

TOWN OF GRIFTON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Budget Workshop
May 1, 2012

Present: Mayor Billy Ray Jackson; Commissioners Richard Hill, Sammy Whitehurst, Mary Grace Bright, Will Barnes, Buddy Albritton; Manager Joe Albright

Absent: None

Mayor Jackson called the meeting to order.

Manager Albright began the meeting with a presentation of the following:

Where we are: The General Fund is operating at about a \$60,000 surplus. We are still expecting \$80,000 from FEMA which should make us break even. The W/S Fund is operating with about an \$86,000 surplus. We are still waiting on the bridge water line to be relocated and the final bill from CMSD. Manager Albright feels confident that we will be okay in W/S also.

Upcoming Budget: Manager Albright stated that the facts of the proposed budget are; the budget contains no increase in the property tax rate or any COLA raises or merit increases.

Manager Albright stated that in the General Fund Expenditures the proposed budget contains;

*\$25,000 to come from capital reserve to repair St. David Street park building and lettering on Town Hall and the repair and painting of the Pitt Street side of the Harvey Building.

*\$8000.00 for the second year debt service on the new police car and additional \$16,000 for the first year debt service on 2 new cars.

*\$10,000 for a used dump truck with 1/3 of the cost coming out of General Fund and 2/3 of cost coming from W/S fund.

*\$20,000 for fuel and maintenance cost.

The Water/Sewer Fund proposed budget contains;

*\$32,000 Increase to cover additional debt service for capital projects at CMSD. Manager Albright proposed that the sewer bond fee be increased from \$1.75 to \$4.00 in lieu of raising the rates.

*\$20,000 for the W/S portion of the used dump truck.

Manager Albright stated that the unknowns are the property tax, because of the re-evaluation, and health insurance.

Manager Albright stated that the budget has been balanced. He also stated that he moved ½ of the current street employee, which is in general fund, to the w/s fund.

Commissioner Mary Grace Bright stated that she would like to see the property, liability, & workers compensation insurance shopped out to see if we can find a better price. She stated that she would like to keep the business in Grifton but we are not being fair to the citizens by not shopping.

Manager Albright stated that he was told to look at dependent care health insurance at the retreat meeting back in February. He informed the Board that 5 employees are receiving dependent care

coverage. Two out of the five is very high. Because we only have 15 employees our premiums are based on age and gender versus a standard rate.

Commissioner Mary Grace Bright stated that she thinks the Town should do away with dependent care coverage and distribute the amount that has been paid to all employees.

Commissioner Hill stated that he would not vote for this action because it is unfair to the employees who are receiving the benefit. He stated that it is as if we are punishing the employees for having children and spouse's. He also stated that the ones not receiving the benefit are not missing it.

After a lengthy discussion the Board decided to see the numbers of the increase on health insurance before a decision is made.

Commissioner Whitehurst made a motion to recess this budget workshop until May 8th, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Barnes. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board of Commissioners Budget Workshop was reconvened on May 8th, 2012 at 6:00p.m.

All Commissioners were present with the exception of Commissioner Hill.

Mayor Jackson called the meeting to order.

Manager Albright stated that the main unknown at the previous budget workshop was the health insurance. He informed that Board that he just received the numbers on the insurance today and has plugged them into the budget without changing the final numbers.

Manager Albright strongly recommended that if the Board changes the insurance to do a step down in lieu of having the employee absorb the cost all at once. Manager Albright stated that he would come up with a solution and bring it back to the Board for the future year.

Mayor Jackson stated that when an employer starts to take away benefits then the employee starts to deviate from the job that is being done. He also feels that dependent care should continue for the current employees receiving the benefit but any new hires would have to pay theirs. Also with the current employees they should not be able to have any more or any less than what is being offered now.

Commissioner Bright agrees with the phasing down but feels strongly that it should be done for all employees.

Manager Albright stated that the budget is basic because of the tightness and funds.

Commissioner Bright made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Albritton. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted
Angel Hudson
Town Clerk