



**TOWN OF GRANITE QUARRY
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
BUDGET WORKSHOP
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, May 19, 2022, 4:00 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 4:00 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

ACTION: Alderman Costantino made a motion to approve the agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Linker seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

1. Objective / Timeline

Manager Smith reviewed the meeting objectives.

- A. Enough direction on key items for TM to put together a proposed budget message/ordinance draft
- B. June 13 Public Hearing
- C. Workshops for actual decisions if or as needed

2. Overall preview / quick run through

Manager Smith reviewed the handouts that were given to the Board.

A. General Revenues

Manager Smith shared that there were two wildcards:

- 1) Fire Department retirement.
- 2) Environmental collection fee. Currently several properties aren't setup in SRU's system and would need to be billed separately.

Number 2 on Board items of the Discussed or Proposed Capital Expenditures and Major /Noteworthy Items should be in red since it was not included in the budget.

The Board asked about the proposed camera system. Chief Hord stated it would be like a Ring system that would be self-monitored. Cameras that were reviewed in Salisbury were part of a grant program and there were restrictions on placement. Chief Hord stated the proposed number would cover the Civic Park, Lake Park, and Legion Building cameras, internet, and installation.

Mayor Pro Tem Linker stated he would like to see this brought up again in future budget discussions.

There was discussion regarding the acquisition of the infringing lot at the Civic Park. The house is currently for sale.

Mayor Pro Tem Linker asked if the fence removed from the Lake Park could be utilized to mark the town's overflow parking lot. Chief Hord stated that the fence was not in good condition and Manager Smith suggested the possibility of granite boulders or markers to designate the Town property. Mayor Barnhardt suggested paving instead of just adding gravel.

Regarding the potential land swap, Mayor Barnhardt suggested trying to get a right-of-way to access the Town's property. Manager Smith stated there were liability concerns.

B. Governing Body

- 1) Board of Alderman salaries. The number was determined by taking an average from classified positions and applying the same formula. The change would increase the budget by \$6,370.

Alderman Cress and Mayor Pro Tem Linker asked about whether the Town could purchase a term life insurance policy to cover death benefits. After weighing the fact that the Town does not currently offer benefits to any part-time employees, no further action was requested.

2) Special Projects

Easter Creek. Manager Smith stated Attorney Short was asked whether the Town needed to pay the third and final payment. Attorney Chip responded that the Town would be liable for it. Manager Smith suggested it be paid out of FY22.

ACTION: Alderman Costantino made a motion to add the third Easter Creek payment to the June agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Linker seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

Alderman Shelton asked if it could be paid from excess revenue. Finance Officer Shockley stated that it could. The budget amendment would be to pull it from fund balance to make the payment knowing that there would be an excess that would be paid back.

C. Administration

If N-Focus is utilized for the CLUP and UDO they may be able to pull the UDO from Municode's online hosting and not have to pay for amendments and supplements made to anything but the Code of Ordinances.

D. Police

- 1) Requested unfreezing PD's 10th position.
- 2) Separation Allowance forecast. In-depth analysis showed one specific case that could hypothetically cost the town \$20,200 a year until 2035.
- 3) Firearms. Due to restrictions on firearms, options for surplus are limited.

E. Fire Department

1) SAFER Grant.

Chief Hord addressed the Board and stated part-time positions are getting harder to fill. In the county, the average for PT Fire is \$14/hr. The SAFER grant would turn the current lieutenants on each shift into captains, add an engineer to each shift, and add a full-time firefighter to each shift. By year four the Town would be taking over the salaries. There was discussion on whether the Town would benefit from hiring full-time and eliminating part-time now. Chief Hord stated that would not be a good option before the grant decision was made.

2) \$50,000 Award. Must be used for costs above and beyond normal operating costs.

3) Equipment. \$30,000 would be the annual budgeted amount spent on equipment. Turnout gear and SCBA bottles are good for 10 years. Mayor Barnhardt asked about putting aside money each year toward the equipment. Manager Smith stated that building capital reserves was an option.

F. Public Works

1) Maintenance – no changes proposed for FT. Part-time has a proposed bump.

2) Streets – Powell Bill. Opportunity to buy plow to go on F350. Currently, Faith has been doing this for the Town. The purchase is Powell-eligible.

3) Environmental –If fuel does not drop, this will be brought back to the Board.

4) Parks – proposed budget shows the camera system and PERC increase. The PERC increase is offset by about \$21,000 for Granite Fest.

3. Deeper delve discussions / decisions or general direction:

Manager Smith asked for Board direction on the following items to prepare the budget.

A. BOA salaries adjustment

There was consensus on the proposed option one.

B. Economic Development Grant

This item will be on the June regular meeting agenda.

C. Police Dept – frozen position / was asked to delay formula discussion

There was Board consensus to prepare the budget based on unfreezing the police department position.

D. FD – SAFER grant overview

E. Performance pay, Longevity

F. Comprehensive Land Use Plan and UDO review / updates

G. Tax Rate

There was consensus to balance the proposed budget on a 3-cent tax increase.

Adjourn

ACTION: Mayor Pro Tem Linker made a motion to adjourn. Alderman Shelton seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor. The meeting ended at 5:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aubrey Smith

Town Clerk