

**TOWN OF LONG VIEW
TOWN ALDERMEN MEETING
Budget Retreat
March 20, 2006**

The Town of Long View Board of Aldermen met on Monday, March 20, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. at the Community House in Morganton, North Carolina for the 2006 – 2007 FY Budget Retreat.

BOARD PRESENT: The following members of the Board were present: Mayor Norman Cook, Alderman Ken Bumgarner, Alderman Vernon Moyer, Alderman John McDaris, Alderman Jackie Bowman and Alderman Randall Mays.

STAFF PRESENT: The following members of staff were present: Town Administrator David Epley, Town Clerk Frances Hildebran, Town Attorney Redmond Dill, Finance Director James Cozart, Fire Chief Eric Shepherd, Town Planner Charles Mullis, Public Works Director David Draughn, and Water Plant Superintendent Rani Holland.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Chuck Moseley, Centennial Coordinator and Mr. Scott Millar with the Catawba County Economic Development Commission were present for part of the meeting.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Mayor Norman Cook called the meeting to order and turned it over to the Town Administrator.

DEPARTMENT HEAD PRESENTATIONS: At this time the Department Heads who had requests for the 2006 – 2007 FY Budget made their petition to the Board of Aldermen.

Public Works Department: The Public Works Director informed the Board that Public Works needed a new flatbed dump truck. The Town lost its dump truck this year during leaf season. He asked for a small two ton size truck with a dump bed and suggested that the 1986 flatbed be put into limited service during leaf season. The 1997 full size flat bed would be used for larger jobs. The estimated cost was \$50,000.

Mr. Draughn informed the Board that the Town currently had two backhoes, however, the 1986 655C was rarely used due to lack of power and operational difficulty. The 1996 675D was used daily and was beginning to show significant wear due to the amount of use. He requested authorization to purchase a more reliable backhoe. The estimated cost was \$60,000.

The Public Works Department also needed two meter reading trucks. The current trucks were five years old and maintenance had increased. The estimated cost for two new trucks would be \$40,000.

Mr. Draughn also informed the Board that the Public Works building was continuing to have leaking troubles with the roof. Repairs were estimated around \$10,000.

He suggested to the Board a 5-year term loan for the purchase of the equipment and maintenance; \$20,000 from the Utility budget line items and \$25,000 from Powell Bill.

Following detailed discussion and comments from the Board, it was the consensus of the Board that the Public Works requests were needed and they recommended that Powell Bill funds be used to purchase the dump truck and back hoe and that it be taken out of the 2005 – 2006 Powell Bill Fund.

Alderman Mays questioned the status of the 33rd Street Improvement project. The Town Planner assured Mr. Mays he would follow-up with the Department of Transportation on this. Mr. Mullis was also asked to check on the mobile home partly in the street on 37th Street.

Water Plant: The Water Plant Superintendent stated the only thing she needed was the Alum Tank which cost approximately \$26,400. It was noted that money was in the budget for this, however, Ms. Holland knew that a lot of money had gone into repairs to the water pump station and she did not know if the Board wanted her to buy the Alum Tank. Following a brief discussion the Board was of the consensus that the Alum Tank needed to be bought. There was a brief discussion on the Carbon Feeder and the Board decided it did not need to be purchased until it was mandated by the State.

Fire Department: Fire Chief Eric Shepherd informed the Board that the Town was not in ADA compliance because the entrance doors to the major town facilities were not handicap accessible and buzzers were needed at the doors; two for Town Hall, one for Police, one for Public Works and one for the Recreation Center. A cost estimate of \$10,812 was presented which did not include the electrical wiring and widening of the door at Public Works.

Following discussion it was the consensus of the Board that the Town needed to be ADA compliant.

