

**MINUTES OF THE BUDGET
WORKSHOP SESSIONS FOR 2019
PINEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
PINEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA**

The Town Council of the Town of Pineville met on four separate occasions for budget workshop sessions in 2019. All work sessions were held at the Pineville Police Department 2nd Floor Training Center during the month of April. Following is a general account of each work session:

MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2019 @ 5:30 P.M. (1st budget workshop)

ATTENDANCE

Mayor: Mayor Jack Edwards

Mayor Pro-Tem: David Phillips

Town Council Members: Debbie Fowler, Melissa Davis, and Joe Maxim

Town Manager: Ryan Spitzer

Finance Director: Richard Dixon

Town Clerk: Barbara Monticello

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Edwards called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Town Manager, Ryan Spitzer explained that the first work session would be an overview of the General Fund Budget. The next two work sessions would be a more in depth look at each departments' budgets and the last session would be a final wrap-up, adding that all figures in the presentation were based on the current tax rate. He began with an overview of the General Fund Balance with highlights of the presentation/discussions as follows:

- Overview of **projected revenues** was presented with an expected increase of 1% which is a very conservative figure. The income from the mill property is reflected in the figures presented. One half of the funds will go toward paying down the debt service on Jack Hughes Park and the other half will be used to pay down the debt service on the police building – the final half of that debt to be paid off next year. Our net revenue will actually be about \$7.7 million over the projected amount. Question asked by Mayor Pro Tem David Phillips as to what the ramifications would be if the mill deal did not go through. Mr. Spitzer stated it would turn into a wash with the income and expenses falling in the same year.
- Mr. Spitzer noted that with the **county tax re-valuations** done recently, it might be wise to delay the ¼ % sales tax increase to help residents adjust since most properties increased in value and their taxes went up. Estimating at a very conservative amount, the county expected about \$9.2 million in tax revenues this year due to the re-valuations. Question by Mayor Pro Tem Phillips as to the appropriate time to decide on a tax rate for the coming year? Mr. Spitzer responded that Council should have a good idea of what the rate will be by the last budget workshop. Council Member Joe Maxim suggested revising the revenue figure upward as they were pretty confident that the tax revenues would be greater than the conservative figure presented.
- **Reviewed CIP Plan** – Mr. Spitzer stated that there was a “robust” Capital Improvement Plan that included an ADA Compliance Plan and a future Mobility Plan. The DOT will be holding towns accountable to become ADA compliant within a certain amount of time which will require many updates to the town’s facilities, sidewalks, etc. Town computers will all need to be updated to Windows 10, sidewalks will need to be repaired, a handicapped playground installed, streets paved, electrical improvements as well as new vehicles and equipment purchased at a proposed cost of over \$8M.

