

**Town of Maggie Valley**  
**Special Called Board of Aldermen Meeting**  
**Budget Workshop**  
**May 24, 2011**  
**MINUTES**

Members Present: Mayor Roger McElroy, Aldermen: Phil Aldridge, Saralyn Price, and Danya Vanhook  
Members Absent: Alderman Scott Pauley  
Staff Present: Manager Tim Barth, Finance Director Shayne Wheeler, Planning Director Nathan Clark, Festival Director Audrey Hagar, Chief Scott Sutton, Public Works Director Mike Mehaffey, and Town Clerk Vickie Best

The Budget workshop began approximately 3:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Boardroom.

Manager Barth began going over the budget message. There will be no tax, fee, or rate increase. A 2% cost-of-living raise is included for the employees. Staff solicited three insurance quotes. Blue Cross/Blue Shield came in the lowest, but yet comparable to current coverage. The change for insurance coverage should save the taxpayers \$59,441.76 annually.

Alderman Aldridge reminded Council that last year, the League insurance went up 22% now this year there was only a 4.8% increase. "What is the justification?"

There was not enough time to solicit quotes last year. This year the Finance Director began getting quotes in March. Council discussed several options and then directed staff to check with the Maggie Valley Sanitary District about their coverage, look into a flex plan to help employees with deductibles, and retiree insurance.

Director Wheeler asked that if Council plans to provide retiree insurance that money should begin to be put away for that purpose. A special fund would need to be developed.

**Public Works Department**

Due to the amount of roads now coming under Powell Bill Standards, more of the Powell Bill Funds will be used in the next four to eight years. There is currently a bill in the General Assembly requiring all Powell Bill funds to be used within five years. Staff will keep Council informed of the status of the bill.

Council felt core inspections of newly paved roads should be required to assure the town that the roads that the town contributed funding to meet the minimum road standards.

Council directed staff to develop guidelines for contributing money for road repairs.

When Director Mehaffey began driving a town owned truck, rather than his personal truck, the workforce lost a vehicle to use. The Ford Ranger is too small to use for Public Works need.

Alderman Aldridge stated that due to the current economy, purchasing an additional truck for Public Works should be delayed. "In two to three years, Mike will want another new truck."

Director Mehaffey disagreed, reminding Council that the new truck is not for Mike Mehaffey, but for the Public Works Department. "Public Works keeps vehicles until the useful life is gone."

A majority of Council was in favor of replacing the Ford Ranger. If the budget is adopted as presented, the Ford Ranger will be sold and that money put toward the cost of a larger truck. The Enterprise Fund (sewer fund) will be paying the remainder of the cost.

The proposal to disconnect street lights that serve little or no purpose, will lower the street lighting line item substantially. Council directed staff to develop a street lighting policy for review at the June 14 meeting.

The Beautification Program has zero funds allocated for the coming year. There is approximately \$2,000 left to purchase flowers in the fall.

Public Works will need to replace a mower this year. The department does a considerable amount of mowing during the summer months.

#### **Administration Department**

The cost of the 2011 election is included in this year's budget. Employee training is higher this year due to Southern Software training for the administrative staff. Southern Software is transforming from a dos program to windows. This change will affect all aspects of the program.

When questioned about the advertising line item, Manager Barth explained that public notices, tax notices, and other administrative advertisements come from the line item. The General Assembly was considering allowing electronic notification rather than requiring published notification. The bill did not pass the House of Representatives.

#### **Planning Department**

The Planning Department has a limited budget already. The major cut for the Planning Department were in professional services. Professional services were cut by half.

#### **Police Department**

Chief Sutton informed Council that since the police department submitted the proposed budget, the Federal and State Governments have now decided that they will no longer pay for meth clean ups. The local agencies will now be required to pay for the cleanup, which can be expensive. Several of the local agencies (Canton & Waynesville) have discussed contracting with a local cleanup agency. There are two such cleanup agencies in Haywood County.

Any funds dedicated to meth lab cleanups would need to be placed in a separate line item. Alderman Vanhook felt at least \$12,000 should be allocated.

When asked, Chief Sutton explained how he purchases uniforms for the police officers. The officers develop a list of items they will be requiring, and then the P.D. contracts a price for those items. Pants

generally run around \$30 a pair, shirts around \$40 and Jackets around \$125. Officers are allocated so much money to be used on an as-need-basis. This line item also includes rain coats, duty belts, etc.

As earlier discussed, Haywood County is going to a mobile cad radio system. 911 is paying for 98% of the project; but each police agency will need to pay for their license fee.

### **Board of Aldermen**

There is \$6,000 allocated for donations.

A 2% raise is allocated for Council members.

Council asked that Manager Barth compare the pay rate to other towns similar in size. Mayor McElroy stated that most of his pay from the town goes toward donations to political candidates. "Making campaign contributions helps to develop a better working relationship, thereby helping Maggie Valley."

### **Parham Park**

There have been donations made for improvements to Parham Park from the Lion's Club and the Civic Association. These funds along with money from the general fund and grant funding will be used to get the drainage fixed, the river decks installed and the walking trail created. The Town will then begin saving money to install restrooms.

Council asked staff to check into portable style restrooms for Parham Park until permanent restrooms can be built.

Council asked that Parham Park improvements be put on the "fast track".

Staff has already submitted a check to N.C.D.O.T. for the driveway cut. Staff will contact the engineer working on the drainage issues to see when the plan will be completed.

### **Debt Service**

The debt service contains fixed costs that do not change until the debt is paid.

### **Enterprise Funds (sewer fund)**

It is anticipated that user fees will increase as the new medical facility comes on-line.

### **Trout Festival**

The 2012 Trout Festival will be scaled back. Admission will be free. Music will not be live. The main focus will be on clean water, and heritage. Staff will eliminate as much funding as possible.

### **Festival Grounds Fund**

It will cost approximately \$11,200 to bring the Festival Director on staff full time. Several board members felt this was needed since the Festival Grounds has become an even more important aspect to draw tourist (put heads in beds) to Maggie Valley.

Alderman Aldridge questioned bringing Ms. Hagar on full time due to the lack of new festivals.

A date will be set for an additional budget workshop.

Council asked that department heads begin submitting quarterly reports for their departments.

The workshop ended approximately 5:30 p.m.

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Mayor Roger McElroy

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Vickie Best, CMC, Town Clerk