

Town of Lovettsville

Minutes of Town Council Public Hearing, May 20, 2010

The Lovettsville Town Council meeting for the purpose of Public Hearings for the FY 2011 Budget, Capital Improvement Plan, and Rates and Fees was called to order by Mayor Elaine Walker at 8:07 P.M. on Thursday, May 20, 2010 at the Lovettsville Town Hall 6 East Pennsylvania Avenue, Lovettsville, VA 20180.

Welcomes and Introductions

Mayor Walker welcomed the citizens attending the meeting.

The Mayor introduced Vice Mayor Robert Zoldos II, and Council Members Charlotte Coleman, Scott Dockum, and Shaun Staley. The Mayor also introduced the Town Staff, including Town Manager Keith Markel, Zoning Administrator Steve McGregor, Treasurer Lance Gladstone, Project Manager Karin Fellers and Town Clerk Judy Kromholz.

Absent: Council Members DiJon Jones, Michael Senate

Audience: Among those present in the audience were Amanda Staley, Tiffany Carder, and Bing Lam.

Opening of the Hearing

Mayor Walker led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Presentation

Manager Markel presented the Proposed Operating and Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2011 and the Proposed Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Year 2011-2015.

Councilman Staley thanked Manager Markel for his presentation and asked for an explanation for why the water rates may be increasing. Manager Markel explained that the Town has an aging infrastructure that is expensive to maintain and that it would be irresponsible for the Town government not to budget for needed maintenance and repairs. He noted that other Towns had not accumulated a reserve for maintenance and were suffering accordingly. He also reminded those present that the rates advertised are the maximum amount the Council may approve after receiving input from the public.

Mayor Walker thanked Manager Markel for his explanation.

Explanation of Procedures

Vice Mayor Zoldos explained the standard procedures for the Public Hearing including that comments are limited to three minutes. Mayor Walker read the public notice of this Public Hearing as it appeared in the *Purcellville Gazette* (Attachment I).

Public Speakers – Budget and CIP

Mayor Walker introduced each speaker in the order in which they had signed up to speak.

- 1 Joy Pritz
New Town Meadows
 - a) Mrs. Pritz stated that she was shocked at the proposed water rate and that we already pay too much for water.
 - b) She stated that everybody she spoke to in New Town Meadows is opposed to any rate or tax increases and feels they pay too much. She stated that they do not care why the rates might be increasing.
 - c) She suggested the Council find places to cut the budget noting that her family practiced similar economies.
- 2 Christina Metzger
 - a) Mrs. Metzger stated that she has a problem with the water rate increase. She stated that she does not water her grass because water is too expensive.
 - b) She stated that there are more people coming into town, and they

3 Bing Lam
Lovettsville Town
Center

- should be paying more into the system.
- a) Mr. Lam stated that three weeks ago the Mayor and Vice Mayor Zoldos claimed that the Town was in excellent financial condition. He calculated that the Council is proposing a 17% increase in property tax. He asked what had really changed in three weeks and stated that he had two recommendations:
 - b) Mr. Lam stated that the operating fund should generate sufficient revenues to cover operating costs. He wants to see a breakdown that will prove to him that these increases will only be devoted to operations
 - c) He stated that there are people who are holding water and sewer taps that are not hooked up and that these people are holding positions that the town cannot sell to others and this is increasing the operating cost to others. He recommends these people should pay a minimum indirect cost association with the operating costs.
 - d) He stated that last year he obtained a pro forma worksheet that explained what was going on in the utility fund. That should be made available to everyone.

Vice Mayor Zoldos informed Mr. Lam that he had exceeded his three minutes. Mr. Lam stated that he has heard anecdotes from people that they cannot meet their water bills and stated that water and sewer should not cost as much as propane gas.

Mayor Walker asked if there were any further speakers from the public. There were none. She asked the Council members if they had any comments at this time.

Councilman Dockum stated that he is a resident in this Town also and the rates and taxes affect him personally. He finds it interesting that there are people speaking tonight who previously blasted the Council for not funding sidewalks. Tonight these same individuals are speaking against taxes in any form and he asked if they had any proposals for funding the sidewalks without taxes. He reported that the Council has discussed this funding in depth and has made a commitment to dedicating these funds to sidewalks because that is clearly what the townspeople have demanded. He stated that the Town last raised utility rates two years ago and that the rates had not been raised for a long time prior to that. He noted that the system is servicing more people. He stated that the Council had a responsibility to ensure that the toilets flush and sewage does not back up into homes.