- The **fire department** was proposing to replace 4 heaters at a cost of \$17K. Mayor Jack Edwards questioned why we would be replacing heaters at the Fire Department if we would be building a new facility in two years. Mr. Spitzer replied that it was necessary to heat the bays where the equipment is kept or it might freeze up. Mr. Spitzer added that Fire Chief, Mike Gerin, was also looking for a new vehicle. He was asking for a new Tahoe but the discussion was on why he needed a Tahoe and could he use something else or get a used one. Interim Manager, Leamon Brice, laid out a plan to have four police vehicles replaced each year. Council Member Melissa Davis counted 16 police vehicles sitting out in the parking lot of the Police Building. She requested a list of all the police cars and who is assigned to them.
- Turning in the direction of Public Works, Mr. Spitzer, pointed out that Lowry St. was in need of a right-hand turn lane as well as sidewalks but the town would probably have to purchase property from Bill Thrower in order to do so, along with having to pay for the crossing signal at the traffic light that is there. Additionally, the ADA Transition Plan called for all town facilities to be handicap-accessible. The Mobility Plan includes items like sidewalks, greenways, bike lanes – all methods of connectability. Other proposed items included MAC Scan tablet for town vehicles and a Bobcat Mini to be split between Public Works and Stormwater.
- Discussion began regarding new **trash cans** for the park; Council Member Melissa Davis suggested getting larger ones for Main Street due to the two bars and food trucks that are out there now. A suggestion was made to re-coat the receptacles because they are expensive to purchase but the trash cans at the park have already been re-coated several times. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips asked if Storm Water fees could be used to buy new trash cans. Town Manager Spitzer replied that they could be used.
- Mayor Pro Tem Phillips then asked if there was any way the town could help **Frank Honaker** out with the water issues he has where he lives. He's spent about \$15K on the problem over the years. Mr. Spitzer replied that we would need to use money from the General Fund as that project did not qualify for Storm Water funds. He added that we may need to put in some type of piping system at some point and/or do some work at the time we pave the road but it would be looked at.
- Mr. Spitzer continued, stating that the **street matrix** would be updated; that's the list of streets requiring paving that have been prioritized according to condition. Additionally, there are still some improvements that need to be made on the new substation.
- Conversation started by Council Member Joe Maxim regarding **tracts of private land** around town and the possibility of acquiring some for additional green space for recreational purposes and to control the growth to some degree. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips stated that he didn't want to see the town get into the real estate business but as a way of controlling growth, he was for it. All knew that the Miller tract of land was being shopped and would be a matter of time before something was developed on it. Mr. Spitzer stated that the county was thinking of buying up a lot of the flood plain area to be used as passive recreation. Council Member Maxim stated that parks and green space is what people wanted and requested a list of vacant properties that were currently for sale in town.
- Mr. Spitzer stated that most of the department budgets came in lower than last year with the exception of a few. Human Resources would be breaking out into its' own cost center. The Fire Department Budget was up about 8% due to a request for an increase in hourly pay. Public Works was up about 12% due to a reallocation of some things in the Powell Bill and Stormwater funds which we needed to pay \$65K from for the stream restoration project, as well as some of the ADA plans included in that figure.
- Under **sanitation**, Mr. Spitzer stated two bids were received with Signature Waste being the low bidder and Waste Pro the other bidder. There was room for negotiation, however, with Waste Pro. He will continue talks with them. All haulers dump at the Speedway but vegetation goes to the Fox Hole. There was still some question as to who bought the trash cans when Signature Waste began their service which he is working on resolving. He noted that cost projections could go up from \$560,000 to \$580,000 as we near 3,000 households.

- **Parks and Recreation** -- \$32,000 has been allocated out of the Parks and Recreation budget to fund ½ the cost of a Park Master Plan update. The other \$32,000 will come out of Culture and Tourism funds.
- **Salaries** – Mr. Spitzer noted that there were 10 employees that were being paid lower than \$15 per hour and because we were having trouble attracting and keeping employees in the Public Works Department, they would be brought up to \$15 an hour if they had been with the town 3 or 4 years. There were an additional 14 employees that were currently being paid \$15-\$16 an hour and they would be given 5-8% raises. Mayor Pro Tem David Phillips added that some of the police officers were uncomfortable with telling the reason why they were leaving because they feared being black-balled from other police agencies.

A suggestion was made to increase the pay for Council Board Members due to the increased number of meetings they were now attending. A brief discussion ensued. Clerk was instructed to see what other towns pay their board members. Mr. Spitzer reminded the board that there would be a Pineville Communication Systems meeting in May to discuss the JSI study findings. JSI helped a town in GA sell the TV portion of their business but keep the internet piece of it. There was also a brief discussion regarding the efforts to form a Chamber of Commerce.

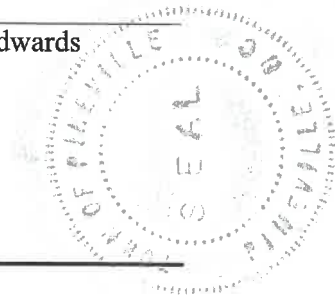
ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. There were ayes by all and the meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m.



