

Meeting Minutes  
April 29, 2013

Mayor Lewis called the budget workshop to order at 8:15 p.m. and gave the invocation. Commissioners present were Harold Meacombs, Danny Alford, Cherrye Davis, Dale Bachmann, and J.W. McClenny. The Spring Hope Enterprise and Nashville Graphic reporters were the only guests in attendance.

Mayor Lewis began with reviewing General Fund expenditures advising that we have no answers from Blue Cross/Blue Shield on medical insurance premium increases.

With the need for fireproof file cabinets for the town hall and the police department, Mayor Lewis suggested the Commissioners be think about turning the old jail into a fireproof storage facility by adding fireproof glass block in the windows and fireproofing the ceiling versus buying fireproof filing cabinets at \$3,630 each. He believes the old jail can be renovated for about the same price and have more room for storage of records.

Commissioner Bachmann pointed out that the roof of the Police Department needs to be checked, as signs of water damage and aging have appeared. He also questioned why mandated training costs were not in the training expenditure line item. Mayor Lewis replied that employee paid training has to be included in the salary and benefits line items of the budget and the actual cost of a training class or seminar, along with any meals and mileage expense, is included in the training expense line item.

Mayor Lewis questioned Police Chief Murray about the \$2,000 estimate for audio/video equipment for the interview room, which was quoted at \$750 last year. Murray replied he is requesting better equipment than the \$750 bottom of the line equipment quoted last year. Commissioner Bachmann also stated that the \$2,000 requested for carpet seemed high. Other requests for the police department will be decided at the May meeting.

Chief Murray requested the Board to give serious consideration to adding a fifth police officer, citing recent citizen complaints about not having adequate coverage if the only officer on duty is on another call.

Al Smith, owner of Middlesex Pharmacy, had approached Commissioner Alford and asked if the town would improve the appearance of the sidewalks. Alford would like to pursue Smith's request as he has been asking for a couple of years. Mayor Lewis stated there were several painting options and colors and recommended that all sidewalks be uniform in appearance. He also suggested to test an area on West Hanes street before completing the South Nash

sidewalks. Bachmann expressed concerns about the liability of painting any sloped areas and added that painting concrete requires a lot of maintenance. Mayor Lewis will have the total cost of completing the sidewalks in front on all the merchants at the May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting and confirm Powell Bill funds can be used for this project.

Powell Bill street paving is proposed at \$100,000 in the upcoming year.

In the Sanitation Department, Commissioner Bachmann requested to increase maintenance of vehicles from \$2,500 to \$4,000 because the compactor on the trash truck needs attention.

In the Parks Department, no money has been included for capital improvements. Bennie Lewis recommended a tin roof for the picnic shelters and Mayor Lewis will obtain pricing from roofing contractors, check into options to raise the clearance on one shelter that is really low, and find out the cost to add an outside receptacle and dusk to dawn lights. The general consensus of the board was tin roofing would be better than shingles. Commissioner Bachmann also requested to add \$3,000 for plantings and landscaping at the Wellness Park.

Commissioner Bachmann requested salaries and benefits be added to the Cemetery department. Clerk Lambert reported that when the town's auditor had been questioned about this matter in previous years, he advised against posting salaries and benefits in the Cemetery and Parks Departments. The reasoning given was it is all General Fund money anyway, there are no full time employees in these departments, time spent is minimal between October and March in comparison to sanitation and streets and sidewalks.

Commissioner Bachmann requested to add \$5,000 to begin replacing some Christmas lights. Mayor Lewis added that they will cost about \$400 each. Commissioner Alford would rather the \$5,000 go toward requested items for the Police Department. Commissioner Meacombs also said he would like to review the Police Department budget before adding Christmas lights. Mayor Lewis will get prices from Progress Energy for electrical hookup and poles.

The Board briefly discussed the town's contribution budgeted at \$3,384 to Nash County Parks and Recreation. Several Commissioners stated that for the last several years, area residents are going to Wilson and Zebulon to play sports.

Commissioner Davis noted that Braswell Library has asked Nash County for \$6,000 for new software for the town's library. Mayor Lewis added that we requested \$16,000 contribution from Nash County for the library. The current contribution is \$13,230.

In reviewing General Fund revenues, Mayor Lewis noted that tax collection revenues are based on estimates received from Nash County. He also noted that refuse collections are projected at \$71,000 based on the customer base.

General Fund revenues and expenditures as presented totals \$806,900, of which \$103,000 is Powell Bill Funds, and this model uses \$158,645 of the General Fund Balance.

Commissioner Bachmann requested that a Closed Session be added to the May 13, 2013 meeting agenda to discuss the Dental Office Lease agreement. The Board took no action on Bachmann's request.

After a brief discussion on budgeted sewer expenditures, Commissioner Bachmann agreed to \$10,000 for maintenance of equipment. He added that now that he has his Collections I Certification, he wants to take the Collections II course and maybe take back the operations from Envirolink next year. To incorporate growth, sewer charges to Raleigh, were budgeted at \$80,000, up \$5,000 from the current year. Raleigh wastewater treatment rates are unknown at this time. Commissioner Bachmann questioned \$10,000 in contracted services, which included \$3,500 for a sewer bore on Selma Road. Mayor Lewis replied that the town would pay for the bore and the developer would reimburse the town the \$3,500. Contracted services budget was \$8,000 in 2012-2013.

In the Water Fund expenditures, a decision must be reached to either renew our current water tower maintenance contract, go with a contract with a different company, or purchase needed maintenance a la carte as needed. Mayor Lewis added that a la carte numbers run about the same as a contract price and there was a small difference in the contract price quoted by another company. Mayor Lewis is checking with Nash County on the possibility of joining with Nash County on maintenance of towers to get a better price.

On the revenue side, water collections are projected at \$130,000 up from \$125,000 for anticipated growth in the customer base. The FWB Children's Home water usage for the first month in operation indicates they may not use their projected gallons as discussed before we started the water line project. Sewer collections budgeted remain the same at \$275,000 and the acreage and impact fees projected are for anticipated lot sales.

Water Fund revenues and expenditures as presented totals \$142,800 and uses no contingency. Sewer Fund revenues and expenditures as presented totals \$326,440 and uses \$28,840 contingency. The total Water and Sewer Fund Budget presented is \$469,240.

The total budget presented for all funds is \$1,276,140. Mayor Lewis advised that remaining are two big unknowns-Raleigh sewer treatment increase and health insurance. He added that salary increases for several employee reviews will be completed at the May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting and will be incorporated into the budget.

Also, the Board must decide if they wish to change one of the part time utility worker positions to a full time position. Mayor Lewis also added that mandated police department training salaries could be reduced from \$4,500 to \$4,000.

Mayor Lewis urged all board members to contact him with any questions or comments regarding any budget items before the May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

With no further items to discuss, Commissioner Davis moved to adjourn.

Jennifer Lambert, Clerk

Mayor Luther H. Lewis, Jr.  
Commissioners  
Harold Meacombs  
Danny Alford  
Dale Bachmann  
Cherrye Davis  
J.W. McClenny