

**Town of Bluefield  
Town Council  
Work Session  
Minutes  
March 22, 2016**

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a Work Session on Tuesday, March 22, 2016 at 6:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall located at 112 Huffard Drive, Bluefield, Virginia.

**TOWN COUNCIL PRESENT**

Don Harris, Mayor  
Lee Riffe, Councilmember  
Donnie Linkous, Councilmember  
Jimmy Jones, Vice Mayor  
Anglis Trigg, Councilmember  
Steve Danko, Councilmember

**ALSO PRESENT**

Mike Watson, Town Manager  
Matt Freedman, Town Attorney  
Lesley Catron, Town Clerk  
Kim Hernandez, Executive Assistant  
2 Members of public

**ABSENT**

Shane Gunter, Police Chief  
Billie Roberts, Comm. Dev. Coordinator

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Harris opened the Work Session at 6:25 p.m.

Mr. Watson stated that he would like to go over the 2016/2017 budget.

Pg. 1-\$10,000 was taken out of Real Estate and \$15,000 out of Meals Tax

Pg. 2-Minor changes, some line items were up and some were down

Pg. 3-Lost \$50k in street maintenance due to the audit but received \$30k so we are only about \$20k short. Hockman Pike-received money thru Revenue Sharing this year to buy a garbage truck, utility truck and a bobcat.

Pg. 4-Prior Year Reserves money was taken out to buy cameras and the software at the Treasurer's Office. He stated that the total budget was \$8,465,791.

Mayor Harris asked that they skip to the high school discussion.

Mr. Riffe asked Glenn Carlock, Jr. how the funds were regulated because the past two years, the wrestling team came in and asked for money.

Mr. Carlock stated that the wrestling team had one home match per year and also scheduled an invitational tournament but that the last 5 years it had been snowed out. He

stated that was his main money maker and that the wrestling team was on the road almost every weekend and did not have any money coming in. He said that the money they asked for was to help them eat.

Mr. Danko asked who paid for the other sports teams' food.

Mr. Carlock stated that it was per individual sport and that most of the time, it was the parents.

Mr. Danko asked why.

Mr. Carlock stated that there was no money in the athletic department.

Mr. Gary O'Neal stated that there was no percentage per sports and that what they brought in was there's to keep along with fundraisers. He stated that basically all they received was ticket sales.

Mr. Linkous asked what the county paid for.

Mr. O'Neal stated the buses.

Mr. Linkous stated for instance if you looked at basketball, they were getting gate money but asked why the kids' parents had to pay for them to play for the sport to represent Graham High School.

Mr. O'Neal stated that they had never denied anyone from playing because they did not have the money.

Mr. Linkous stated that council needed to push at the state and county level.

Mr. O'Neal stated that Mr. Woodward had changed things and changed the tournament date and that once things were turned around that they should be able to fund their own season.

Mr. Linkous stated that the coaches did not have time to beg for money.

Mr. Carlock stated that it was not their job.

Mr. Linkous stated that his personal opinion would be that they fund all out of an account and if they went to state, then the School Board should pay for it.

Mr. Jones stated that the School Board received their money from the Board of Supervisors and that there was no way to get money.

Mr. Danko asked if they had any money left over from the schools each year.

Mr. Jones stated that it would roll into the next year's budget.

Mr. Riffe stated that his daughter played basketball and that he had to pay \$100. He asked why the boys basketball team received Nike and they got soffe.

Mr. Carlock stated that it was the coach's discretion.

Mr. O'Neal stated that the basketball coach was new and that they were talking to her about different things. He stated that we were one of the smallest high schools with the biggest number of spring sports and that the money given to them was spent wisely on the kids.

Mr. Danko asked how much total in donations did they receive.

Mr. O'Neal stated that the last \$15k donation they received was split between the spring sports.

Mr. Carlock stated that he could get them a list if they wanted one. He stated that most of the time, the coach got their needs and not wants and that the coaches used their own discretion.

Mr. Danko asked if they had checked with Sam's about getting a donation.

Mr. Carlock stated that he was not sure but that they could use his help to get it. He stated that they had 6 sports that had \$64 or less in their account, 4 in the red and 1 with a zero balance.

Mr. O'Neal stated that you had to factor in the activities as well and not just sports because they had to travel as well.

