

**TOWN OF TRYON**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**BUDGET WORK SESSION**  
**MARCH 12, 2016 9:00 A.M.**  
**TOWN HALL - MCCOWN ROOM**

Present: Mayor J. Alan Peoples Mayor Pro Tem Bill Ingham

Commissioners: Roy Miller, Bill Crowell, Crys Armbrust

Staff Present: Town Manager Joey Davis            Town Clerk Susan Bell

Police Chief Jeff Arrowood

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Peoples called the budget work session to order at 9:08 a.m. He introduced Jerry Atkins, representative from Lake Lanier. Mr. Atkins spoke about his concerns with Lake Lanier. He had sent correspondence to the town and Greenville County. Davis stated that he had responded to Greenville County and shared the history of the lake. DEHEC does inspections of the dam and they share the findings with the Town. Ingham stated that DEHEC stated the bridge needed to be raised seven feet. Mr. Atkins stated that is ridiculous, it doesn't need to be raised. Crowell stated if the road is closed, then the fire department could go up Jervey Road. It would take the same time.

Mr. Atkins asked what it the town doing about the road and further means taking care of the Town's responsibilities. It's the Town's primary source of drinking water. Miller stated that we are following the recommendations of SCDOT and DEHEC. Mr. Atkins stated then you are doing the minimum.

The Town agreed to meet with Greenville County to listen to what they have to say.

**TRANSPARENCY**

Davis stated he is researching the cost to revamp the Town's website and design, audio and video. He has received one quote from Tracey Daniels. Armbrust stated that he needed multiple comparisons. The only money that it will cost the Town is when Susan hits the button to upload the information.

**STREETS AND SIDEWALKS**

Town Manager Davis asked where we were going with the streets and sidewalks. Commissioner Crowell stated with our gathering the other day, the Lane's are going to pick up the construction of the ramp and back to their building. The final pricing will be given when Trace gets back to us. They asked Trace to quote Missildine corner, 10 N. Trade Corner, Morris corner, the step corner and repaving the

intersection separately. DOT says the sidewalk on the 10 N. Trade side doesn't have to be moved. Maybe we could chase grants to help fund everything.

The Board discussed in depth how to pay for, how to get the work done at the corner of Oak and Trade Street and should this be done. The money that the Lane's had spent on the Missildine project was discussed and what the Town should do to help out.

The LGC wants the Town to put money in fund balance each year. They have to approve and sign off on very large loans.

The Powell Bill funds have been tied into the gas tax, but no longer. The state could add to the Powell Bill funds or they could take away now. This could be an issue.

Eight percent of the \$1.7 million dollars in fund balance is approximately \$139,000.

Miller stated that after a meeting with Gale Lane, CDD Kempton and the architects he understood how the plans would be implemented on the Oak Street project. There is an impression in the parking lot at the end of the building. There are safety issues that have been ignored. He has been fighting for years for sidewalks on the east side. Citizens have to walk on the streets instead of a sidewalk. Chestnut Street also needs work.

Davis stated he has heard complaints from White Oak and Foothills Realty asking why their sidewalks aren't being repaired. Armbrust stated of course the argument is coming, because we have allowed the negativity to grow. Peace milling is indecisive. Doing Peake Street first would get us the biggest publicity bang. The Board is failing at taking action. Miller stated at the December meeting discussion came hot and heavy and now two months later we are saying let's move, saying that council has been stagnant on repairing infrastructure. They have been conservative, spending money through grants. Our sewer all comes to Howard Street and our elderly go down Oak Street

Armbrust stated Oak Street has been on council's agenda for two years. Miller stated the Board had allocated \$12,000 for streetscape. Ingham stated Miller has a valid point. If we can't do this one, because we can't do another one, we are never going to get anything done. Armbrust stated Oak Street and Trade Street have been in the process for two years. Miller wanted the board to look at New Market, McCown, St. Luke's Plaza and Depot Plaza, just look at what we've done. Armbrust stated he had raised most of the money for those.

