

**WEST POINT TOWN COUNCIL
CONTINUED MEETING
MINUTES
APRIL 23rd, 2012**

I. Reconvene

Mr. Hudson reconvened the meeting of March 26, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: James, H. Hudson, III, Mayor; Deborah T. Ball, Vice Mayor; Mr. Gordon, Mrs. Gulley, Mr. Kelley, Mr. Lawson and Mr. Vincent.

Members Absent: Bub Shreaves.

Also Present: John B. Edwards, Jr., Town Manager; Karen Barrow, Town Clerk; TC Moore, Town Treasurer; Bill Hodges, Chief of Police; Holly McGowan, Director of Community Development.

II. Public Hearing on FY Budget 2012-13

Mr. Edwards reviewed a power point presentation with Town Council and members of the public for the proposed budget for FY 2012/13. The budget is comprised of the General Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, School Fund, Water Utility Fund and Solid Waste Fund. The Budget shows a reduction in Town employees of 19% a 6.7% tax increase for Real Estate, Personal Property and Machinery and Tools tax. Mr. Edwards also stated the total combined financial reduction for the Town and school is \$1,454,045. The total proposed budget for FY 2012/13 is \$17,019,649.

Mr. Hudson advised the current real estate tax rate has remained the same since 2003, the personal property tax rate has not increase since 1989 and the machinery and tools tax was last increased in 2001.

Mr. Hudson read the advertised public hearing and opened the floor for citizens to comment on the budget:

1. Teresa Glidewell, 670 Rivergate Terrace, West Point, Virginia, stated that she supports the tax increase and the services provided by the Town.
2. Blair Wilson, 670 Rivergate Terrace, West Point, Virginia, stated that he supports the proposed budget and that Town Council have been good steward of public funds.
3. Bill Cawley, 215 Main Street, West Point, Virginia stated that he owns a resident, commercial business and eight lots in Town. He and his wife pays taxes within the Town, and appreciates what taxes are for. The Town has become a victim to political motivated tax cutting in Richmond and Washington DC. The State and Federal Government has cut budgets and Town Council are responsible for making the decision on what programs to keep. Mr. Cawley commended Town Council for the decisions that have been made, and the tax increase to fund the quality services provided by the Town.
4. Dudley Olsson, 4170 Tanager Court, West Point, Virginia stated that she has been on the School Board for over seven years, the past few years have become difficult with budget cuts from the State and Federal Government. The School Board appreciates the support of Town Council by funding the school budget.
5. Kimberly Sirman, 2105 Lee Street, West Point, Virginia presented Town Council with a petition signed by 527 people primarily by West Point residents who wish to retain the emergency communications center at its current location. Ms. Sirman asked for Town Council consider the petition when making a decision on the budget.
6. Bill Sirman, 2105 Lee Street, West Point, Virginia stated that the dispatch office has provide a great service to the community over the years and the Town should enter an agreement on a provisional bases to see how things work out in the future, because you never know how the transition will work out.
7. Ron Kirkland, 286 Ogden Street, West Point, Virginia stated the Town Budget is fairly reasonable and puts the Town in a good position to move forward. It appears there has not been any tax increases in the past and that funds from the savings have been used to balance the budget, now drastic staff reductions and larger tax increases are necessary to

balance the budget. In the future Mr. Kirkland recommended that Town Council seek to make minor adjustments annually to avoid drastic cuts. The Town has made cuts and have a tax increase to reduce services for citizens and are about to put a big chunk of money into the HVAC's at the schools at what seems to be at the expense of dispatch. Five million dollars is a lot of money and five million dollars could provide a lot of repairs instead of a new system. Mr. Kirkland also stated that Air conditioning was not required for schools when he was growing up and the County General Fund should pay for the dispatch consolidation.

8. Marvin Kerby, 506 Lee Street, West Point, Virginia, stated that he appreciates Town Council's support for the Schools and the hard decisions that have been made to provide a balanced budget.
9. Vanessa Swinson, 529 22nd Street, West Point, Virginia, a member of the West Point dispatch office stated that she understands that West Point is located in King William County, however King William is in the same situation as West Point, they are no closer to the radio transition. King and Queen have successfully completed the transition and it might be better suited for West Point to work with King and Queen for a dispatch consolidation.
10. Linda South, 429 3rd Street, West Point, Virginia, stated that items of concern to her is regarding the law enforcement vehicles parked on 12th Street that are never moved, why are they necessary. If we are tightening our belts and don't need all these vehicles, then we need to get rid of them. The other thing is limbs and brush pick up, it waste gas when the truck picks up one order, leaves debris at a neighbors and comes back the next day. They are riding around burning up gas. These are two areas that we might be able to save money.
11. Jamie Gallihugh, 3840 King William Avenue, West Point, Virginia presented a note from Ann Davis, 1521 Lee Street, West Point, Virginia stating that she would like to ask the Town not to go ahead with the plan to consolidate dispatch. (See Attached Note.) Ms. Gallihugh also stated that as a dispatcher Ms. Gallihugh asked for Town Council to review their budget and reconsider the decision to consolidate the dispatch office.
12. Ron Kirkland, 286, Ogden Street, West Point, Virginia asked if he could make an additional comment. If you are going to raise taxes, you should consider raising the taxes by 12 cents to keep the services and quality of life.
13. Bill Sirman, 2105 Lee Street, West Point, Virginia suggested increasing the food services tax to keep the dispatch office in Town.
14. Denise Lindsey, 521 21st Street, West Point, Virginia, stated that she has family that live in New York that are paying so much more to live, they pay \$500 a month for taxes on a home that is valued at \$170,000. The cost of living in West Point is very reasonable, the public services are worth the value that citizens are paying.
15. Barbara Fritter, 1130 Bagby Street, West Point, Virginia stated she has driven a school bus for 29 years, however Ms. Fritter feels that the Town should keep the dispatch office.

Mr. Hudson asked if anyone else would like to comment on the Budget for FY 2012/13. There being none, the public hearing was closed.

Mr. Hudson asked Town Council if they had any response.

Mrs. Gulley stated that she received messages on her voice mail at home suggesting Town Council should give their salary up to keep dispatch. Ms. Gulley advised that she has served on Town Council for eighteen years, lived in West Point for 36 years and loves West Point. Town Council does not receive pay for what they do, they do not receive insurance or any benefits for serving on Town Council neither does Planning Commission, EDA, BZA and the Wetlands Board.

Mr. Hudson advised that Town Council does not receive pay, insurance or retirement for their services. Davenport and Company and the annual audit show that Town Council have been good stewards for the Town and saved money. The Town is in good shape and we are trying to keep it in good shape for the future.

Mrs. Gulley stated that Town Council's election is in November and members of the public should consider running for Council.

Mr. Gordon stated that he has been on Council for thirteen years that his wife and step son graduated in West Point. Mr. Gordon has been working with King William during his time on Council and that in September a Career and Technical Center will open in New Kent that will provide trade education to students before graduating from high school. Mr. Gordon stated that he has enjoyed teaching and is proud to have served in West Point.

Mr. Hudson advised that Town Council will take action to adopt the budget on Monday, April 30, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

III. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Hudson adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

James H. Hudson, III
Mayor

ATTEST:

Karen M. Barrow
Town Clerk