Mr. Linkous asked if there was a large amount of money sitting out there for football.

Mr. O'Neal stated no.

Mr. Linkous asked if there was a large sum in the boosters.

Mr. O'Neal stated that they raised that money themselves and spent it at their own discretion.

Mr. Linkous stated that if there was money left over that it should go to Graham High School.

Mr. O'Neal stated that this year they would be buying new football uniforms.

Mr. Carlock stated that helmets only lasted 4-5 years.

Mr. O'Neal stated that they had to be reconditioned every year.

Mr. Carlock stated that they bought 6-9 helmets every year.

Mr. Linkous asked if they could bring back what they have needed in the athletic and academic areas in the past 3 years.

Mr. O'Neal stated that in 2013 the golf team went to regional and state tournament with nothing in their account. He stated that the parents stepped up and bought the meals. He stated that it fluctuated \$20k-\$30k per year.

Mr. Carlock stated that they had contributors who stepped up and helped balance out the budget at the end of the year.

Mr. Riffe asked how they could get the boosters back over all sports.

Mr. Carlock stated that it was like that when it was started 4-5 years ago but that 95% of the parents who worked were the football parents and did not want to be the only ones working just to give it to other sports. He stated that they had to have people to get involved.

Mr. Linkous stated that these kids represented the Town of Bluefield.

Mr. O'Neal stated that 2 weeks ago in Manassas that he had a marine to come up to him and said that he had breakfast with some of our players and talked about how polite and respectful they were. He stated that he wanted to write a letter to our superintendent.

Mr. Linkous stated that they needed to find a way to get money even if it meant them giving \$20k or whatever.

Mayor Harris asked if the Carlock/Pruett Foundation was viable.

Mr. Carlock stated yes.

Mr. O'Neal stated that in the last 5 years when the field house and gyms were built, that they had hit those donors hard. He stated that they were in a rebuilding stage and that it had \$10k in it now. He stated that they were looking to fundraise to get it back up and that was who they went to at the end of the year to get money.

Mayor Harris stated that we had experienced the same thing here and that people told us they were going to give a donation for the gyms but we had not received a donation.

Mr. O'Neal stated that the ones that pledged to the foundation did contribute.

Mayor Harris thanked them for coming.

Mr. Danko asked that they come back.

They stated that they would come back anytime.

Mr. Watson continued on with the budget.

Pg. 5-no changes

Pg. 6-moved health insurance from Town Manager to Treasurer

Pg. 7-purchase of tax stamps, Bookkeeping-balanced out

Pg. 8-took \$3k out of PD-tires and parts, took out a little more here and there.

Stock/General Maintenance-took out \$1k not designated for any particular maintenance.

Pg. 9-Police Department-change in insurance

Pg. 10-not a lot of changes, received \$100k grant last year to put in to a separate fund which will offset overtime

Pg. 11-health insurance went down

Pg. 12-added \$3k more to snow removal, expecting \$160k in grant money, \$40k in concrete work

Pg. 13-health insurance change

Pg. 14-minimal changes

Pg. 15-not much change

Pg. 16-took out the money for the Second Chance Concert

Pg. 17-no changes, he stated that Health Insurance did not go up this year

Pg. 18-Capital Projects-he stated if we had a revenue sharing project that was not spent, then it was transferred over into High Street. \$72k transferred over into High Street from 2015. Will be bidding out for a garbage truck, bobcat and utility truck this year.

Pg. 19-debt services balanced by moving line items around

Pg. 20-balanced budget

Water Fund-

Pg. 21-\$798 added in sales, normal expenses up and down. He stated that there were no raises budgeted for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row because there had not been any new revenues

Pg. 23-balance out water fund. He stated that they had applied for a grant for backup power for the water plant.

Cemetery Fund-no changes

Transit-he stated was sent to the state to be approved by the State. He stated that they would be buying an air compressor and computer for diagnostics. He stated that it would cost around \$20k but that we would only pay between 3%-5%. He stated that we would also be buying a new bus this year as well.

Mr. Watson stated that he would schedule another meeting to find more money if needed or to approve the 2016-2017 budget.

**ADJOURN**

Mayor Harris adjourned the Work Session at 7:25 p.m.

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Don Harris, Mayor

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Lesley Catron, Town Clerk