

TOWN OF TRYON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING - BUDGET WORKSHOP
JUNE 5, 2015 1:00 P.M.
TRYON FIRE STATION

Present: Mayor Jim Wright Mayor Pro Tem Roy Miller

Commissioners: George Baker, Bill Ingham, Happy McLeod

Staff Present: Town Manager Joey Davis Town Clerk Susan Bell

Also Present: Wanda May, TDDA Representative Mary Prioleau, TTDA Chair

John Walters, Planning & Zoning Chair John Vining, Parks Committee Chair

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Wright called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Town Manager Davis stated he had confirmation from TTDA, TDDA and the Parks Committee. They will be here around 3:00. He hopes to finish today if possible. The public hearing is scheduled for June 16, 2015.

The overall budget is down about \$200,000 due to grants from last year. The numbers will look relatively the same. The General Fund revenues were bumped up. The numbers are current actual numbers from this year and could go up.

The Board discussed the grant from the Polk County Community Foundation for \$20,000 to do the work on Maple Street. The work has been done and they ask what the hold up is on receiving the money. What is the delay? What terms have not been met? The Board wants someone from the foundation to come to the meeting and let us know what the issue is.

Governing Board-same budget as last year.

Administration-salary changes because of the community development position
Capital outlay is for council chamber renovations

Police-salary adjustments – recruitment and retention was discussed
Capital outlay – voice recorder for dispatch

Street – salaries and wages jumped \$40,000 – cost split person between the street and water & sewer
This person will be certified in sewer and have CDL license
Contracted services increase is for the Phase I & II studies of the maintenance building

Parks & Cemetery

The PWD believes that his crew can take care of the cemetery efficiently-we are bringing everything back in house-including leaf pickup
Trees need to be removed and the area cleaned up on the northeast side-Davis will get with the Public Works Director
Perpetual care charged? No
List of Plots: McFarland handles the records – why don't we bring the records back in house – Town records were burned a while back – are there empty plots – Polk County Historical Society has recorded the sites – Advertise the lots that no one has records for
Talked about setting aside \$10,000 for finding out about the empty plots, etc.
Town Attorney needed to be involved before deciding how to proceed

Powell Bill-going to look at grants to help with sidewalks

TDDA has received funding to hire a full-time director and to setup an office with furniture for the Director – The Main Street Program requires a minimum of twenty hours a week dedicated to the program and TDDA may want help with this next year-Paula can help some with this if needed

TTDA has pledged \$2,200 to the TEDx event. The Occupancy tax is doing well this year. The Tryon Plaza Motel is closing June 30. Possible new B&B's opening soon. Aire B&B has short term rentals that are not paying the occupancy tax and the board has concerns. The Town needs to investigate how to collect on these individual rentals.

Sanitation Fund looks about the same-Salaries-changed it to three full-time positions instead of two. No rate increase proposed.

Water & Sewer Fund

Water Revenues-water rates are basically set where the rates are coming in this year
Have we had any action from the collection agency-One payment of \$20-we need to stick with them
Distribution –2 full time & one summer help position-the biggest capital expense is the water truck-may have to look at this later
Water Plant-capital outlay \$10,000 is for a vehicle to collect samples –discussed using a vehicle from another department

Fire Department-you approved a three cent tax increase-then the county decided on a one and a half cent increase-The increase is to help cover three projects: 1) personnel, 2) truck, 3) station
The truck and station is probably a year out. They need to start accruing money now.
Take action to find out about the county setting the rates, the town's rights to set rates and the town's obligations to provide fire service to the township.
The Fire Department is thankful for the Board's support.
Salaries-one full-time position and the part-time positions will fill in when the full-time position is out. Each department is paying a portion for Paula's salary for grant work.

Harmon Field-the numbers that he ran included the payment back to the Town of \$6,000 instead of \$12,000. Their budget looks very good. Personnel is up because of insurance
Blue Ridge Hunter Jumper contributions-included under rental fees

Charles Dallara Project-going to have to decide if they are going to get our support-need money for maintenance-also are proposing the splash park which will need a lot of maintenance

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

TDDA – Wanda May stated that TDDA is not asking for anything. Davis stated that the Main Street Program is asking for 20 hours a week. May stated no money needed. One of the things they have thought about is realigning their fiscal year, instead of October to September, changing it to start in July. The position is working toward the Main Street. The Foundation is supplying the money to fund the director and to set up an office for this year. Most of you know the office had been setup on the second floor of Town Hall at one time. That office was given up and then closed. They are considering Harold Burrell’s building as the location for the new office. They will have easier access. They are making progress.

TTDA - Mary Prioleau stated that she feels that they are losing money. They could be bringing in \$17,000 easily. The Aire B&B is advertising and collecting the money and the homeowner is not paying the occupancy tax. If a renter stays less than 90 days then they have to pay the occupancy tax. Her question is how do we make people aware of the tax and how do we make sure that we are collecting all that is due. All agreed to seek advice from the attorney.