Mayor, Jack Edwards

ATTEST: 
Barbara Monticello, Town Clerk



**MINUTES OF THE BUDGET
WORKSHOP SESSIONS FOR 2019
PINEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
PINEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA**

MONDAY APRIL 8, 2019 @ 5:30 P.M. (2nd budget workshop)

ATTENDANCE

- Mayor: Mayor Jack Edwards
- Mayor Pro-Tem: David Phillips
- Town Council Members: Debbie Fowler, Melissa Davis, and Joe Maxim
- Town Manager: Ryan Spitzer, was absent
- Finance Director: Richard Dixon
- Town Clerk: Barbara Monticello
- Fire Chief: Michael Gerin
- Police Chief: Rob Merchant
- Guest: John Holobinko (Chamber of Commerce)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:50 p.m. upon the motion of Council Member Debbie Fowler and the second by Council Member Melissa Davis. Finance Director, Richard Dixon, lead the meeting in the absence of the town manager. The floor was turned over to Mr. John Holobinko, retired executive who had worked at both Cysco and Motorola.

Mr. John Holobinko was in attendance to request support from Council on his endeavor to establish a Chamber of Commerce for the Town of Pineville. All other surrounding towns had one but Pineville. He pointed out that a chamber helps with growth and development of the town as well as act as a conduit in providing services to new businesses such as teaching them how to formulate a business plan. They can help negotiate better rates on things like insurance premiums, offices supplies, etc.

He has already met with the Downtown Merchants and was in the process of getting other businesses involved. By-laws have already been written and after the tax season, he had planned to incorporate as a 501C3 non-profit organization. Additionally, he already had an advisory team put together as well as a website ready to launch in June: www.pinevillencchamber.com. A membership and finance system need to be in place which was a large expense. He would need at least 100 members to be successful but was shooting for 400 members. In order to be successful, he would need an operating budget of \$150K to \$250K.

He was asking for financial support from the town of \$10K with \$5K of that to go toward the Downtown Merchants to help offset their membership fees or a second option that the town only donate \$5K with the merchants paying their own membership fees. The question was asked as to the feedback he received from the Downtown Merchants. He indicated that about half of them were on board with it while the other half thought the membership fee was too high. Council Member Joe Maxim was concerned if they joined the Chamber, they might lose their identity as the "Downtown Merchants" if they were absorbed into the Chamber. Mr. Holobinko had not yet presented the plan to them. The Mayor stated that when council decided to support the Downtown Merchants it was to help them expand but they haven't done that and the town wants to support all businesses, not just downtown businesses.

When asked how the chamber would handle things like signage – specifically, if downtown merchants were allowed to have A-frame signs but no other businesses were allowed to have them, Mr. Holobinko replied that the Chamber would concentrate on other things such as training, advertising events, helping new businesses get situated, etc. Council Member Melissa Davis wanted to be sure dues were reasonable, money stays in Pineville and small businesses protected. What can smaller businesses benefit from immediately by belonging to a Chamber, Ms. Davis asked. Mr. Holobinko offered that primarily networking, training and cheaper costs for such services as printing, etc. Mayor Pro Tem David Phillips asked how Mr. Holobinko got started with this idea. He stated that he needed insurance so he talked to someone back in December, 2018 and the conversation started that Pineville really needed a Chamber of Commerce. He was retired from working in several corporations but needed to get back into doing something and it blossomed from there. Mayor Edwards added that Mr. Holobinko already had a website up and asked the rest of the board members to check it out.

Pineville Volunteer Fire Department

Fire Chief, Mike Gerin was present to discuss the fire department budget. He stated that he met with the VP of Operations for the Southern Division of Atrium Health and applied for a grant through their foundation. He needed to check on what was budgeted for the new fire truck and whether \$60K had or hadn't been budgeted for equipment. A total of 50 sets of turnout gear were purchased back in 2012 or 13 and with the use expectancy of only about 10 years, they were coming due for some new turn out gear.

Their insurance line item took a big hit largely due to the loss of Richard Sheltra and the payouts that followed. New hires are paid at a rate of \$13 an hour to start but their pay increases to \$14 an hour once they are all certified after about 6 months.

