

## **Budget Workshop – May 3, 2022**

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a budget workshop on Tuesday, May 3, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center with Mayor Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were J.J. McCree, Terry Evans, Jan Tedder-Rogers, and Clarence McNeill, Jr. Commissioners Melvin Ellison and Heather Seibles was absent. Staff present were Town Manager Hank Raper, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Police Chief Jon Edwards, and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals.

### **Call to Order and Invocation**

Mayor Charles Kemp called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

### **Salary budget for new Town Manager**

Town Manager Hank Raper presented a memo from Erika Phillips, who conducted the town's pay study. Ms. Phillips recommended offering the new town manager a salary in the range of \$75,000 to \$90,000 based on the candidate's relevant work experience, education and salary history. Finance Director Jenny Larson put \$98,000 in the budget because that would have been Mr. Raper's salary if he had stayed.

### **Salary and Bonus increases**

Commissioner Evans would like to see the Board of Commissioners salary increase to \$250 month for the mayor and \$200 a month for the commissioners. The current salary is \$175 for the mayor and \$125 for the board members. The last time the board increased their salary was in 1993.

Commissioner McCree requested that both full and part time employees receive a Christmas bonus of \$350 in December. Currently part time employees receive a bonus of \$175.

### **Budget review**

Town Manager Hank Raper went over the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. The increase in water, sewer and sanitation rates will cover the costs of implementing the pay plan, higher gas prices and inflation increases on sanitation, materials and insurance. Mr. Raper said he talked to Al Leonard about the 25% increase in the sewer rate and Mr. Leonard said he will make sure Boardman, Cerro Gordo and Fair Bluff raise their rates accordingly.

Mayor Kemp would like to see some funds budgeted for façade grants as part of downtown revitalization.

### **American Rescue Plan funds**

Town Manager Hank Raper informed the board of purchases planned for the American Rescue Plan funds. The town is contracting with Dorsett Controls and VC3 for a SCADA well alarm system to replace the outdated analog system. A used loader and a new Alamo mower are being purchased for Public Works. The Police Department is purchasing three new Ford F-150s. The plan is to start a vehicle rotation system where the police department will buy new trucks, use them for 5 years and then give them to Public Works to be used for another 5 to 10 years. Buying new vehicles will save on maintenance and repair costs.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further discussion, Commissioner McNeill made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McCree and it passed unanimously.

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Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC  
Town Clerk