

**TOWN OF GRIFTON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING
MAY 3, 2011**

Present: Mayor Billy Ray Jackson; Commissioners Ardathy Spikes, Buddy Albritton, Richard Hill, Sammy Whitehurst; Manager Joe Albright

Absent: None

Mayor Jackson called the meeting to order at 5:00p.m.

Mayor Jackson led the Board of Commissioners in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Manager Albright presented a power point program beginning with the current budget. He stated that we are hoping to break even in the General fund with maybe a slight surplus. He also stated that the water and sewer fund is tracking about the same. He did mention that there has been a halt on all non essential spending at this time.

Manager Albright presented a brief synopsis of the proposed budget beginning with:

*Good news about the sales tax- It has been projected that we will get approximately \$60,000 more than this current year. The population increase helped with this cost estimate.

*A 3% C.O.L.A. raise has been added.

*Provisions for overtime pay in the utilities department. He stated he did not make provisions for the police department overtime pay because there is a high turnover rate and there is always extra salary monies that can be used. Also, when fully staffed the police department is able to keep the overtime at a minimum.

*\$25,000 has been pulled from capital reserve to repair the St. David Street park building and Town Hall façade. He stated the \$25,000 is an estimate because he does not have any solid figures at this time. He does, however, have an estimate of \$3000 to replace the roof. He estimated \$10,000 to the park and \$15,000 to Town Hall façade. Manager Albright stated that Capital Reserve is considered designated savings.

*Because of high maintenance cost on the police car, an \$8,000 debt service on a new police car has been included. This will be the first installment of a 3 year lease purchase agreement.

*\$22,000 has been included to fund the pavement study discussed at a previous workshop meeting.

*\$7500.00 to replace the hand held meter reading devices. Manager Albright informed the Board that this is not an option but something that has to be done because of a mandatory update to the system.

*34,000 to relocate the water line located under Contentnea Creek.

Manager Albright stated there is a need for a new dump truck at utilities. The cost of the dump truck will be around \$60,000. There is also a need for a new mower. Manager Albright said if the Board feels they should choose between the dump truck and the mower he recommended to replace the dump truck first.

Manager Albright stated that he has put this proposed budget together on things he is certain of. However, there are unknown factors such as tax evaluations and health insurance increases. He expects to have all unknown estimates by the next meeting.

Manager Albright asked the Board for direction and input.

After further discussion, Commissioner Whitehurst made a motion to recess this budget workshop until 6:30p.m. May 10, 2011. Seconded by Commissioner Albritton. Motion carried unanimously.

The budget workshop resumed on Tuesday, May 10, 2011 at 6:30p.m.

Manager Albright stated that he is still waiting on the Pitt County tax evaluation numbers and the health insurance information. He has a meeting on Wednesday with the health insurance carrier but does expect at least a 10% increase.

Commissioner Spikes made a motion to close the budget workshop. Seconded by Commissioner Whitehurst. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted
Angel Hudson
Town Clerk