Jason Klemowitz, who is over the paid staff, noted that they were trying to catch up to the other towns who were paying their employees more money. We lost a lot of our employees to these other towns. They were also starting a 401K program for paid staff members through the Firefighters Relief Program. Currently, their part-time staff totaled 35 people with 4 people on each day. Mayor Pro Tem David Phillips asked how far in advance their schedule was made up to which Chief Gerin replied that it was made up on the 11th of each month. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips added that we couldn't afford to do away with those volunteers because if the department ever went to a full-time fire department, we would be in a bind because no one would stay at Pineville; they would all go to Charlotte. Council Member Melissa Davis commented that most of the firefighters do not want to become a FT fire department.

Chief Gerin was also looking to replace his old Ford Crown Vic with a new Chevy Tahoe at an estimated cost of \$36K. Mayor Edwards asked if it was necessary to have a Tahoe that showed a cost of \$52K. Chief Gerin stated that a Tahoe was more conducive to fire fighting than a car and that the price of the vehicle was actually \$36K but to get it lettered and equipped, it would total closer to \$52K.

Pineville Police Department

Moving onto the Pineville Police Department, Chief Merchant noted that within the line item for Maintenance & Repair, the front doors to the police station were not ADA compliant and would need to be made so. Additionally, all the urinals in the men's rest rooms were being replaced.

Mayor Edwards asked if the money collected from Shop with a Cop stayed in Pineville. Chief Merchant replied that after everyone in Pineville was taken care of, there was some money left to help out students of Sterling Elementary. Council Member Debbie Fowler asked for a breakdown of the "salaries" line item for the police department – how much of it was salaries, how much of it was insurance premiums, etc. Finance Director, Richard Dixon, said he would send her the information. Council Member Melissa Davis commented that the only items on their CIP were four new police vehicles and then asked why there were so many vehicles parked behind the station. Chief Merchant responded that he had actually asked for six but was happy to get the four and that there were currently 7 police vehicles that they were getting rid of that were parked behind the building and that 4 or 5 of the guys leave their regular cars parked back there as well.

Chief Merchant was also asking for an additional position for an Evidence Custodian. Council Member Davis also stated that she would like the job posted internally, first, before moving it externally. A brief conversation took place regarding employees in PD not knowing how to view the cameras in town. Chief Merchant explained that training was so long ago that employees had forgotten how to use it but all have been re-trained.

Parks and Recreation

Finance Director, Richard Dixon stated that the Parks and Recreation budget increased by 18%, all largely due to an increase in contract services for a Park Master Plan. The Master Plan costs were broken down: \$40K-50K for Lake Park; \$20K-25K for Jack Hughes Park; and \$15K-20K for the Belle Johnston. The Park Master Plan would help determine what to do with the 70 acres behind the Jack Hughes Park and the 40 acres we lease from the county along Lakeview Drive. The Jack Hughes Park debt service will be paid off next budget year. Half of that money will be used to pay for a new playground and the other half for this new Park Master Plan.

Parks and Recreation Director, Kristy Detwiler, had provided Mr. Spitzer with quotes for 38-gallon trash cans that could be used for Main St. while taking the ones on Main St. and using them at the shelters in the park.


In response to a question regarding the ballfield lights, Ms. Detwiler explained that we controlled the ones at Jack Hughes Park but that PCAA had control of the lights on their fields at the school. She added that she has informed PCAA on a few occasions that they had left their lights on and that they needed to shut them off. Council Member Davis asked if the cost of renting the fields at Jack Hughes Park was enough to cover the cost of the lights to which Ms. Detwiler responded that it was.

As for changing up the programming at Fall Fest, Ms. Detwiler stated she tried to put a Fall Fest Committee together but that no one wanted to participate on it so she asked Mr. Spitzer if she could reach out to Paschal to help with it. They are a company that helps with sponsorships and marketing of festivals, etc. She explained that the town would still handle getting vendors and the bands. She added that hiring this company would be \$1600 less than using the methods currently used to advertise Fall Fest and Rockin' and Reelin' in the summer. Ms. Detwiler was looking for direction from Council as to what they expected Fall Fest to be – a profit-making event or an amenity offered to residents and others. Typically, she added, towns don't have these events to make a lot of money.

The Parks and Recreation Department presentation concluded noting that the increases in the Culture and Tourism budget fell under Contract Services and increased costs associated with Fall Fest.

