

**TOWN OF LONG VIEW
TOWN ALDERMEN MEETING
BUDGET RETREAT
MARCH 19, 2008**

The Town of Long View Board of Aldermen met on Wednesday, March 19, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. in the Community House in Morganton, North Carolina for the 2008 – 2009 FY Budget Retreat.

BOARD PRESENT:

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

STAFF PRESENT:

The following members of staff were present: Town Administrator David Epley, Town Clerk Stephanie Watson, Town Attorney Redmond Dill, Finance Director James Cozart, Public Works Director David Draughn, Fire Chief Eric Shepherd, and Water Plant Superintendent Rani Holland.

OTHERS PRESENT:

No others were present.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Mayor Norman Cook called the meeting to order and turned it over to Town Administrator David Epley.

DEPARTMENT HEAD PRESENTATIONS:

At this time the Department Heads who had requests for the 2008 – 2009 FY Budget made their petition to the Board of Aldermen.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:

Public Works Director David Draughn informed the Board of his request of the purchase of a new Ford F350 Dump Truck with a snow plow and spreader for Public Works. He did not have a cost estimate for the truck at that time.

Mr. Draughn also requested a shed to be built against the back lot of the Public Works Department to cover some of the machinery parked there. He estimated that it would probably cost no more than \$5,000.

After a brief discussion, the Board said that they would take these items into consideration.

Alderman Ken Bumgarner asked that the Town consider demolishing the old sewer plant as it is no longer in use. Public Works Director David Draughn said that he would work on getting a cost estimate for the demolition of the old sewer plant. Town Administrator

David Epley said that he would look into getting information about a Brown Fields Grant.

WATER PLANT:

Water Plant Superintendent Rani Holland informed the Board that the Water Plant was in need of a new truck. She included an estimate given to her by Armstrong Ford Inc for a F150 4X4 Truck that would cost \$20,310.00.

Ms. Holland also requested a three sided canopy as a cover for the new truck to keep it out of the elements. She included an estimate for the cover given to her by Hickory Metal Products that would cost \$2,460.00. Alderman Ken Bumgarner suggested that the Water Plant use the canopy that will be removed from the old sewer plant when it is demolished.

After a brief discussion, the Board said that they would take these items into consideration.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Fire Chief Eric Shepherd informed the Board that the Fire Department was in need of a new 1,200 – 1,500 Gallon Pumper Tanker to replace the Ford 1976 model. After some discussion, the Board said that they would take this item into consideration.

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT:

Town Administrator David Epley informed the Board that the white Crown Victoria car that is currently being used by the Planning Department will need to be put up for surplus this year. He requested two new Crown Victoria cars. As planned one car would go to the Police Department for use as a new patrol car and one would be used for the Administration car. After a brief discussion, the Board said that they would take this into consideration.

Mr. Epley informed the Board that the new carpet for Town Hall and the automatic door openers that were budgeted for the current fiscal year should be in place within the next few months.

Mr. Epley informed the Board that in the 2009 – 2010 fiscal year the Town will need to consider sealing the front parking lot in front of Town Hall.

Mr. Epley informed the Board that the table and chairs used at the Recreation Center will need to be replaced this year as the old tables and chairs are worn. The Board said that they would take this item into consideration.

Mr. Epley informed the Board that under the current fiscal year and the next, landscaping will begin on the area located around the Centennial Picnic Shelter. This will include a monument located by the shelter.

Tax Rate:

Town Administrator David Epley suggested to the Board to leave the tax rate at \$0.40.

Water and Sewer Rates:

Town Administrator David Epley informed the Board that the Town is currently on schedule with the water and sewer rates and he suggested that no adjustments be made.

Tipping Fee:

After a brief discussion by the Board, it was decided to leave the current tipping fee at \$6.00 for the next fiscal year.

POST OFFICE PROJECT

Town Administrator David Epley informed the Board that in the foreseeable future it will not be possible to have a Post Office built on the property across the street from Town Hall. He explained that currently the United States Postal Service feels that the current post office in Hickory, NC is fully capable in handling Long View's needs. He asked the Board to consider possible other uses for that property.

After some discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to have Town to look into getting architectural drawings for a possible building complex in the area across the street from Town Hall.

BENCHMARK

Town Administrator David Epley informed the Board that he had been in contact with Benchmark to discuss the possibility of having them handle the Town of Long View's Code Enforcement/Minimum Housing Department. He explained that the company would come in on a contractual basis.

Mr. Epley planned to have a representative from Benchmark to come to a Board Meeting before the next fiscal year begins.

CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECTS

Water Lines South of I-40

Town Administrator David Epley asked to table the discussion on the water lines south of I-40 until the 2009 -2010 fiscal year.

Cooper Kenworth

Town Attorney Redmond Dill informed the Board that the Cooper Kenworth building is close to reaching completion.

40+/- Acre Area

Town Administrator David Epley informed the Board about a 40+ area piece of property located on 23rd Street S.W.

Alderman Randall Mays believed that this property could be possibly bought for a green space in the Town of Long View. He explained that with some work to the area, it could be used for hiking and other recreational activities. He said other

possible uses include a rental site for a cell tower as well as a possible usage for a future satellite for police and fire.

The Board asked that the Town look into the possible purchase price of this property and to see if there would be any available grants.

Western Piedmont Council of Governments –Policy Board Meeting

Mayor Norman Cook and the Board asked the Town to get in contact with the Western Piedmont Council of Governments to schedule a possible date for a Policy Board Meeting to take place at Long View Town Hall.

Sidewalk

After some discussion it was the decision of the Board to look into the possibility of extending the 2nd Ave NW sidewalk further up the street to the entrance in front of the Food Lion Store.

Paving of Streets

Alderman Ken Bumgarner suggested to begin making a list of some of the streets that may need to be paved in the 2008 – 2009 Fiscal Year.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, motion was made by Alderman Ken Bumgarner, seconded by Alderman Vernon Moyer to adjourn at 1:00 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Stephanie C. Watson
Town Clerk

Norman E. Cook
Mayor