

**WEST POINT TOWN COUNCIL
BUDGET WORK SESSION
MINUTES
March 24, 2009**

The Honorable James H. Hudson III called the work session to order at 5:00 P.M.

Members Present: Mayor, Jim Hudson; Vice Mayor, Deborah Ball; Charlie Gordon; Wayne Healy; Jack Lawson; Gail Nichols and Bub Shreaves.

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

AUDIT FY 2007-08

Mr. Funkhouser presented Town Council with the audit results and advised a representative from Farm, Cox & Robinson will be at the Town Council meeting on March 30, 2009 to review the audit.

TOWN BUDGET FY 2009-10

Mr. Funkhouser presented Town Council with a fund balance summary reflecting the balances in the Bond fund balance of \$4,069,604, and the Rainy Day Fund balance of \$1,253,200.

Mr. Funkhouser advised that he reviewed the Towns budget cuts with the Chairman of the Finance Committee, almost \$500,000 in cuts were made in the following areas: 1) Line items in general to all departments. 2) Vehicle purchases for Public Works and the Police Department. 3) The proposed budget does not include salary increases. 4) Equipment purchases for Public Works. The following items are increases: 1) The School Budget is fully funded for \$9,692,760. 2) The Fire Department received an \$8,000 increase for a total budget of \$100,000. 3) A \$4,000 increase for the Library. Mr. Funkhouser also stated that there will be no tax rate increase or increases to the water utility fees, and that the health insurance increase would not be available until April or May.

Mrs. Gulley asked how much in stimulus funds will the school receive.

Mr. Funkhouser advised \$375,351.

Mr. Hudson asked if Town Council has any comments or changes.

Mr. Shreaves asked why it takes so long to get the health insurance quote.

Mrs. Ball asked what the health insurance increase was last year.

Mr. Funkhouser advised zero, this is it could ten to twenty percent.

Mr. Funkhouser advised the employee cost of living salary adjustment is less than \$40,000. Mr. Funkhouser asked for Town Council to consider the employee salary adjustment.

Mr. Hudson asked Town Council if they are ready to vote on the budget.

The consensus of Town Council is the budget is ready to advertise for a public hearing.

Mrs. Ball asked Mr. Healy if he had any question, comments or suggestions.

Mr. Healy asked the Town Manager how much was the over time for the Police Department last year.

Mr. Funkhouser advised approximately \$25,000, this year through February it is \$17,000 for this year.

Mr. Hudson asked Mr. Gordon if he is ready to vote on the budget.

Mr. Gordon advised yes.

Mrs. Ball asked Mr. Healy if he is ready to vote on the budget.

Mr. Healy indicated he still has some concerns, but he would vote for the budget.

There being no further business, Mr. Hudson adjourned the meeting at 6:45 P.M.


James H. Hudson, III
Mayor

ATTEST:


Karen M. Barrow
Town Clerk