

**Town of West Jefferson - Board of Aldermen**  
**Special Budget Meeting Minutes**  
**May 10, 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, Town Clerk Wesley Barker, Police Chief Jeff Rose, James Howell, Jesse Campbell.

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

**Discussion of Budget- Fiscal Year 16-17-** Brantley briefly discussed the highlights of the preliminary budget for Fiscal Year 2016-17 which included the following: property tax rate to remain at \$0.42, a 3.5% increase in sales tax according to NCLM, a loan for proposed track hoe and one police vehicle at a cost of \$76,000, no increase in health insurance premiums and a 3% COLA (cost of living adjustment) across-the-board increase for employees. Within the general fund, Brantley listed the following budgeted items and amounts: increase of the Board of Aldermen's annual allowance by \$1,200 each, attorney fees of \$30,000, the 3<sup>rd</sup> payment of the GE incentive of \$25,000, Christmas lights at \$7,000 and payment for the new parking lot at \$24,500. Within the police fund, Brantley highlighted departmental supplies at \$15,800 and two new police vehicles at an estimated \$95,000 when equipped. The streets fund included new barricades/cones at \$5,000, sidewalk repairs at \$20,000, track hoe at \$41,000 and additional paving at \$50,000. The Fire Department fund included an increase of \$3,000 to pay the Fire Chief \$250/month. The park fund included additional trash cans at \$6,000, purchase of a gator ATV to be split with the water department at \$5,000 and a new mower at \$6,000. Capital water & sewer budgets included the new well and dewatering system as well as extending both water and sewer lines. These projects would be funded by ARC (\$100,000), USDA (\$80,000) and the Town (\$57,000). The total construction cost of both water and sewer projects would be \$237,000 and \$614,000, respectively. Other items included in the preliminary budget for water/sewer include purchase of 2" meters (\$25,000), miscellaneous parts at the filter plant (\$20,000), pump for the Beaver Creek pump station (\$9,000), future replacement of meters and upgrade to radio read (\$25,000 to fund balance) and UV system maintenance (\$3,500).

The Mayor then opened the budget up for discussion among the Board. The first item discussed was the COLA for the police officers. Police Chief Jeff Rose spoke to the Board stating the police department currently had a great group of officers who are not wanting to go anywhere as they like working for the Town. The Chief said these officers are a good, professional crew and many have four-year degrees.

Alderman Green then made the motion to go into closed session per G.S. 143.318.11 (6) to discuss personnel. Alderman Reeves seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor. The time was 6:00 p.m.

The Board returned from closed session into open session at 6:55 p.m. Alderman Green made the motion to purchase one police vehicle, instead of two, and to also give employees a 1% COLA. Alderman Reeves seconded the motion with a vote of 5-0 in favor. The next budget meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. at West Jefferson Town Hall. With nothing further, Alderman Shoemaker made the motion to adjourn the special meeting, seconded by Alderman Reeves. The vote of 5-0 in favor.

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Dale Baldwin, Mayor

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Wesley M. Barker, Town Clerk