

**FINANCE COMMITTEE AND
TOWN COUNCIL
BUDGET WORK SESSION
MINUTES
MARCH 13, 2008**

Mrs. Ball called the Finance Committee and Town Council Work Session to order at 4:35 pm. Town Council members present: James H. Hudson, Mayor; Deborah Ball, Vice Mayor; Charles Gordon, Wayne Healy, Jack Lawson, Gail Nichols and Bub Shreaves.

Also Present: Trent Funkhouser, Town Manager; Karen Barrow, Town Clerk and T. C. Moore, Town Treasurer.

Mr. Funkhouser stated the final revenue figures are not complete, once the State has adopted the budget we will know what we have to work with. The ultimate question is what can we afford. The State Budget will include cutting the 599 police funding and the ABC tax revenue, the State Budget is scheduled for adoption by the State Senate this afternoon at 5 pm and we are still waiting for figures from the County on the re-assessment. The current budget package contains budget request from Department Heads, Mr. Funkhouser reviewed the first round of cuts.

Mr. Lawson asked if the EDA can pay half the cost for the wayfaring signs and banners.

Mr. Funkhouser advised he will ask.

Mrs. Ball asked what the ICMA match is this year.

Mr. Funkhouser advised he proposes no change in the ICMA match.

Mr. Gordon advised he completely misunderstood the locker renovations at the High School.

Mr. Funkhouser stated that he meet with the Dr. Smith to review the School Boards budget request and advised the School Superintendent is prepared for budget cuts. Mr. Funkhouser also advised the Fire Department are requesting additional funding, consciously is will be hard to commit additional funding this year.

Mr. Gordon asked if the Dispatch Office will need to be operated from a regional center.

Mr. Hudson asked if Town Council is interested in King William operating the West Point Dispatch Center.

The consensus of Town Council for the Dispatch Operation Center to stay in West Point and not to be sent to King William.

Mrs. Ball asked how much is the employee ICMA retirement match.

Mr. Funkhouser advised up to \$400 per year.

Mr. Gordon asked if the proposed budget includes a part-time employee becoming a full-time employee.

Mr. Funkhouser advised the part-time DMV employee will become full-time and the vacancy for a separate part-time DMV Clerk has just been filled.

Mr. Gordon advised he has a concern for the salary and benefits for another full-time employee.

Mrs. Moore advised the cost for one full-time DMV Clerk and one part-time Clerk will almost equal the amount as the one Clerk that retired last year.

Mr. Gordon stated that today he called the Town Hall four times and got the answering machine all four times. Mr. Gordon advised he then came to Town Hall and no one was in the building except for the Treasurers office. There were signs at the receptionist desk advising if you need assistance, go to the Treasurer's office. Mr. Gordon advised his concern is the safety of the personnel in the Treasurer's office.

Mr. Healy stated that he ran for office like all other elected members of Town Council and that he receives phone calls like all other members of Town Council. Mr. Healy feels that every time he brings an item up for discussion, he received excuses covering up the issue. It takes months for Town Council to get something done once an issue is discussed, the Town Hall does not operate efficiently. Mr. Healy also stated that every budget item discussed tonight needs to be cut and that it's time to tighten the belt.

Mr. Healy advised a police car was involved in an accident twice and Town Council was not informed. Some Town Council members found out about the accidents from citizens on the Street, and the car was towed to Charles City for repairs. I would like to know the repair cost for each accident.

Mrs. Nichols asked when does Town Council renew the Chief of Police's contract.

Mr. Hudson advised the renewal date for the Chief's contract is January 1, 2009.

Mr. Healy asked if the Town needs to fund a Colonel, Captain or a Secretary at the Police Department.

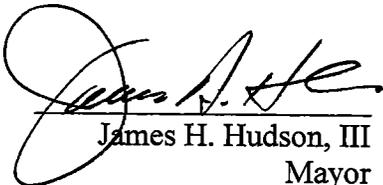
Mr. Hudson asked the Town Manager if he has a list of items to discuss with the Chief of Police.

Mr. Funkhouser advised the Chief of Police is out of the Office on family business, when he returns I will discuss these items with him.

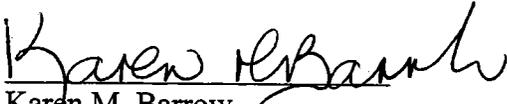
Mr. Lawson advised he feels that time is used unwisely in the Police Department and that due to gas prices, the take home car policy needs to be reviewed to keep mileage down on the older vehicles. Mr. Lawson also stated he has concerns with Economic Development and revenues are going down each year.

Mr. Hudson asked if Town Council has a directive for the Town Manager regarding the budget, the Economic Development Coordinator's contract is renewed in November, and asked Council think about Economic Development.

Mr. Funkhouser advised he will start the first round of budget cuts and bring a revised budget back to Council at the Town Council Work Session on Monday, March 31, 2008.


James H. Hudson, III
Mayor

ATTEST:


Karen M. Barrow
Town Clerk