

TOWN MANAGER
Ken Deal

TOWN CLERK
Amanda Eller

TOWN ATTORNEY
Tom Brooke



MAYOR
Don Bringle

TOWN COUNCIL
Brandon Linn
Charles Seaford
Steve Stroud
Mike Upright
Lee Withers

TOWN OF CHINA GROVE

A regular meeting and budget meeting of the Town of China Grove Town Council

MINUTES
June 3rd, 2014

OPENING REMARKS

Mayor Bringle called the budget meeting to order at 5:38 pm on Tuesday, June 3rd, 2014. All council members were present.

BUDGET MEETING

I) "What's in this Budget"

Mayor Bringle thanked Mrs. Bopp and Mr. Deal for the preparations of this newest edition of the budget.

Mrs. Bopp stated that the newest budget includes a two cent tax increase.

Mayor Bringle asked the Council for the comments and/or questions.

Mr. Withers stated that he believes this budget will be tighter than in years past. He stated that using around \$119,000 from Cash Reserves will hopefully be more accurate. He stated that China Grove is probably the only town in the County that has a true tax rate with no additional fees. He stated that he hates to see money transferred from Cash Reserve and is not opposed to a higher tax increase as opposed to transferring from Cash Reserve.

Mr. Upright asked where the Fund Balance would be because he thought that they had discussed reducing that amount.

Mrs. Bopp stated that it will be anywhere from 80-60%.

Mayor Bringle stated that we do not know if there will be unexpected expenses including the reevaluation from the County. He stated that he appreciates the consideration from the Council in decreasing the original proposed tax increase.

Mr. Upright stated that they had discussed earmarking certain funds, including the Community Building. He stated that if an increase higher than two cents is proposed, he would suggest setting aside these funds for a certain purpose such as that.

Mr. Deal stated that any earmarked funds must be spent on the item that it is set aside for.

Mr. Linn stated that he still is not comfortable with the position of Police Lieutenant added to the budget.

Mr. Withers stated that he is 100% behind this position being added.

Mr. Upright asked that the tax increase be set at a four cent increase with two cent of that earmarked for the Community Building repairs.

Mr. Seaford stated that if the Fire Department needs the equipment that could be funded through the Fire Department grant, then we should utilize it now with the 50% discount.

Mr. Withers asked why these items were not included in the Capital Outlay or Budget requests.

Chief Gledhill stated that they had requested these items in years past and took a shot at getting these grant funds. He stated that these are things that are needed. He stated that this is the first grant that the Fire Department has received in many years.

Mayor Bringle asked Chief Gledhill to present his needs at the beginning of Budget season. He asked that they remain at the \$11,000 to fund the grant.

Mayor Bringle stated that staff needs to review what the needs are at the Community Building before increasing taxes.

Mr. Upright made a motion to raise the proposed budget by a tax increase of two cent and an additional two cent for earmarked funds for the Community Building. Mr. Withers seconded the motion.

Mr. Linn stated that he did not agree with the earmarked funds.

Mr. Upright stated that he knows that the work needs to be done.

Mr. Deal stated that to paint the ceiling of the building is already estimated around \$8,000.

Mr. Withers stated that he believes this is something that needs to be planned for and believes that since a tax increase has not been made every year, it is a good time now to do it. He stated that at the end of the day, we are still fourth highest in the County.

Mr. Withers called for vote.

Mr. Upright and Mr. Withers voted to approve the four cent increase. Mr. Stroud, Mr. Linn and Mr. Seaford voted to deny the four cent increase. The motion was 3-2 and did not carry.

Mr. Withers made a motion to recess.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Bringle reconvened the meeting for the Regular Town Council Meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bringle called Roll. All Councilmembers were present, there was a quorum. He led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Linn made a motion to adopt the agenda with an addition of I) YMCA Request under Other Business. Mr. Seaford seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Seaford made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda. Mr. Linn seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

I) 2014 Volunteer Fire Department Fund Grant

Mr. Deal stated that this was discussed during the budget process. He believes the Council has agreed to utilize \$11,000 of the grant at this time and plans to implement a grant process for future grants.

II) Call for Public Hearing – Tuscarora CDBG Closeout

Mayor Bringle requested the date be set for June 17, 2014.

Mr. Linn made a motion to set the Public Hearing for the Tuscarora CDBG Closeout for June 17th, 2014. Mr. Withers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

III) Call for Public Hearing – FY 13-14 Budget Adoption

Mr. Seaford made a motion to set the Public Hearing for the FY 2014-2015 Budget Hearing for June 17th, 2014 at 6:00 pm. Mr. Withers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Seaford made a request from the Council members to show support toward Farmers Day with a donation of \$50 each.

Mr. Deal reviewed the roof and generator repairs, which are underway.

OTHER BUSINESS

I) Discussion of Town Advisory Boards

Mr. Withers stated that he wanted to review who was on the boards currently due to term expirations. He stated that he hasn't seen anything advertised in a long time and wants the Council and staff to stay on top of this item.

Mr. Stroud stated that he believes the ZBA and Planning Board should be combined if a quorum cannot be met.

Mr. Linn stated that there has been a lack of participation for the Boards.

Mr. Withers stated that they can recruit people if necessary.

Mayor Bringle requested a list of the current boards, who serves on each board and other information from Mr. Deal for the August meeting. He also requested a monthly department summary each month.

II) YMCA Request

Mayor Bringle read a letter from Mr. Alan Lambert, SR YMCA. He stated that they have requested a sponsorship of \$500 from the Town of China Grove for the "We Build Program".

Mr. Withers and Mr. Linn garnered their support for this sponsorship.

Mr. Upright made a motion to donate a sponsorship of \$250 to the SR YMCA "We Build Program". Mr. Withers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mayor Bringle requested to cancel the July meeting.

Mr. Upright made a motion to cancel the July meeting. Mr. Stroud seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Withers made a request to provide the open positions on the Town Advisory Boards at Farmers Day.

Mr. Stroud made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Seaford seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda A. Eller
Town Clerk

Don Bringle
Mayor