk improvements around the lake, especially where the gap exists between the fence and the edge of the sidewalk and with vehicles often driving on it, the sidewalk gets ruined and needs to be more durable. That was only one quote and Ms. Detwiler was asked to obtain other quotes.

The Farmer's Market was taken out of the Clerk's budget and moved to the Park and Recreation budget. Depending on how the market does this year, we may need to purchase another tent and a couple of banners each year. The lighting in the gymnasium could use some updating by installing LED lamps to help cut down on the power bill. Additional flood lights need to be installed in Lake Park as well.

There used to be a part-time person to work the front desk at the center but she quit and was never replaced. Ms. Detwiler was requesting to put this part-time position back in the budget for about 15 hours per week in addition to the part-time position they were currently seeking to fill. This led to a discussion about how crowded the park has been getting lately and tensions over shelter rentals. Council Member Gladden stated that it would need to be addressed soon because either more people are going to have to be hired or they were going to have to put a limit on how many people could be in the park at one time because current staff could not handle it. Another suggestion was to possibly use the Citizen's Police Academy. Ms. Detwiler agreed that they would need to start getting more aggressive regarding the rules for larger parties.

To continue with the Park and Recreational Master Plan, it will cost another \$38K and to put a shelter by the new play area with picnic table and a canvas canopy would be about \$16K. The

floor of the gym at the Belle Johnston Center is also in need of replacement. A parquet floor was put down and should never have been used to begin with. The floor has already been sanded, polished and refinished multiple times, but to replace it would cost about \$80K.

Fire Chief Bill Griffin was next to review his budget. His current air packs are 17 years old and in need of replacement. To upgrade to the 2013 standards would be extremely costly. However there isn't that much of a difference between the 2013 standards and the 2007 standards which would serve the department well. If they went with the 2007 air packs, they would save a considerable amount of money as they are about \$900 a piece and if they could trade in the old packs, it would come directly off the price. This was a high priority on his budget list.

Of moderate priority was the need for about 5 additional sets of turnout gear. Chief Griffin also asked for a specific line item for physicals to separate it from Departmental Supplies. He would like it that way to be sure the money is there for the purpose of the firefighters to have a physical examination.

A generator was listed on his budget request. The generator from the old police building was going to be moved to fire department but it was too old and too costly to move it. The fire department needs some type of power to operate if the power goes out in town. Getting the garage doors open is the biggest problem when there is a power outage. About \$10K had already been budgeted for this last year but it may take a larger generator at a cost of about \$25K to operate the entire structure.

Chief Griffin also asked for additional personnel, specifically paid staff to cover Friday and Saturday nights; EMT's to cover calls between 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. It is the nursing homes that keep them busy during that time.

Mayor Fowler noted that the chief's budget had a 31% increase from the previous year. He asked which items were absolutely necessary to which Chief Griffin responded that the SCBA's (air packs) were.

Chief Merchant of the Pineville Police Department was up next to present items for his budget. He noted that currently his department was over budget on Insurance and Bonds due to workers comp claims and Special Ops due to the ISS project. Their biggest issue is that they would have to set up a reserve fund for a new radio system. As of 2019 no one will be supporting the Motorola system anymore and a new one would cost \$2M, some of which could come from 911 funds. Additionally, the town would start dispatching for the Town of Mint Hill again. The upgrade to communications would need to be done soon.

The amount for Contract Services needs to be increased by \$230K a year to support what they have. Video server storage also needs to be replaced to be able to download all the car-stop videos but it will have to be done this year as that is when it was budgeted for. Travel expenditures have decreased since the police department was able to do a lot of their own training in their new facility. Patrol car beams, cameras for CID and ammo all comes out of Departmental Supplies.

Seven of the police department's current vehicles will be sent to auction and five are scheduled to be replaced: two vehicles need to be replaced for Cody and Keith who are both driving 2004

Impalas, two new patrol cars are needed and a new vehicle for Wes is needed. The two CID vehicles would cost about \$28-30K each, the two police vehicles would cost about \$35K each fully outfitted and the vehicle for Wes would be about \$20-25K but asset forfeiture money could be used to purchase his vehicle.

A total of \$8K was budgeted for the canine but Chief Merchant will check on whether any forfeiture money can be used toward that. He thought that drug asset money could also be used for ammo for the guns with lights on them which are the ones his department decided on getting. Mobile printers for each of the patrol cars are needed since citations are no longer written out by hand. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips remarked that even though a lot of forfeiture money was expected to come in, you don't always know when it will come in.

There are still some officers that were getting paid with grant money. They still had one year left under the grant. Radar guns come out of Departmental Supplies but the ones that the department currently uses will be discontinued for use. The cost to replace each unit is about \$1,500. Chief Merchant stated that two would most likely be purchased this year with two more purchased next year.

Public Works Director, Chip Hill, was the last to present his budget items. He was looking for a security system for his building which could possibly be done in-house through our Telephone Department. Someone tried to break into the building several times so a security system would help prevent that. Also, the roof on his building has various leaks in it. It was old to begin with and has never been worked on so he budgeted funds for the repairs.

There are some dead trees that need to be removed and he was looking to hire a tree service to do this. His department is in need of a new mower as the one they currently have is shot. He was looking to replace it with a Grandstand 36 Inch 18 HP unit which is faster and the perfect size for the cemetery.

Mr. Hill currently has a staff of seven and his department is currently working two weeks behind schedule. He was looking to add one additional maintenance worker so they could stay right on schedule. All of his crew would have both their CDL's and pesticide licenses.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Pro Tem Phillips moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:03 p.m. Council Member Fowler seconded the motion and there were ayes by all to adjourn the meeting.



Barbara Monticello, Town Clerk



George C. Fowler, Mayor