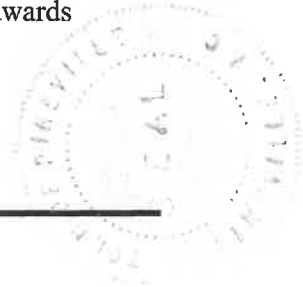
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to conclude the budget workshop at 10:30 p.m. There were ayes by all and the meeting concluded.



Mayor, Jack Edwards

ATTEST: 
Barbara Monticello, Town Clerk



**MINUTES OF THE BUDGET
WORKSHOP SESSIONS FOR 2019
PINEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
PINEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA**

MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2019, 5:30 P.M. (3rd budget meeting – not recorded)

ATTENDANCE

- Mayor: Mayor Jack Edwards
- Mayor Pro-Tem: David Phillips
- Town Council Members: Debbie Fowler, Melissa Davis, and Joe Maxim
- Town Manager: Ryan Spitzer
- Finance Director: Richard Dixon

Town Clerk: Barbara Monticello
Matt Schull, Electricities
Chip Hill, Public Works Manager
Telephone Manager, Tammy Vachon
Telephone Representative: Cindy Hunnicutt
Dornessa Froneberger, Human Resources Manager
Travis Morgan, Planning & Zoning Manager

CALL TO ORDER

A motion was made and seconded to open the third Budget Workshop at 6:05 p.m. There were ayes by all and the meeting was opened. Town Manager, Ryan Spitzer stated that Electric Manager, Don Mitchell, was unavailable to present the Electric Budget so a representative of Electricities, Matt Schull, was making the presentation for him. Mr. Spitzer stated that all departments had goals this year, as part of the budget process and money would be tied to these goals.

Electric Department

Mr. Matt Schull stated that at the latest rate committee meeting, the vote was unanimous to recommend:

- A 2% wholesale rate reduction in the cost of electricity
- A \$75million one-time payout to towns
- \$1.75 million credit to Pineville

Additionally, there will be no change in retail rates and there was some load growth causing a 1% increase in revenues. Wholesale power costs saw a 2% reduction in costs although the cost of non-capital supplies such as wire, etc. did increase some. An increase in contract services was made up of the following:

- Merit, benefits and medical insurance increases of \$80K
- A Cost of Service Study was performed at a cost of \$35K. This is how your cost to customers is determined – what does it cost to service each class of customer; one class may be charged too much while another may not be charged enough
- Additional line workers needed to provide timely service; the crew struggled to meet that so now that there is a full crew, they will be able to deliver the service expected of them

All in all, there was a 30% increase under the contract services line. There was also an increase of 2.15% to 2.25 % for capital projects driven by the following:

- Still some cleanup on the Carolina Place Mall Project but should be completed by the end of 2020
- \$200K for substation improvements (put in a skata system)
- \$250K for residential development (growth)
- \$300 for Industrial Drive infra structure
- \$300 for an electrical storage unit
- System underground improvements
- AMI Meter infrastructure project (data management) give customers access to their information. It will cost about \$1.2million to install this technology.

Council Member Melissa Davis asked how long these meters would last to which Mr. Schull replied about ten years. He added that Concord had the AMI system for both water and electric.

Public Works

The Public Works Department saw an overall 4% decrease in its budget. There was an increase in the Contract Services line item due to new ADA requirements. The Powell Bill fund also saw an increase in the Contract Services line due to an increase in paving costs from \$564,000 to \$640,000 and sidewalk repairs of \$50K. Same was true for the Storm Water fund – it, too, saw a 120% increase in the Contract Services line item due to \$65K needed for tributary stabilization, \$25K for ADA compliance measures and a \$7,500 paving survey cost.

Under Solid Waste, our contract with Signature Waste is due to expire June 30, 2019. We currently pay \$437,750 for solid waste services and have \$580,000 budgeted. After receiving two bids, one of which was Signature Waste and the other Waste Pro, both showed increases for FY19-20. Signature Waste came in at \$552,200 for the year and Waste Pro came in at \$578,500 with a five-year contract and \$570,216 with a seven-year contract. Discussion ensued regarding the poor service by Signature Waste in recent weeks and whether to pay more and go with Waste Pro. Some towns liked Waste Pro and some did not when they were asked about their service. Mr. Spitzer stated that we can never get away from all of the trash issues but that a decision would need to be made at the next Council Meeting. He offered to have Waste Pro come in to do a presentation which Council agreed to.

