

Town of West Jefferson - Board of Aldermen
Special Budget Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2016 | 5:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor Dale Baldwin, Alderman Calvin Green, Alderman Jerry McMillan, Alderman John Reeves, Alderman Stephen Shoemaker, Alderman Brett Summey, Town Manager Brantley Price, Finance Officer Heather Holdaway, Maintenance Supervisor Eric Miller, WWTP Superintendent Charles Call, Police Chief Jeff Rose.

At 5:30 p.m. Mayor Baldwin called to order the special meeting of the Board of Aldermen for the budget workshop.

Budget Workshop- Fiscal Year 16-17

The Board discussed the new parking lot across from Reeves Law Firm. It has been discovered the tile at the storm drain at this property needs to be replaced at an estimated cost of \$29,700. Further, the estimate on paving the lot will be \$49,649. With the combined cost of the tile replacement and paving the total cost of the project will be an estimated \$79,000. The Board was in agreement to proceed with this project & to borrow the monies if necessary.

Brantley then updated the Board on the former BREMCO building which is now Ashe Medics on Mt. Jefferson Rd. Brantley said they have plans to annex into the Town and would need sewer service as they currently have water service. The Town currently has an old 2" water line that is not being used. Ashe Medics stated they would like to use the Town's old 2" PVC water line and they would take over the line. Brantley said this would save them money and time by not having to install a new line and he and Eric feel there will be no issues for them taking over the line. Also, a pump station would be needed to hook onto sewer. The Board had no objection to this request.

The Board discussed awarding John Smyre, former Farmers Market Manager, a plaque from the Town for his dedication and work with the market over the past 8 years. The Board also decided to give John a \$50 gift card from the Hotel Tavern with his plaque.

Alderman Green suggested the Town add some streetlights for the residential neighborhoods and Alderman Shoemaker mentioned sending out a community mailer to obtain feedback from residents on what they would like to see done in neighborhoods. Alderman Summey discussed a possible Town newsletter.

Alderman Shoemaker then discussed the Aldermen compensation and would like to see a \$100 increase beginning in July. This would increase the Aldermen's compensation each month from \$125 to \$225 and the Mayor's compensation each month from \$200 to \$300. After some discussion, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to increase the Board's compensation beginning July 1, 2016. Alderman Green seconded with a vote of 4-1, Alderman McMillan opposing. Alderman McMillan stated he did not think the Aldermen should be paid.

The Department heads then began discussing requests for the Fiscal Year 2016-17 budget. Brantley first discussed a revised pay plan for employees. After some discussion, the Board was in consensus to not do a pay plan for employees. The Board was, however, in consensus to compensate Fire Chief Donnie Miller \$3,000 per year. Other items discussed in Admin included \$25,000 for the GE expansion incentive and travel/education. Items discussed for the Police Department include: 2 new police vehicles, police departmental supplies including Tasers and bulletproof vests, and an upgrade of computer equipment.

Large items discussed for Streets include: paving parking lot between maintenance buildings, purchase of a small track hoe, new dump truck, long arm mower, paving, new trash cans, mower, and a new gator to be split between the park and maintenance departments. Park items included: painting chain link fence between cemetery and shelters, repave walkway from ballfield to shelter and the new gator to be split with maintenance. Large items discussed for Water include: purchasing radio read equipment for 200 meters (from fund balance), filter plant miscellaneous parts, water line replacement at Burkett & Graybeal Ave. (CDBG funds), and the USDA project for the new well, dewatering system and water/sewer line expansion. Large items discussed for Sewer include: sampling, sludge dryer and belt press rental until dewatering system is installed.

With nothing further, Alderman Summey made the motion to adjourn the special meeting, seconded by Alderman McMillan. The vote of 5-0 in favor.

Dale Baldwin, Mayor

Wesley M. Barker, Town Clerk