Mayor Wright introduced Lotti Woods from TEDx. Ms. Woods explained that TEDx is globally known for the sharing of ideas. The talks are put on the internet. Every talk is done by a speaker that takes about 18 minutes or less. It just brings ideas to the community. The topics range from world peace to how to plant a garden. Right now there are 30,000 talks on the internet. No politics or religion. She and her sister decided to bring this to our area. They have talked with Tryon Fine Arts Center about the local venue. Speeches will be on Small Town Vitality, poverty, growing food where people live and how art effects our lives. 80,000,000 people watch each month.

Baker stated he has listened to her carefully and asked why should we help fund this? Ms. Woods stated that the budget is \$10,000, which covers professional filming, getting on the world-wide web, coffee breaks and gift bags. Ted Talks makes no money. They do have additional sponsors. Prioleau stated that the Town’s symbol will be on every video tape. People are looking at the quality of life in an area when they are looking at moving.

Wright asked if this would be funded in this year’s budget or next. Davis stated probably next year. Wright stated that we have to keep in mind that there are two other events that are going to come before us asking for money. The Toymaker event and the Polk County Film Society event.

McLeod stated that it is innovative and she likes new ideas. Ms. Woods stated that they have a packet of information that can be delivered to the board. Miller asked if their financial commitment for the September 12 event has been met. Woods stated all but \$3,500. Baker was supportive of the \$2,200 that the Tourism board gave. Miller asked her to get back with them at the next meeting. Woods stated that it is a new concept. Miller stated that promotion is part of the strategic plan. The Toymaker 100th year celebration is something that we also need to support. The Board thanked Ms. Woods.

Planning & Zoning – John Walters presented a list of what the board has been doing this year.
Met with TDDA Board to discuss working relationship

Met with Mayor Wright to discuss various issues, enforcement of ordinances and some type of fee for businesses before opening
Ongoing review of Landscaping Ordinance
Heard presentation from Scott Lane re: Missildines development
Received information on White Oak expansion project
Reviewed several signage applications
Held variance for a garage setback issue
The board is currently working on the sign ordinance. He went over several issues that they needed clarifying and changed.

Once the ordinance is approved there have been suggestions made on how to get the signs that are not in compliance removed. Baker stated that a non-conforming sign is only good for the current business. Once a new business comes in then that sign will have to be conforming.

Davis stated that Paula is approaching the permitting differently than he did. Prioleau stated that the town needs to have teeth in enforcing the ordinance. Walters is looking forward to working with Paula.

PARKS – John Vining asked if there were any questions before he starts. Baker stated that the cemetery has been discussed some. Vining stated that all the town properties are named the same in the GIS mapping now, except for three parcels. Jerry is working on a task force to work on grants. Miller suggested funneling all grants through Paula. Davis will make sure that she is involved with the Parks Committee. Jerry stated that there are questions that we have, like parks and recreation are we going to have any recreation. There are some of the properties that go out into the county and out of state. It all comes back to the town to maintain. There not sure how much the Town wants to put into this.

Miller stated that the board discussed the cemetery – bringing records back in house. The only ones that have the records are McFarland's and the Polk County Historical Society. The Town records were burned many years ago. The Town has discussed what it would take to get all the records restored. John presented a map of the parks to the Board and asked if there was still a cemetery committee. Davis stated that some have deceased, but there are several that we can contact. Baker stated that we are trying to work on maintaining the cemetery. Jerry stated that however you maintain your town cemetery is a good sign of the town. John suggested a walk through tour of the cemetery.

McLeod asked about the trails. What if we started across the road at Ziglar Field? She suggested putting in picnic tables and possible restrooms. John had requested access to water and a possible street lamp. McLeod stated there would be plenty of parking. Baker stated that we have to be careful because of vandalism. Miller stated putting a gate up and water access is available. People don't use Ziglar Field because of lights and no restrooms, but we haven't taken care of the park either. There is kudzu growing on trees that were planted. The road access has tree limbs across it. For our second biggest park, it's an eyesore. John stated that the original idea was to use Ziglar Field as the hub for the trails.

Davis asked about getting rid of the cane. Should we contract the work or do it in house. The board agreed to get a price on contracting. Wright stated that Duke Energy used heavy equipment to get rid of the cane on Highway 108. Maybe we could check into this.

John stated that Mr. Salmon is going to bring suggestions to the Parks Committee on things that could be done for Bryan Park.

Ingham stated that you have to prioritize what needs to be done. Wright stated access by bike or walking to each park needs to be studied. Miller stated that there are already trails around, it's just getting access. Wright stated someone is going to bring up the idea of paying to get into Harmon Field if you don't live in the Tryon Township.

John stated that Woodland Park needs a small sign at the Carolina Drive entrance and a possible plaque for the McCall family recognizing them for their donation of 1/3 of an acre next to Woodland Park.

The Parks Committee will make a list.

Mary Prioleau asked for clarification about Crys. Is he still working? They are trying to find out about the visitor's center situation. Davis stated that it's not clear at the moment in theory if it is going to be a town function after June 30 or not. Prioleau stated that there has been some interest in talking with the museum organization. McLeod stated that they are very interested. They will get together about this. Prioleau stated that training needs to be done with the volunteers for the information center.

McLeod, Baker and Wright agreed to be here in the morning to call the meeting to order, just in case someone shows up. They will adjourn shortly thereafter.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Baker made a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Jim T. Wright, Mayor

Attest:

Susan B. Bell, Town Clerk