

## TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION

April 19, 2010

In Attendance: Mayor Taylor, Vice Mayor Whittle, Council Members Baker, Le Vine, Mauck, Redmon, Terndrup and Vena. Staff: Town Manager Fauber, Director of Finance Mullins, Town Planner Rex, Chief of Police Sutherly, Director of Public Utilities Tewalt, and Town Clerk Keller.

The minutes of the March 15, 2010 meeting were approved as presented.

### Public Comments:

### Discussion Items

#### ➤ Proposed 2010-11 Budget

**Director of Finance Mullins** presented hand-outs of the FY2010-2011 Draft Budget and reviewed the notes to the Budget (both attached here-to). **Town Manager Fauber** explained the grant opportunity for police vehicles saying it was through Rural Development and was stimulus money. He also explained the reasoning for a loan on engineering fees for the Waste Water Treatment Plant engineering fees. **Council Member Le Vine** questioned the amount of interest fees, thinking it would be \$60,000 and not \$33,000. **Council Member Terndrup** asked why the engineering firm could not hold off on the payment until funding is secured. **Council Member Le Vine** suggested borrowing enough money to also include the interest as it would be a minuscule amount of money to pay back. **The consensus of Council was to do this.**

**Director of Finance Mullins** reviewed the changes in the revenue between 2009-10 and 2010-11 budgets. She then explained the expenses in administrative expenses and added fringe benefits were not increasing for the next year.

**Director of Finance Mullins** highlighted the expenses of the Public Works department in the absence of Director of Public Works Rhodes. This portion of the budget is divided 50% general, 25% water, and 25% sewer. Savings in this department in wages was due to the retirement of two employees and the hiring of new employees at lower rates.

**Chief Sutherly** explained the cost of vehicles he is requesting. The amount allocated for police vehicles might be reduced if the grant money comes through. He needs to have six vehicles replaced over the next two years. He presented a listing of the 14 vehicles in the fleet. It was asked if the grant is not gotten, could the number to be leased be reduced to two and **Chief Sutherly** said it could be reduced, but then you would need to replace more in the next year.

**Director of Finance Mullins** explained the contingency fund in the water and sewer funds. **Council Member Le Vine** asked about changing the allocations of administration differently and **Director of Finance Mullins** said she has discussed this with other locations and all seem to divide somehow and she feels the way it is done now is fair and equitable.

**Director of Public Utilities Tewalt** explained his expenses. The increases are mainly based on what they have been told by suppliers for what will be charged for chemicals and electricity. **Mayor Taylor** asked if there could be any savings if you bought with other Towns. **Director of Public Utilities Tewalt** said he believes all localities get their supplies from State contract prices. He said chemicals will be bought in bulk once the new plant goes on line.

In regards to water leaks, it was asked if this could be considered a onetime issue or would it be ongoing. **Director of Public Utilities Tewalt** said it seems as though it is an inferior pipe and the company who supplied the pipe has gotten a sample of the damaged pipe, but he

added there were several factors that contributed to the leaks. It was asked if the insurance company that covers the pipe company could help with the expenses and **Town Manager Fauber** said this is being investigated, but usually these types of supplies are only covered for one year.

**Director of Public Utilities Tewalt** explained why the travel and training expense went up in Waste Water and said it was due to the State requirements for CPU's.

**Council Member Mauck** asked if it would be possible to add a Park Manager/Coordinator for \$5,500 as there is something going on all the time at the Park. This person could weed eat, etc. while monitoring the activities and uses of the park. Currently, the Public Works Department maintains the shelters. It was suggested that if grant money is gotten for police cars, the remainder of the amount allocated could be used to pay for this position. **Mayor Taylor** said it would need to be found out exactly who would oversee the person and what would be expected of them; Director of Public Works Rhodes will be consulted regarding this issue.

**The consensus of Council was the fees are reasonable and in-line with other localities. It was decided the Public Hearing on the budget would be held at the May Council meeting.**

**Wiley and Wilson Proposal:** **Town Manager Fauber** would like to have feedback from Council on the three options for the Brill buildings and said this could be looked at in phases. The first question is whether to keep the buildings or not. **Council Member Terndrup** said it makes sense to take care of these buildings first, especially by the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It was thought the taxi stand cannot be saved and so does it make sense to re-build to look as this does now. At one time, it had been thought the building could be moved and it was suggested letting someone have it if they would take it away.

A comment was made that if the buildings are renovated, then this would cause the new police building to have to wait for more years. If the buildings are renovated, it would make the Town Hall more secure as the meetings, etc. would not be in the main building. It was thought the buildings would need to be renovated in entirety as you could lose any federal grant money if you only keep the facades.

It was thought that keeping the downtown area looking as it does would be preferable.

**Consensus --- Council was "leaning" toward Option II, with it being done in phases.**

Public Comments:

**Barbara Adamson, Strasburg Heritage Association:** The taxi stand is such a simple building and it seems like it would not be that difficult to renovate. From historic preservation standpoint, Wiley and Wilson is thinking of putting a "building within a building" and she does not think this would be a problem. Even if the taxi stand would have to be torn down, she would like it to be replaced with something and not make it a driveway entrance.

It was explained public entities can take advantage of tax credits by working the system. If you want to pursue tax credits, then you have to work with Department of Historic Resources (DHR) from the very beginning. Planner Rex is to contact DHR and Town Manager Fauber will get information from Wiley and Wilson.

Included in the Work Session packet was a proposal from Toothman Investments LLC regarding leasing space for the Public Safety Department. **At this time, the consensus of Council was to tell Mr. Toothman we are not interested in the offer.**

Council Field Trip: An offer has been made to the Town to lease a portion of the Hupp's Hill property for \$1 per year for five years. **Mayor Taylor** asked if Council would be interested in going into the buildings. **Consensus: It was decided to take this field trip and Mayor Taylor will schedule this.**

Being no further business, the Work Session adjourned at 8:45 p.m.