

06/20/23

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Wade held a public hearing June 13, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. at the Wade Town Hall for the purpose of receiving public comment on the 2023-2024 budget.

Board Present

Mayor Joseph Dixon
Commissioner Jennifer Weaver
Commissioner Johnny Lanthorn
Commissioner Kevin Herring
Commissioner Johnny Sawyer
Commissioner George Strater

Visitors

Town Attorney Thomas Neville

Mayor Dixon called the public hearing to order and opened with prayer.

Agenda Adoption

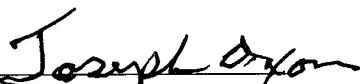
Commissioner Lanthorn made a motion seconded by Commissioner Herring to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

2023-2024 Budget

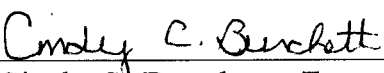
Board Members reviewed the Budget information and held a general discussion. Mayor Dixon informed the Board that no one had signed up to speak for or against the proposed 2023-2024 budget. There were no comments from the Board.

Adjournment

Commissioner Lanthorn made a motion to adjourn the public hearing. Commissioner Herring seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.



Joseph Dixon, Mayor



Cindy C. Burchett, Town Clerk

06/20/2023

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Wade met in regular session June 13, 2023 following the adjournment of the budget public hearing.

Mayor Dixon called the regular session to order.

Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget Ordinance

Board Members reviewed the proposed 2023-2024 Budget Ordinance. There was no discussion. Commissioner Sawyer made a motion to adopt the 2023-2024 Budget Ordinance as presented. Commissioner Strater seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Minutes

Commissioner Herring made a motion seconded by Commissioner Sawyer to approve the Minutes of the May 9, 2023 regular session. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports

Board Members reviewed the financial reports and Commissioner Lanthorn made a motion to approve the Reports as presented. Commissioner Sawyer seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Water Department

Board Members reviewed and discussed the May Water Report. Town Clerk Cindy Burchett informed the Board that the large amount of unaccounted for water loss was due to the water tank overflowing. A general discussion was held regarding what could be done to prevent this type of loss. Commissioner Sawyer made a motion seconded by Commissioner Herring to approve the Report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Business Items

Speakers from the Floor

Mayor Dixon informed the Board that no one had signed up to address the Board under the Speakers from the Floor agenda item.

Committee Reports

Beautification – Mayor Dixon stated that the Town and Park looked good for Founder's Day. Commissioner Weaver asked if Board Members would be interested in having food trucks available on Friday night parked on the Town's land on the corner of Church St. She stated that other surrounding Towns were also doing these types of events. Commissioner Lanthorn suggested that the event could also be held at the Park or Community Center. Commissioner Lanthorn stated that he knew someone from the area who was interested in organizing an event for food trucks or a farmer's market. Commissioner Weaver stated that interest had been expressed in the Town holding an event in September such as another Founder's Day or community yard sale. Commissioner Strater questioned if the churches were going to organize the Fall Festival at the Park. Commissioner Lanthorn stated that Pastor Michael Naylor was in charge of

this event. Commissioner Strater stated that working with such events would take planning & organizing just like Founder's Day. Commissioner Weaver agreed to do additional research on how to organize the events that were discussed.

Park– Mayor Dixon informed the Board that Parks & Recreation finally came and removed leaves & other debris from the Park. He also explained that the Town maintenance employees took 8 loads of pine straw and other debris to the landfill to make everything look good for the Founder's Day event. Commissioner Strater stated that he noticed that several lawns were mowed and questioned who did the work. Town Clerk Cindy Burchett stated that it was a combination of citizens and the Town employees. Commissioner Strater asked if the Town charged the citizens. Mrs. Burchett stated that the Town did not charge for the service because the overall goal was to get the Town looking its best for the parade. Commissioner Strater expressed concern that citizens would think that the mowing would occur for free on a regular basis. Mrs. Burchett stated that the property owners were aware that it was just one time due to Founder's Day. Mayor Dixon stated that he had not heard from the arborist about what trees should be planted at the Park instead of dogwoods.

Streets – Mayor Dixon stated that the streets were in good condition.

Approval of Audit Contract

Board Members reviewed the Contract to Audit from S. Preston Douglas & Associates. Commissioner Lanthorn made a motion to approve the contract to perform the audit for the 2022-2023 fiscal year in the amount of \$11,450. Commissioner Herring seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Potential Distressed Designation for Town of Wade Water System

Mayor Dixon explained that the Water System was not currently designated as distressed but was being considered because of the age of the System. Town Clerk Cindy Burchett explained that the Town received the designation in 2021 and she worked to get the designation changed. Mrs. Burchett explained that when she called NC Rural Water for assistance with this designation, she was informed that being designated as distressed was not necessarily a bad thing because it would qualify the Town to receive substantial grant funding. She explained that the Town had not done anything wrong to receive the designation. The designation means that the system is small, older, almost fully depreciated and does not have the capital to replace the system if there was a problem.

Mrs. Burchett informed the Board that she had spoken to Victor D'Amato with the NC Department of Environmental Quality who explained that the letter was saying that for the current year the System was not distressed and so that the Town could choose to do nothing and wait until the 2022-2023 Audit was complete and the State would review the information and make a determination then. She explained that the Board could also choose to adopt a Resolution and ask to be distressed instead of waiting for the State. The Board held a general discussion. Mrs. Burchett stated that being distressed may assist the Town in getting prepared for the growth that would take place over the next 20 years, however there would be actions that the Board would have to do as required by General Statute. Commissioner Strater questioned what the grant funds would be used for. Town Clerk Cindy Burchett informed the Board that Mr. D'Amato agreed to come to the Board's July meeting to further explain the distressed designation. Attorney Thomas Neville informed the Board that they needed to carefully consider the steps that the Board

must complete and review the score sheet which includes 3 points for the system merely being small before making a decision. He stated that before making a decision the Board should know exactly what the designation means and what are the bad aspects of being identified as distressed. Commissioner Lanthorn made a motion to table discussion of the distressed designation in order to give Mr. Victor D'Amato the opportunity to address the Board at the July meeting. Commissioner Sawyer seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Announcements

Mayor Dixon informed the Board that Founder's Day was a success. He explained that all the bills were paid using the sponsorships that the Founder's Day committee received and there was \$860 remaining.

Commissioner Lanthorn reported that there was a supply chain issue which was causing a delay in getting the generators.

Commissioner Herring informed the Board that he had been in contact with Marvin Price Jr. director of Strategic Community Initiatives for FTCC who stated they had received the green light from the County Commissioners for the H.O.P.E. initiatives and that funds would be available in March. He also stated that several citizens had contacted him about gaining access to an old cemetery near the river off House St. Mr. Herring stated that there was a locked gate across the property and the families were not able to get the grave sites to maintain them. Mr. Neville stated that there was General Statute 65-101 & 102 regarding the issue that may be of assistance. There was general discussion concerning the matter.

Adjournment

Commissioner Sawyer made a motion seconded by Commissioner Lanthorn to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.



Joseph Dixon, Mayor



Cindy C. Burchett, Town Clerk