Mr. Shepherd informed the Board that the Fire Department was in need of a new fire truck. The 1976 Ford Tanker needed to be replaced. The cost estimate was \$300,000. It was noted that the Town had two more years to pay on the aerial fire truck debt. The debt service was discussed and it was noted that the county pays the Town \$24,000 a year for the Town's assistance with county emergencies. The Fire Chief was to check with the County to see if they could provide any assistance with the purchase of a new truck.

Police Department: The only capital outlay item the Police Department needed was a new vehicle. Alderman Mays suggested that they check on getting something cheaper on gas.

Administration: The Administrator informed the Board that Town Hall needed a new roof. The cost estimate for replacing the flat roof was \$38,277. Alderman Moyer noted that the Town needed to hire an engineer to oversee the installation because the current roof had poor workmanship. Rubber roofing was also discussed by Alderman Mays. Mr. Epley stated that they have always had problems with flat roofs. He informed the Board that he wanted to get an alternate bid to have a gable roof installed. He would also check on the rubber roof.

Mr. Epley presented a cost estimate to have the carpet replaced at Town Hall. The cost was \$14,402.69. Alderman Bumgarner noted that he would contact H & A Carpet and see if he could get a better price.

Mr. Epley also presented a cost estimate to have Concrete Tarmac put in front of the Fire Bays which would be 40' x 85' x 8" with reinforced concrete. The cost would be \$23,520. He stated that this needed to be done to keep up the facility.

Swimming Pool: The Town Administrator asked the Board for direction on the Swimming Pool. He noted that it had been a topic of discussion for the past few years and the disposition of the pool needed to be resolved.

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that the pool be filled in and covered. Everything needed to be demolished with the exception of the bathrooms. Alderman Bumgarner suggested that 90% compaction was needed. The Administrator noted that the filled in pool site would be a good place to put a picnic shelter in commemoration of the Town's centennial.

Icard Water Contract: The Board received a copy of the Icard Water Contract which the Town entered into in 2000. The Town pays Icard Water Corporation \$5.00 per meter which totals \$475 per month in the Indian Hills Subdivision. It was noted that there was an option to purchase the lines. The revenue off the lines was \$34,200 per year and the Town pays Icard \$6,000 with a profit of approximately \$24,000 per year.

Following detailed discussion it was the consensus of the Board to maintain the current agreement with Icard Water and that a cost analysis to be done sometime in the future.

Raw Water Pump Station: The Town Administrator informed the Board that he and the Finance Director went to Raleigh on March 17th to meet with the Local Government Commission. The LGC told staff that they needed to fill out the application and the Board needed to adopt an authorizing resolution.

There was detailed discussion on what option the Town needed to do to make the renovations to the Raw Water Pump Station.

The Administrator informed the Board that what ever option they chose the Town needed to raise water rates to offset the cost of the construction. If Option One was selected the

cost would be \$481,600 and the Town would need to raise water rates \$2.76 per month per customer which was a 20% increase.

The Board expressed concern about raising rates and Mr. Epley informed them that the LGC asked if the Town had the capability to connect to a regional system and the Administrator informed them yes.

The LGC assured the Town that they were in good financial condition; however, they would not recommend taking money from fund balance to pay for the Raw Water Pump.

Alderman Moyer voiced his support for Option Four (\$285,600) which when financed over a 7 year period would only cost the customer \$1.59 per month.

If Option One was financed 10 years instead of 7 the rates would only have to be raised \$1.67 per month. If Option Four was financed for 10 years the rate would only be \$1.00 per month.

The Board expressed concern about raising the water rates since the sewer rates were going up \$2.00 and the tipping fee \$1.00.

The Finance Director informed the Board he felt better about the water revenues since staff adjustments had been made in the front office.

It was noted by Attorney Dill that the sewer rate increase could not be changed because it was honoring the Town's agreement with the City of Hickory.

Following further discussion it was suggested that the Town drop the tipping fee for 2006 - 2007 which would only raise the customer water rate to \$.67. However, the application to the LGC would show the \$1.67 rate increase because that is how the adjustment needs to be made to pay for the renovations to the raw water pump station.