Mr. Spitzer also asked if Council wanted to have Lakeview Dr. and Lynnwood Lane paved or not. Discussion ensued. Mayor Pro Tem David Phillips was skeptical about having it done because the possibility of it just having to be torn up when the Miller/Smith property is developed was likely. Council Member Melissa Davis asked why the developer couldn't help out with the costs. Mr. Spitzer responded that it was something that could be negotiated with them. She asked if our engineer could give an idea of how much it would cost to correct the flooding issues in that area. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips responded that it was a \$1.7million project to bring it up to standard and fix the flooding to some of the properties there. Mr. Spitzer stated that we had a healthy storm water balance that could be used for an engineering study. Public Works Director, Chip Hill, asked if Council also wanted curb and gutter to which Council replied that they did.

Mayor Pro Tem Phillips went on to ask why Mr. Hill was having trouble filling two open spots in his department. Mr. Hill replied that employees were leaving for higher pay. They have families to take care of and can't do it on the salary we were paying them so they are leaving for more money. Mr. Spitzer stated that we needed to get everyone in the Public Works Department up to \$15 an hour and then start hiring at that rate. Council Member Davis wanted to be sure our Human Resources Department was reviewing the entire compensation package with new employees. Human Resources Director, Dornessa Froneberger, indicated that she was. Mr. Spitzer stated that they would look at the salaries the next day to come up with a number. Other towns were giving both a merit and COLA increase to their employees.

Under the Public Works Capital Improvement Plan, Council Member Melissa Davis asked if a snow plow was really necessary when some of the town's sidewalks were old and get flooded under water when it rains. She asked if something could be done about them. Mr. Spitzer responded that the intention was to repair the cracks this year so funds could be built up for following years.

Pineville Communications

Tammy Vachon, Department Manager for the Communications Department reviewed her budget with Council stating that the TV business was dwindling but she still believed that providing internet service was the way to go. The Pineville Communications Systems Rewards program was going well but revenues were shrinking.

When formulating her budget, she did not include anything mill related because she did not think anything would be developed until next year. The JSI study was expected to be completed in May, hopefully in time for the next Telephone Board Meeting scheduled for the 16th of May.

For her capital items, she requested new routers to replace two old ones at a cost of \$23K, a gently used Fiber Blower for \$15K and a gently used splicer for \$10K. She added that splicers are in big demand right now because of all the upgrades to fiber and internet speeds. Both Manager Spitzer and Council agree that she should just go ahead and buy the new router replacements.

Ms. Vachon continued, stating that any uncollected money under \$50 goes to a collection agency and anything over that amount goes to the debt setoff program. As for the Plant Under Construction line, she stated that some of the projects were not coming to fruition as expected such as the Snyder/Lance/Campbell Soup project that hasn't even broken ground yet, Pineville Court that was expected to be completely by June 30th but won't be and the 300 homes going in behind Traditions that are slated to be done in four phases.

Human Resources Department

The Human Resources Department has been growing so it was broken out into its own cost center. The Administration budget decreased due to this maneuver. One of the goals of the department will be to reduce the number of Emergency Room Visits which is costly to the bottom line. A brief discussion took place regarding healthcare costs and what could be done to keep costs down. A suggestion was made to offer incentives to make employees more accountable for their health. Human Resources Director, Dornessa Froneberger, was currently seeking health insurance quotes in preparation for the July 1 renewal period. Also included in her budget is Employee Appreciation which included the Holiday Party, luncheons, and events such as Knights games, etc.

Planning & Zoning Department

The Planning and Zoning Department's line item for Contract Services increased from \$25K to \$100K and more funds were allotted to training and continuing education. Approximately \$50K has been allotted for the Mobility Plan that will be instituted. There was also an increase in lawyer fees. The CRTPO/MPO could have a grant to help with the cost of the Mobility Plan which the department would need to apply for in August. Department Manager, Travis Morgan, concluded his presentation as he had no capital items requested.

