

**Town of Bluefield  
Town Council  
Work Session  
May 8, 2018**

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a Work Session on Tuesday, May 8, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall located at 112 Huffard Drive, Bluefield, Virginia.

**TOWN COUNCIL PRESENT**

Don Harris, Mayor  
Anglis Trigg, Jr., Councilmember  
Chuck Presley, Councilmember  
Jimmy Jones, Councilmember  
Lee Riffe, Vice-Mayor

**ALSO PRESENT**

Mike Watson, Town Manager  
Matt Freedman, Town Attorney  
Shane Gunter, Chief of Police  
Lesley Catron, Town Clerk  
Billie Roberts, Comm. Dev. Coordinator  
4 Members of Public

**ABSENT**

Ron Holt, Councilmember

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Harris opened the Work Session at 7:08 p.m.

***Budget***

Mr. Watson stated that it was a balanced budget in all departments and included the 2 ½ cents increase on cigarettes and \$1 on trash. He stated that the platform truck would be paid off in 2019 which had cost a little over \$1.1 million. He stated that the Fire Department was looking at purchasing another truck and this was done when a loan was paid off to have new equipment. He stated that they were looking at replacing the 1985 Pumper Truck for a Pumper Tanker which would cost around \$802k. He stated that they put money back every year to purchase equipment and by the time this come due they would have \$250k in their account so the remainder would come out of the LGIP. He stated there would be an additional \$60k to pay towards the new facility.

Mayor Harris asked if the firemen were getting want they wanted.

Mr. Watson stated yes. He stated that the budget also included a \$500 raise for all full time employees and that the money had been wired to pay for the Hockman Pike Project. He stated that there was a Budget Amendment to be voted on during the meeting for the sweeper. He stated that the old one was 15 years old and staff was looking into

buying one this year. He stated that the one the Sanitary Board had costs \$220k but after looking around he found a used unit for \$26k. He stated that it did not have all the “bells and whistles” but would do the job.

Mr. Riffe asked how they were saving money if they were giving raises.

Mr. Watson stated that it depended on the department and some had extra money built in. He said he would advertise the budget and they would have 2 Public Hearings. One on the overall budget with the water and trash increase and one for the increase on cigarette tax.

### ***Water***

Mr. Watson stated that it included a \$3.50 increase on the minimum and 6% across the board. He stated that he did not raise any fees on people that purchased over a million gallons of water per month. He stated that we only had one customer who used this much and we did not want to run them off with a rate increase.

### ***Cemetery***

Mr. Watson stated that all of the operating expenses went through the Cemetery Commission.

### ***Transit***

Mr. Watson stated that the Transit Budget had been sent in to the state for approval. He stated that we received Federal and State subsidy and paid a percent out of the General Fund to operate it. He stated that it was set in January for the next year.

Mr. Riffe asked about the savings in the Treasurer.

Mr. Watson stated that he would have to check on that \$4k. He stated that in Vehicle Maintenance it was saved by not replacing a working and in Town Hall Building & Grounds it was from taking 2 employees to 1 employee which saved around \$20k.

### **ADJOURN**

Mayor Harris adjourned the Work Session at 7:30 p.m.

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Don Harris, Mayor

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Lesley Catron, Town Clerk