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Armbrust stated to the best of his recollection, he asked why he doesn't see a backhoe on Peake Street. Davis stated that you haven't told me how to pay for it. Armbrust stated the Board has to give Davis lots of information. He asked what amount could we borrow without LGC approval. Mayor Peoples stated around \$200,000 to \$240,000. Miller stated let's give direction \$200,000 out of fund balance and \$100,000 elsewhere. Armbrust stated if the building sales that money should go toward the projects.

Miller stated we need to retain PWD Walker's expertise. Armbrust asked if you wanted him retained or used as a non-benefited part-time employee. Mayor Peoples stated set a number of hours per week that we can use him. Crowell stated they want his knowledge not his muddy boots.

Armbrust asked if Davis would be bringing a vote ready proposal to Tuesday's meeting. Davis stated he wouldn't know interest rates at that time.

### VEHICLES

Davis stated in his opinion Arrowood needs to keep his tahoe, the new explorer would go with him to the fire department and Arrowood also needs to replace the 2009 vehicle. Miller stated he and Ingham had discussed this issue and they feel that if they value the department heads, then the department heads will tell us what they need, because we don't know. He and Peoples had agreed to a five year plan that may need to be changed to a six year plan or use mileage. They had voted for another employee because of the safety issue. The use of Meth is increasing in Tryon. Ingham stated every budget has areas that can be cut. Armbrust asked about the number of employees in the police department. Arrowood stated nine. Davis stated \$700,000 to \$750,000 budget. Armbrust stated that is 78.4% of the budget. Davis stated half of the budget. Armbrust agrees with Miller, we should give courtesy to the recommendations. Davis stated Arrowood needs a vehicle. It will take three months to get it.

Peoples suggested paying him a stipend instead of giving him a vehicle. Miller stated if the Chief leaves his home and has to come to White Oak, he shouldn't have to switch vehicles. Peoples stated we can spend more money or raise taxes. Ingham stated we didn't have to do a sidewalk. If he can purchase a vehicle within his budget that is good.

Armbrust stated our officers are saying that they are combat ready warriors. Ingham stated they can be a warrior. Crowell stated he thought the police department was on Trade Street instead of in Lynn. Armbrust stated the Town of Tryon is under no obligation to offer police protection. This falls under the County. We offer your department as a value to our citizens. The state requires the county to cover. Miller stated that the state doesn't require us to provide Community development or fire department either. We have good officers, he is seeing a shift. He saw Officer Allen throwing a football with some kids recently. Arrowood stated our police officers are guardians not warriors. Peoples asked if they still check doors. Arrowood stated yes. Miller stated it is community policing. These officers set in the audience to keep us safe when we did the annexation, because of the death threats received.

Davis stated Arrowood has a level of experience that he hasn't had in a while. Miller agrees. The officers need to get out of the cars. Bring them as you have done and introduce them to the public. They're doing a great job. They shouldn't look at cutting vehicles until they have looked at everyone. Peoples stated experience does cost more. Miller stated we need to look at services also.

Davis asked if they wanted him to look at COLA and merit for this year. Armbrust asked for it on a separate sheet. The employees don't feel invested as part of Tryon, most don't even live within the town or state. Example: citizens put out trash every week, the cans and lids are thrown back. Why

can't they leave them as found? Can we not clean the small twigs and the small pile of sand underneath up at the same time? When he came to Tryon the streets were washed down. It makes a difference. He asked if we could get the inmates back. Davis stated no.

Crowell asked about bumping water rates up on the outside customers. Davis stated that water and sewer rates look okay for now.

Early retirement was briefly discussed. The salary of the Fire Chief position was also discussed briefly.

**ADJOURN**

Mayor Peoples entertained a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Miller so moved. The motion carried unanimously.

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J. Alan Peoples, Mayor

Attest: