



**TOWN OF GRANITE QUARRY  
BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
BUDGET WORKSHOP  
MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, April 11, 2022, 5:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Mayor Brittany Barnhardt, Mayor Pro Tem John Linker, Alderman Jim Costantino, Alderman Kim Cress, Alderman Doug Shelton

**Staff:** Town Manager Larry Smith, Town Clerk Aubrey Smith, Finance Officer Shelly Shockley, Police Chief Mark Cook, Fire Chief / Public Works Director Jason Hord

**Call to Order:** Mayor Barnhardt called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

**1. Personnel & related**

**A. Insurance Renewal**

Clerk Smith shared that there would be a 0% increase in insurance rates for the coming year. The Board asked about the coverage for employees and dependents. Staff asked that the Board make a motion to direct staff to move forward with renewal of medical, dental, vision, life, and short-term disability through Medcost.

**ACTION:** Alderman Costantino made a motion to approve (*moving forward with renewal of medical, dental, vision, life, and short-term disability through Medcost*). Alderman Shelton seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

**B. Salary Survey**

Manager Smith reviewed the salary survey on the agenda and discussed how the data was weighted and qualified.

**C. Market Adjustments based on CPI Index (not market demand)**

Manager Smith shared that the CPI Index Southeast is 7.4% and that on the managers' listserve, polling so far, most responses seem to be 6-7%. He shared that the performance evaluation process is being reviewed and revamped and that the percentage of market adjustment applied to salaries could be based on performance ratings. The full percentage applies to the pay scale to keep us from falling behind again but will only affect new hires and those at the top of their grade.

**2. Department Highlights**

**A. Administration**

Manager Smith shared highlights from administration including different scenarios for the planner position. 1) Best-case scenario would be hiring a full-time planner. 2) The second scenario would

be hiring someone without experience and having N-Focus work with and helping to train the employee. 3) The third scenario would be continuing the contract with N-Focus and possibly adding an additional day.

Code Enforcement will be determined based on how well the current system is working. If everyone is satisfied, the manager may continue the contract.

**B. Police Department**

Chief Cook made the request that the current frozen position be reallocated for the upcoming budget year. This would help with the rotation to provide maximum coverage during peak hours and reduce the part-time budget. Chief Cook read from and will make available, a list of programs he would like to implement with an additional full-time officer on staff. If the full-time position was to be unfrozen, Chief Cook stated the position would target to begin in September. There was Board discussion on funding the position.

**C. Fire Department**

Chief Hord shared that the Fire Department submitted an application for the SAFER Grant. If awarded, the grant would cover 75% of salaries in the first year for six full-time employees, 50% in the second year, and 25% in the third year. Whether the grant was awarded will not be known until September. If not awarded, the Fire Department would like to add one full-time position in the next year and then an additional position the year after.

**3. ARPA follow-ups from last regular monthly meeting and subsequent meeting session**

Due to time limitations, the Board decided to discuss at a recessed meeting 4/18/2022.

**Adjourn**

**ACTION:** Alderman Costantino made a motion to adjourn. Alderman Shelton seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

The meeting ended at 4:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aubrey Smith

Town Clerk