

Town of Spring Lake  
Special Meeting, Budget Workshop, of the Board of Aldermen  
Municipal Building  
300 Ruth Street  
Spring Lake, NC 28390

May 19 & 20, 2010

**MINUTES**

6:00 p.m.

The Spring Lake Board of Aldermen held a special meeting in the Grady Howard Conference Room of the Spring Lake Municipal Building with Mayor Ethel T. Clark presiding.

**Board Members Present:** Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra  
Alderman James Christian  
Alderman Richard Higgins  
Alderwoman Debora Hudson  
Alderwoman Fredricka Sutherland

**Others Present:**

Michael Uskiewicz, Town Manager	Allen Coats, Finance Director
Byron Blumenfeld, Interim W&WR Director	Renee Daughtry, HR Director
Robert Doberstein, Fire Chief	Paul Hoover, Director of Inspections
Troy McDuffie, Police Chief	Ken Metcalf, Recreation Director
Tom Spinks, Planning Director	Rhonda Webb, Town Clerk

**2. Invocation.**

Alderwoman Sutherland gave the invocation.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance.**

Mayor Clark led the meeting in the pledge of allegiance.

**4. Budget Workshop**

**a. Review of Budget Message**

Mr. Uskiewicz announced that he has presented a balanced budget and no fund balance will be used. He stated that we are trying to "live within our means" and still accomplish the goals that the Board has set forth. Our fund balance is not depleted and we are not going bankrupt. There is a proposed 5% raise for the Fire Department. Other employees will be assessed during the next budget year. Blight will be addressed.

**b. Question and Answer Session**

Revenues

Mr. Uskiewicz stated that he believes the projected numbers are conservative. Property tax revenues are based on the numbers that the County has on the books now. We projected a 1% increase in the local option sales tax. The increase in the interlocal agreement revenue is based on money we will get from Fayetteville because of the annexation of Fort Bragg. The Board allocated \$219,341 from Fund Balance in the current year's budget to balance the

budget.

#### Expenditures

The Board reviewed each department's budget. Mr. Uskiewicz and Mr. Coats clarified line items that any Board Member had questions about.

Funding for the Recreation position is in the proposed budget.

#### Other Questions

*How many employees received raises?*

Mr. Uskiewicz stated that 56 employees out of 80 employees will have received raises if the 2010-2011 Budget is passed. Alderwoman Sutherland requested the dollar amount for the raises.

*Will we fill the vacant Part Time firefighter positions?*

No.

*What is the anticipated fund balance for this fiscal year?*

Mr. Coats responded that it should be close to what it was at the end of last year, which was \$1,017,000

*Which land sale are you talking about? The sale of the land is a capital increase and that money should be used on capital purchases and not operating expenses. He posed the question that what if we are unable to sell the property then the \$200,000 will have to come out of fund balance. We can't count on this money.*

This year it is the Industrial Park. Next year there are several tracts.

*Could we stagger the purchase of vehicles for the Police Department and when will they be requesting vehicle again?*

The Police Department has approximately 22 vehicles. Most of the vehicles that are unmarked have well over 100,000 miles and are eight to ten years old. Four of the requested nine vehicles will be marked vehicles the rest will be unmarked. Code Enforcement, Training Supervisor, Evidence Officer will be positions that will use unmarked vehicles. Chief McDuffie expects to get more than 100,000 miles for each vehicle. We will be financing the vehicles for three years. Yearly payment will be approximately \$80,000. We need to be on a rotation schedule. We got behind on the rotation schedule over the past few years. They anticipate getting back on the rotation schedule next year.

*Does the Fire Department have enough people to meet the ISO rating?*

Chief Doberstein stated that adding part time employees will give us the most "bang for our buck" and still allow us to meet the ISO requirements.

*Is there any money for sidewalks?*

When the Murchison Road widening happens they are proposing to put sidewalks in then. This should happen in 2012. We do not have money for sidewalks now but if we wait until the road

work is done we can get most of the sidewalks paid for by DOT.

*Are the costs for bus shelters in the budget?*

They are included in the budget and are proposed to be placed where the shelters were originally.

*What is the status of the water meters and are they in the budget?*

The new water meters are not in the proposed budget. The engineers are looking for grant money. When we are ready to implement the plan we intend to borrow the money if grants are not available. We are not looking to raise water/sewer rates to balance this budget. Growth in the Town will automatically create more water/sewer revenues.

Alderman Higgins would like to see us do a planning session to map out the next five years.

The meeting was recessed until May 20, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

**Action:** The Board approved a motion to recess the meeting until 6:00 p.m. tomorrow afternoon.

**Motion by:** Alderman Higgins

**Second by:** Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

**Vote:** Unanimous

Mayor Clark called the meeting back to order at 6:00 p.m. on May 20, 2010.

**Board Members Present:** Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra  
Alderman James Christian  
Alderman Richard Higgins  
Alderwoman Debora Hudson  
Alderwoman Fredricka Sutherland

**Others Present:**

Michael Uskiewicz, Town Manager	Allen Coats, Finance Director
Byron Blumenfeld, Interim W&WR Director	Renee Daughtry, HR Director
Robert Doberstein, Fire Chief	Paul Hoover, Director of Inspections
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Expenditures Continued

The Board continued to review the budget by departments.

The Water and Sewer Fund is an enterprise fund and should "pay its way." That is what the interfund transfers are about.

The State has mandated that we do recycling. This is the reason for the proposed \$5 per month increase. This increase will affect home owners since it is on the tax bill. There was concern expressed about the burden of a cost increase.

*Could we phase the increase in over a couple of years?*

This fund should have had an increase last year but it may be possible to decrease it next year.

*Will the cost of the bus system go up if we add a stop a Grogg Street?*

It will go up. The service is based on mileage and any increased miles that are driven will increase the cost of the service. Mr. Hoover is also proposing smaller shelters which will cost less and will allow us to put up a few more.

**c. Guidance for Proposed Budget**

The Board did not offer any further guidance at this time.

**d. Other Items of Board Interest**

Mayor Clark advised that she, the Manager and the Recreation Director will meet with Dr. Till to try to keep the Mae Rudd Williams School building open and used for something so that it will not be a blight building in the Town. There were no other items of interest to discuss.

**5. Adjournment.**

**Action:** There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

**Motion:** Alderman Higgins

**Second by:** Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra

**Vote:** Unanimous



*Rhonda D. Webb*

Rhonda D. Webb, MMC  
Town Clerk

ATTEST:

*Ethel T. Clark*

Ethel T. Clark  
Mayor