Vice Mayor Zoldos stated that a few of Mr. Lam's statements were incorrect. He stated that the Town is in excellent financial shape and noted that any town that is not carrying general debt in this economy is managing well. He explained that Council has been bombarded with requests from the Town citizens for sidewalks and took those requests seriously when developing the budget. Other items in the budget were cut and the new tax, if approved, will be devoted solely to sidewalk construction. The Council is being both fiscally responsible and responsive to the citizenry. He stated that if water and sewer rates are not adequate to fund maintenance the Council would be irresponsible and toilets may not flush or water not run into homes in Town.

There being no further speakers, Mayor Walker declared this public hearing closed at 8:41 PM.

Opening of the Hearing – Rates and Fees

Mayor Walker opened the Public Hearing on rates and fees and read the public notice of this Public Hearing as it appeared in the *Purcellville Gazette* (Attachment I). Manager Markel explained that there are no proposed changes to the rates and fees for the next fiscal year.

No member of the public had signed up to speak at this hearing. Mayor Walker asked if any one present wished to speak and no one did. She then asked the Council if they had any comments at this time.

Councilman Dockum asked if the Final Site Plan Fee had any provision for proration for sites that are fractions of an acre. Manager Markel stated that there are no provisions for smaller plots. Councilman Dockum requested that the Council discuss this matter in a future work session.

There being no further comments from the Council, Mayor Walker asked if any communications had been submitted to Town Hall for presentation at the Hearing. Town Clerk Kromholz stated there were none as of close of business today.

Closing Comments

Mayor Walker again asked if there were any more speakers and there were none.

Declaration to close the Public Hearing

Mayor Walker stated that this issue would be open for written comments for an additional ten days and declared the second Public Hearing closed at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Judy L. Kromholz, Town Clerk

Date Approved: August 9, 2010

Attachments:

- I. *Purcellville Gazette* Public Notice
- II. Speaker Sign in Sheets

Public Hearing/Legal Notices

**Town of Lovettsville
Notice of Public Hearing
And
PROPOSED OPERATING & CAPITAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011 BUDGET
And
PROPOSED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR FY2011-2015**

A PUBLIC HEARING on the proposed Operating and Capital Budget for FY 2011 and the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for FY 2011-2015 will be held at the Lovettsville Town Hall, 6 East Pennsylvania Avenue, Lovettsville, VA on Thursday, May 20, 2010, at 8:00pm, at which time all interested citizens will be heard. Copies of the full text of the Proposed FY 2011 Budget and FY 2011-2015 CIP may be examined at the Town Hall from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 pm, Monday through Friday, holidays excepted or on the Town's website at www.lovettsvilleva.gov.

GENERAL FUND	
Revenue	Expenditures
Property Taxes	Personnel Services
\$371,494.10	\$250,763.00
Other Taxes	Contractual Services
273,000.00	190,500.00
Permits/Fees/Licenses	Technology Services
11,800.00	17,500.00
Reimbursements and Other Revenue	Repair & Maintenance
1,550.00	55,850.00
	Utilities
	23,600.00
	Communications
	5,320.00
	Insurance
	5,000.00
	Activities Support
	38,000.00
	Dues
	2,500.00
	Travel & Training
	14,100.00
	Supplies and Advertising
	9,000.00
	Capital Transfer
	65,711.10
Total Revenue	Total Expenditures
\$677,844.10	\$677,844.10

UTILITY FUND	
Revenue	Expenditures
Water & Sewer Service*	Personnel Services
\$480,000.00	\$50,300.00
Connection Fees	Contractual Services
64,000.00	324,800.00
Frye Ct. Tax District**	Sewer Repair & Maintenance
2,500.00	60,300.00
Safety Grant	Water Repair & Maintenance
500.00	53,250.00
Reimbursements	Utilities
16,980.00	62,175.00
Water Tower Leases	Communications
85,000.00	3,600.00
Penalties; Reconnect, Grants, Misc.	Liability Insurance
9,300.00	12,000.00
	Grains / Miscellaneous
	3,530.00
	Sewer Supplies & Equipment
	17,450.00
	Water Supplies & Equipment
	19,200.00
	Capital Outlays
	51,675.00
Total Revenue	Total Expenditures
\$658,280.00	\$658,280.00

*Each water customer will be assessed a waterworks operation fee up to \$2.05 for the 2011 fiscal year. This fee will be paid directly by the Town to the Virginia Department of Health for the Waterworks Technical Assistance Fund.
**Based upon proposed tax rate of \$0.275 per \$100.00 assessed land value for Frye Court residents only.

