

Town of Spring Lake
Board of Aldermen Workshop
Municipal Building
300 Ruth Street
Spring Lake, NC 28390

May 2, 2011

MINUTES

5:35 p.m.

The Spring Lake Board of Aldermen held a workshop in the Grady Howard Conference Room of the Municipal Complex with Mayor Ethel T. Clark presiding.

Board Members Present: Mayor Pro Tem James O'Garra
Alderman James Christian
Alderman Richard Higgins
Alderwoman Debora Hudson
Alderwoman Fredricka Sutherland

Others Present: Leonard Barefoot, Interim Town Manager
Allen Coats, Finance Director
Byron Blumenfeld, Water Resources Manager
Paul Hoover, Director of Inspections
Troy McDuffie, Police Chief
Ken Metcalf, Recreation Director
Steve Rosser, Interim Fire Chief
Tina West, Human Resources Director
Rhonda Webb, Town Clerk

The purpose for this workshop was to discuss the General Fund.

Mr. Barefoot began his discussion by telling the Board that the General Fund is out of balance by quite a bit. He also requested that the Board look at where they are going to be in one and two years from now.

He stated that the Golden Rule is that you never ever use fund balance to pay for a recurring expense.

He gave the Board an overview of why we are where we are. The main reasons are the economy and service demands.

There is a \$197,942 shortfall in the General Fund after the Manager's recommended reductions.

He reviewed the following topics:

- Revenue Projections

- Departmental Requests and Manager recommendations
- Capital Requests and Manager recommendations
- Personnel Requests

He advised the Board that the personnel requests will increase the budget by \$310,067 over the current year's budget.

- Unpredictable Contingencies (gasoline)

The only people other than police and fire personnel who drive their vehicles home is Paul Hoover and Byron Blumenfeld.

Alderwoman Sutherland suggested that people who drive their vehicles home should be placed on a mile restriction and anyone who drives farther than the designated mileage should pay the Town back for the miles and gas. Mr. Barefoot stated that he has looked at implementing a program like the one Alderwoman Sutherland is suggesting. Mr. Hoover advised Alderwoman Sutherland that he drives 13 miles one way to his home.

Street paving requirements were discussed. Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra suggested that the Board take a ride around Town and assess the streets on a periodic basis rather than paying a firm to come in.

Potential Expenditure Reductions include:

- Hiring public safety personnel mid-year
- Spring Lake Transit fare increase

Alderwoman Sutherland stated that she would like to propose to increase the fare to help offset the cost to operate the bus. She also suggested cutting some of the stops if that would help save money.

- Not approving the temporary Street personnel, reduction in force and furloughs

Potential Revenue Sources

- Increase in bus fares
- Tax increase
- Changing from Privilege License to a Gross Receipts system

Mr. Barefoot shared with the Board that the program that was mentioned at the last workshop for military citizens is only available for electric utilities and not available for water.

Alderwoman Sutherland expressed concern about raising the deposit for water to \$150. Mayor Pro Tem O'Garra stated that he does not see where we have a choice since it takes three months for a new customer to get their first bill. He further stated that if someone decides to leave without paying they will probably have several months worth of water that they will not pay for. Alderman Higgins requested the deposit amounts for the surrounding areas.

The Town can save \$150,000 if all street paving is cut out.

Mr. Barefoot asked if the Board's consensus is to look at a program to have people pay who drive their vehicles home and the majority of the Board agreed to look at the options.

(A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes – see attachment one.)

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

The next workshop is scheduled for May 9, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.



Rhonda D. Webb
Rhonda D. Webb, MMC
Town Clerk

ATTEST:

Ethel T. Clark

Ethel T. Clark
Mayor