

Minutes of a Special Called Council Meeting and Budget Committee of the Saltville Town Council held on Tuesday, May 26, 2009 at 7:00 P.M., at the Town Hall.

PRESENT: Jeffrey L. Campbell, Mayor  
Steven W. Johnson, Town Manager  
Edward T. Asbury, Jr., Assistant Town Manager  
Christen W. Burkholder, Town Attorney

COUNCIL: Dickie Dye, Danny Maiden, Neil Johnson, Thomas Holley, Stanley Cahill

ABSENT: Todd Young

Mayor Campbell called the meeting to order stating this meeting is to do the final detailed work on the 2009-2010 budget and discuss the authorization for the publication of such.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Campbell said he would proceed with comments or motions relating to the proposed budget.

Councilman Dye said in the budget worksheet he didn't see a line item for a new Police Officer or paving that was discussed at May's Council meeting. Councilman Dye said he would like to know what the starting salary is going to be along with what the benefits package totals out to. Councilman Dye said we will need to know where the money is coming from and get with the Director of Public Works to see what streets are in need of paving. Several locations are getting in bad shape, such as Buckeye and First Avenue. Palmer Avenue is starting to deteriorate, especially around the drain from the well Fields to the river.

Mayor said we will take up the new Police Officer first.

Jeff Smith said the new Police Officer is disbursed on line item 10-510-0228 entitled New Officer. Mr. Smith said the starting salary is at \$22,500 and this number came from the Assistant Chief-of-Police and the other required deductions are on a percentage basis along with the approved benefits.

Mayor asked Council if they had anymore comments with respect to the budget.

Councilman Cahill said, if we are going to use the Inmate program, we need to use it to the maximum efficiency. Councilman said, starting on July 1<sup>st</sup>, let the inmates proceed in doing the janitorial work and eliminate this position. This would save us in excess of \$9,000 per year. Councilman Cahill said they have to have supervisors with them, so it wouldn't be an issue concerning the money drawer.

Mayor Campbell asked Mr. Smith what is the exact amount pertaining to this issue?

Mr. Smith said, it is disbursed under line item 10-420-0204 entitled Comp. of Custodian in the amount of \$9,581 but other required deductions would be around \$9,775 total.

Councilman Cahill said part of the reason is, the inmates can mop the floors early in the morning before traffic starts, it is hard to keep the floor clean when people are walking over it. Also, when the floor is wet it would be a liability issue. Since we have the inmates it shouldn't take long to complete the job.

Councilman Cahill said this money could be used toward another police officer and paving.

Steven Johnson discussed the Urban Allocation funds that are available; which is \$320,000 the Town has at this time. Mr. Johnson said he sent an e-mail to Donny Necessary on the process for drawing down the funds. Mr. Johnson said, these funds can be used for paving if Council so wish.

Councilman Johnson said this money is already in the pot and earmarked for the Town, is that right?

Mr. Johnson said, "YES."

Councilman Cahill asked Clayton Colston how much he had figured up for paving on his request?

Mr. Colston said, over \$400,000.

Councilman Cahill said this money would take care of most of this paving; which we haven't paved in eight (8) years

Mr. Johnson discussed the 48" drain that drains the Well Fields area, saying Reline America is look into the possibilities of relining this drain.

Councilman Johnson stated, maybe I am behind times, I didn't know we had this kind of money that we could used for paving.

Steven Johnson said basically, "YES". Mr. Johnson said, he would have a report on this funding at the June's Council meeting.

Councilman Dye asked Jeff Smith about some of the line items where the surplus revenues are going to be disbursed?

Mr. Smith said the per-capita pertaining to the Smyth County Tourism Association request has doubled from last year, line item 10-670-5616, from \$3,304 to \$6,612.

Councilman Holley asked, how much overtime is this going to eliminate if we put on this new officer.

Steve Surber, Chief-of-Police said it should take care of a lot, but it is the Special Events that can produce a lot of overtime. Mr. Surber said you all keep taking about Auxiliary Officers, that fine, unless I am missing something, you still have to have a certified officer.

Councilman Dye said, I know we have to have a certified officer, the Auxiliary that I am talking about can work during special events and patrol and call back in to a certified officer during an unwanted occurrence.

Mr. Surber said, yes they can do things like that as long as a certified officer is on duty. Mr. Surber said a lot of overtime is also due to employee benefit time, this is where one employee is working in place of another one taking benefit time. You eliminate one when someone else takes benefit time because we have 24 hour coverage.

Councilman Johnson told Mr. Surber, me and you have discussed this before, I think the Police should flat-out donate some time.

Mr. Surber said I do it all the time.

Councilman Johnson said I know you do, everybody in this room does, we as a Council, beginning July 1<sup>st</sup> will we setting up here as volunteers.