Capital Projects Fund: The Town of Lovettsville's proposed Capital Improvement Plan includes \$567,469.00 in spending for FY 2011 Capital Projects, to include: Water Tower Repair, Water Facility Improvements, Bike Path Network, Broad Way Streetscape Improvements - Phase 1, Town Square Development and Town Green Development. Funding for these projects will come from a variety of sources, including: Water, Water Tower and Sewer Fund Reserves, General Fund Reserves, Transportation Enhancement Grant, Dedicated Real Estate Tax, Debt Financing and Sewer Tap Fees. A detailed list of the Town's Capital Projects and their projected costs and sources of funding can be reviewed at the Town Office or at www.lovettsvilleva.gov.

**Town of Lovettsville Proposed
Rate and Fee Changes for Fiscal Year 2011**

A Public Hearing on the proposed rates and fees for Fiscal Year 2011 will be held at the Town Hall, 6 East Pennsylvania Avenue, on May 20, 2010 at 8:00p.m. at which time all interested persons will be heard. A full version of the rate and fee schedule along with the proposed changes below are available for review on the Town's website at www.lovettsvilleva.gov or at the Town Hall between the hours of 9:00a.m. and 3:00p.m., Monday through Friday, holidays excepted.

PROPOSED NEW/ADJUSTED RATES AND FEES (NOT TO EXCEED)

General Fund:
Real Estate Tax: \$0.21 per \$100 assessed value
All other rates and fees not listed above remain unchanged from FY 2010. These rates and fees are authorized by Code of Virginia Section 15.2-2286.
Utility Fund:
Minimum Water and Sewer Bill: \$91.50 for up to 6,000 gallons per quarter (\$87.00 for FY 2010 - increase of 5.1%)
Water User Rate: \$6.10 per thousand gallons (\$5.80 in FY 2010 - increase of 5.1%)
Sewer User Rate: Fixed rate of \$76.20 (72.50 in FY 2010 - increase of 5.1%)
Sewer Only Customers: Fixed rate of \$76.20 (72.50 in FY 2010 - increase of 5.1%)
All other utility rates and fees remain unchanged from FY 2010
These actions are authorized by the Code of Virginia Section 15.2-2111, 15.2-2143 (Water) and Sections 15.2-2111, 15.2-2119 (Sewer)

**TOWN OF PURCELLVILLE COMMISSION,
BOARD AND COMMITTEE POSITIONS**

The Purcellville Town Council will be reviewing applications for vacancies on the:

- Economic Development Advisory Committee
- Planning Commission
- Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
- Tree and Beautification Committee
- Board of Zoning Appeals
- Board of Architectural Review

Any citizens interested in being considered for membership on the above Committee should obtain an application form from the Town Hall during normal work hours or visit our website <http://www.purcellvilleva.gov> in order to download an application. Please attach a letter of interest outlining your qualifications for consideration by the Town Council. The deadline for applying is May 21, 2010. If you have any questions concerning the vacant positions or the appointment process, please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer Helbert, Town Clerk at (540) 751-2333.

**The Purcellville Gazette is an
OFFICIAL Paper of Record
for Loudoun County**

Town of Lovettsville

Date: _____

Request to Speak at Public Hearing

Speaker # _____

(Clerk's Use Only)

Subject	Joy Pritz Water
Name (Please Print)	Joy Pritz
Mailing Address	30 Lange Dr
Telephone Number	(540) 668-5012
Email Address	miopritz@comcast.net
Organization (If you represent a group)	

Town of Lovettsville

Date: _____

Request to Speak at Public Hearing

Speaker # _____

(Clerk's Use Only)

Subject	water, taxes
Name (Please Print)	Cristina Metzger
Mailing Address	34 Lange Dr
Telephone Number	540-784-2850
Email Address	Cristina@comcast.com
Organization (If you represent a group)	

Town of Lovettsville

Date: _____

Request to Speak at Public Hearing

Speaker # _____

(Clerk's Use Only)

Subject	Budget
Name	Bing Lan
Mailing Address	2 Bisen Town Dr.
Telephone Number	
Email Address	
Organization (If you represent a group)	