It was the general consensus of the Board to go with Option One and to finance the project for 10 years which would be a \$.67 increase to the customer this year. The \$1.00 tipping fee would be taken off fiscal year 2006 – 2007. It was suggested that the tipping fee be put back in the budget in 2008.

The following chart was suggested by Alderman Moyer for rate increases through 2008:

2006	Water	\$1.67	Sewer	\$2.00	Tipping Fee	0	Total:	\$3.67
2007	Water	0	Sewer	\$2.00	Tipping Fee	0	Total:	\$2.00
2008	Water	0	Sewer	0	Tipping Fee	\$1.00	Total:	\$1.00

Alderman Vernon Moyer stated that he would prefer that the Town go with Option Four instead of Option One; however, he would go along with the general consensus of the Board.

Centennial Celebration: Mr. Epley introduced Mr. Chuck Moseley to the Board. He noted that Mr. Moseley had extensive experience in coordinating festivals, special events and centennial celebrations.

Mr. Moseley passed out a plan of action for the Long View Centennial Celebration and a cost estimate of \$70,500. The big event would take place June 30 – July 1, 2007. The Plan included signage throughout the Town with **“Town of Long View Celebrates 100 Years in 2007”** and a large sign in front of Town Hall. Other items were Labels (\$500), Car Tags (\$500), Picnic Shelter (\$15,000), Fireworks (\$4,000), Centennial Souvenir Magazine (\$1,000 for ad), Advertising for Centennial (\$2,000) and Legends of Bluegrass entertainment for Saturday June 30, 2007 which included Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys, Lester Woodie, J.D. Crow, Lost and Found, John and George Shuffler, and special recognition of Jim Shumate (\$28,000). The Sunday Entertainment would be Bluegrass Gospel with the Boerger family, Far City Boys, Cochman Family, Primitive Quarter, etc. for \$7,000. Mr. Moseley’s Fee would be \$5,000.

The Centennial Picnic Shelter was discussed and it was noted that it could be dedicated at a separate centennial event. There was discussion about placing the picnic shelter at the swimming pool location.

It was also suggested that Banners be looked into to see how much it would cost to have them placed throughout the Town.

The Board thanked Mr. Moseley for the presentation and appreciated the work already put into the project and looked forward to working with him on the Centennial celebration.

Raw Water Pump Station Staffing: It was asked that during the approximate four month down time of the raw water pump station during renovations what would the four water plant employees be doing? Ms. Holland explained that they would all be needed during the down time and she could find work for them such as maintenance, and upkeep of the property. She also stated that someone would need to be on duty on all shifts to monitor readings and take samples.

There was also discussion about the accountability of the new pump station and who would be responsible for its upkeep. It was noted that the Water Plant Staff would be totally responsible and a checklist of requirements and inspections would be maintained by the Superintendent.

It was suggested that staff get a cost estimate to have a camera system placed at the Raw Water Pump Station.

Zoning Overlay of 33d Street: The Board asked for an update on the zoning overlay of 33rd Street. The Planner stated that he has started to work on it and as homes become empty rezoning to commercial was being done.

Multi-Jurisdictional Industrial Park: The Administrator invited Scott Millar from the Catawba County Economic Development Council to discuss with the Board the concept of the Multi-jurisdictional Industrial Park. Board Members and Attorney Dill asked Mr. Millar a number of questions on the pay back of the money up fronted by the participants to build the park.

Following his presentation he asked if Long View would consider re-joining the Catawba County Economic Development Council for \$15,000 per year. Some Board Members expressed concern that Catawba County did not help with the recruitment of the Drexel Heritage Plant.

There being no further discussion the 2006 – 2007 Budget Retreat adjourned at 3:10 p.m. upon motion by Alderman Moyer, seconded by Alderman Bowman. The vote was unanimous.

Town Clerk

Mayor