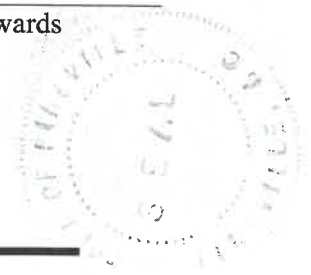
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to conclude the budget workshop at 10:15 p.m.

ATTEST:


Barbara Monticello, Town Clerk


Mayor, Jack Edwards



**MINUTES OF THE BUDGET
WORKSHOP SESSIONS FOR 2019
PINEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
PINEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA**

TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2019, 5:30 P.M. (4th and final budget meeting)

ATTENDANCE

Mayor: Mayor Jack Edwards
Mayor Pro-Tem: David Phillips
Town Council Members: Debbie Fowler, Melissa Davis, and Joe Maxim
Town Manager: Ryan Spitzer
Finance Director: Richard Dixon
Town Clerk: Barbara Monticello

CALL TO ORDER

Upon the motion of Council Member Debbie Fowler and second by Mayor Pro Tem David Phillips, there were ayes by all to call the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Town Manager, Ryan Spitzer, stated that the adjusted budget now had an overage of \$1,093,000 using a full \$0.38 tax rate. He presented a recap of all the departments starting with the Fire Department.

He asked council for their thoughts on the request for a Chevy Tahoe for Fire Chief, Mike Gerin. The difference between what the Tahoe costs and what an Explorer costs was only about \$3600. A \$36,000 Tahoe included the cost of a radio, lights and striping. Council Member Melissa Davis suggested the town pay for the vehicle but the Fire Department pay for the equipment. She then asked if they give their turnout gear to someone else if one of the employees left. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips stated that if it fit someone else, it would be given to that person. He added that he didn't think we should give up on pursuing a donation from the hospital and that we should keep on them about it. Mr. Spitzer agreed that the town would buy the vehicle and the Fire Department would have to pay to have it equipped. He continued, stating that \$40K had been budgeted for incentive pay for the department and that the bay heaters, Tahoe and ladder truck have all been budgeted for this budget.

Moving on to the Police Department, Mr. Spitzer stated that 4 new police vehicles were budgeted per the established replacement schedule with 5 new ones slated for next year. They would need to keep a few spare vehicles on hand in case one of the good ones had to be worked on. Once a police vehicle has 113,000 miles on it, it will be replaced. All the police vehicles were now Ford Explorers. Council Member Melissa Davis asked if the 25-mile rule was still being enforced with police officers taking cars home. Mr. Spitzer stated that it was being enforced but that anyone who took their vehicle home beyond the 25-mile limit, was reimbursing the town at the IRS rate for any miles over that limit.

For the Public Works Department, \$65K was budgeted for increases that are necessary to bring anyone up to the \$15 an hour mark. Council Member Davis asked if a spreader was really necessary. Mr. Spitzer agreed that it was one of those things that will probably only be used 3 to 4 times a year. Council Member Davis added that she wanted to be sure that Department Heads went over the entire benefits packet including wages, insurance, and all the other benefits so they get the real picture of how much they are getting paid. She went on to suggest that maybe Scott Futter's crew (from P&R Dept.) could do more

of the mowing while Public Works employees concentrate more on building maintenance. Mr. Spitzer stated that we could look at doing that.

The sidewalks around Lake Park will be replaced using \$148K of funds from the Culture and Tourism budget. The rest of the sidewalks will be replaced next year. Coming out of the Parks and Recreation budget will be a roof replacement at the Belle Johnston Community Center at a cost of \$56K, a dehumidifier to prevent mold/mildew in the Hut at a cost of \$8500 and new trash cans with \$12K budgeted for that project. The schedule for trash pickup on Main Street is once a day on Mondays and Thursdays and twice a day on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

Under the Storm Water budget, if Council decides to do curb and gutter on the only streets that are left to do it on (Eden Cir., part of Cone Ave. and Lynnwood Lane), \$1.7 million in storm water reserves could be used to do that. Mr. Spitzer stated that we receive \$405K a year toward our storm water fund. He estimated that the lower side of Lynnwood Lane would probably be the most expensive to do since new piping has to be done along there. He is getting estimates and will bring it back to council once he receives them. Discussion followed regarding Department Heads researching more for grant money to help fund some of these projects. Manager Spitzer replied that he's having the most difficulty getting the fire department to search for grants. Council Member Joe Maxim asked if that could be made part of performance goals to which Mr. Spitzer replied that it could. Council Member Melissa Davis asked for a copy of each department's goals.