Mr. Surber said I told them what you said, I can't make them do it. Mr. Surber also said, the problem is, you don't ask nobody in the other departments.

Councilman Johnson said I will include everyone that works for the Town and not just the Police.

Councilman Dye said I don't know if you can work someone without pay.

Councilman Johnson said we are not going to work them without pay, they are going to volunteer.

Councilman Dye said, I don't know if we can do this without going against the Labor Law.

Mr. Surber said that was a concern in my department, they asked if anyone in the Public Works Department is going to volunteer their time to pick up trash during Labor day.

Steven Johnson said, Mr. Smith and I were at the pool more than 10 hours this past week-end.

Councilman Johnson said, "they can b - - - h all they want to," but this is the way I feel, we take care of them with the best benefit package around.

Councilman Cahill said they all agree they have the best insurance package around.

Councilman Cahill said, one thing Mr. Smith, Mr. Johnson, and I have kicked around, is putting a satellite office at the ballfields for the Auxiliary to keep a watch on this area. This will be placed on the concrete when the old bathrooms are demolished. This would be done with a structure similar to a mobile guard shack and this would take care of the drug dealing and speeders.

Mr. Surber said if this has electricity, we can put a repeater and have 2nd and 3<sup>rd</sup> shift operate there too. Mr. Surber said, Bristol has a satellite unit now and it is a great asset. Mr. Surber said if you think about it, there are more activity going on in that area especially this time of the year.

Councilman Johnson said we had all kinds of things going on this week-end.

Mr. Surber said he had talked to several bikers at Duncan's that was trying to get back on the Salt Trail, I told them this was being completed to take care of this issue.

Councilman Johnson said one more thing and then I will be quiet. This letter is pertaining to an employee at the treatment plant, if we are over staffed are we going to lay people off.?

Councilman Holley said this is a part-time employee and is just being transferred to the Town Shop.

Councilman Cahill said this employee has a CDL.

Mr. Surber said, I was told when I asked about the Police position to be put in before, was because the two that were hired at the treatment plant were to keep the Government from coming in and fining them. Now we are overstaffed.

Edward Asbury said, as far as the Government coming in; they have known Steve; they know we have been working on this for three (3) years. This is why we have gotten by with this issue as long as we have, so far. Mr. Asbury said the new O&M manual has come out and the regulations say, the operators should be three Class IV's, one Class III, and one either a Class II or a Class I operator at this facility. The Class II or the Class I can be in the Consultant category like Gary Johnson, this is due to things that we are not qualified to do. This is the first time we have a Class III and a Class IV and two (2) in training for a Class IV since I have been here said Mr. Asbury.

Mr. Surber said if Mr. Haynes is a certified operator, why wasn't he put into this position?

Mr. Asbury said, he was hired last year as a part-time employee, it is hard to work around the part-time employee schedule.

Councilman Dye said Mr. Asbury is getting up in years, and it takes a while to get people trained for the time frame they can set for the exam. Councilman Dye said Mr. Carter and Mr. Asbury could go off at anytime.

Mr Surber said, I don't understand that down there, that is not my field, so you see my reason for thinking about public safety.

Mr. Asbury said, a lot of jobs like when you go to the academy, you go in and then you come out

you are ready to go. The employees at the treatment plant cannot set for the exam until they have been on the job for one year working full time.

Mr. Surber said, if we do get an officer, we will be staffed like we are now, because they want be able to make it to the July school.

Councilman Dye said, you do think you will be able to get someone that has already been through the school?

Mr. Surber said this is what you have to look at. We don't pay the best, but we do have the good benefits as far Law Enforcement they are going to places that offer the LEO's retirement. Usually if you get someone that is certified, more than likely they have been in trouble at another locality.

Councilman Dye said he would like to see a line item for the paving.

Mayor Campbell said this would be contingent on the VDOT allocation money for asphalt.

Councilman Dye made a motion to proceed with this budget as long as the line item on pavement is in it. Councilman Johnson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Cahill made a motion to eliminate the custodian position line item 10-42-0204 and let the inmates do it. Councilman Holley seconded. Motion carried 3-2, Councilman Maiden and Councilman Johnson voted against.

Councilman Johnson made a motion to leave the new officer in the budget. Councilman Maiden seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Holley said this can stay in as long as the overtime is limited

Councilman Cahill said we will try this for on year.

Councilman Johnson made a motion to approve the budget with the amendments for advertisement, and the public hearing on the proposed budget on Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 P.M., Councilman Cahill seconded the motion with the amendment to this motion to have the Special Called meeting on Monday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 P.M. to officially adopt the budget. Motion passed unanimously.

After a motion, duly seconded, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.