Mr. Spitzer continued, stating Telephone had slated a piece of redundancy equipment as a capital item on FY19-20 budget but was told to go ahead and purchase it for this FY18-19. Two other pieces of equipment were budgeted for the upcoming fiscal year budget. As for the Governing Board's budget, Mr. Spitzer will check into the procedure for increasing Council Members pay. Additionally, there is only one new position in this upcoming budget and that is for an Evidence Technician in the Police Department.

Also budgeted for the upcoming fiscal year budget are costs associated with a new town hall. Creech & Associates were selected as the architectural firm to design the new town hall. Their fees are 8-12% of the cost of the building. They had done a lot of town structures and specifically town halls for Davidson, Indian Trail and Huntersville. Edifice Contractors will be the CM at Risk contractor that will work with Creech & Associates.

Mr. Spitzer noted that \$38K was budgeted for painting the Belle Johnston Center and Shay Stage. Council Member, Melissa Davis, asked if it could be cleaned instead of painted and thought the shelters had just been painted about two years ago. Mr. Spitzer will budget painting of the pink portions of the building and will take a look at the rest to determine if it needs to be painted or just pressure washed. Also, under the Parks and Recreation budget, advertising for the Fall Fest and Rockin' & Reelin' was cut in favor of utilizing the services of Paschal to market the events of the town. In the past, about \$6500 was spent advertising the Fall Fest and Rockin' & Reelin' events. Mr. Spitzer stated that a discussion on selling alcohol at town events would be held at the town's next Council Work Session.

Mayor Pro Tem David Phillips brought up a grant that might be good for police vehicles to convert them to run on both gas and propane. Equipment is installed on the vehicles for free and there is no upfront cost to the town. Selling the propane is where the company makes their money. Council Member Melissa Davis wanted to know how much it costs to outfit a police vehicle with all the needed equipment which Mr. Spitzer agreed to find out for her.

Mr. Spitzer asked Council Members what they wanted to do with the tax rate – keep it as is or decrease it. After hearing everyone's thoughts on the subject, the consensus was to reduce it by \$0.03 although Council Member Debbie Fowler was in favor of reducing the rate by even more than \$0.03.

When discussion came up regarding sponsorships, the question was raised when Council needed to make a decision about a donation to the efforts for a Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Spitzer indicated that it had to be soon because if they wanted to make a donation, it needed to be budgeted for this year. After some discussion it was decided to hold off on a donation to the Chamber until January to see how well the effort is progressing at which time, they will revisit the idea. In the meantime, they agreed on a \$4,500K donation to Pineville Neighbors Place.

Discussion turned to the Good Fellas program. Council Member Melissa Davis asked for a copy of the waiver form used for that program, waiving the town of any liability for transporting kids from their school to the Good Fellas program held at the Belle Johnston Community Center. She was not in favor of the town transporting the kids from their school. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips was not in favor of the town transporting them either. He was in favor of the program, just not transporting them for fear of the town being sued. Mr. Spitzer stated he was working with the Good Fellas program coordinator to come up with alternate transportation. Council Member Joe Maxim agreed there was some exposure to risk but that a policy should be adopted and a vote taken on the policy and not the program.

Mayor Pro Tem David Phillips asked that this topic be continued for discussion at their next Council Work Session. At 9:04 p.m., a motion was made by Council Member Melissa Davis and seconded by Council Member Debbie Fowler to adjourn the meeting. There were ayes by all and the meeting concluded.



Mayor Jack Edwards



Town Clerk, Barbara Monticello

