

**Town of Bluefield
Town Council
Work Session
February 25, 2020**

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a Work Session on Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall located at 112 Huffard Drive, Bluefield, Virginia.

TOWN COUNCIL PRESENT

Don Harris, Mayor
Ron Holt, Councilmember
Chuck Presley, Councilmember
Jarrod Bailey, Councilmember

ALSO PRESENT

Mike Watson, Town Manager
Kim Hernandez, Town Clerk
Matt Freedman, Town Attorney
Billie Roberts, Comm. Dev. Coordinator
Rachel Looney, Administrative Asst.
1 Member of Public

ABSENT

Anglis Trigg, Jr., Vice-Mayor
Jimmy Jones, Councilmember

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Harris opened the Work Session at 5:40 p.m.

2020-2021 Budget

Mr. Watson stated that it was a balanced budget was not finished. He stated that he was waiting on the Legislative Bills before finishing it. He stated that this budget did not include the increase in minimum wage but that there was a 4.8% increase for the health insurance.

Pg. 1-took out the 5% Public Service Corporation.

Pg. 2-took out \$97k from miscellaneous for odd ball stuff.

Pg. 3-\$8k out of consumption utilities, \$581,836 High Street took out of Revenue Sharing, Downtown Planning Grant-\$35k, \$264k High Street Bond Issuance, Pumper Truck-\$600k with the remainder coming out of LGIP Prior Year Reserves. He stated that 1% of the meals tax increase was to go towards special projects. He stated that \$230,612 was put into prior year reserves (Recreation Facility LGIP).

Pg. 4-minor changes, ICMA matching contribution rate for Town Manager, \$4k was taken out of health insurance.

Pg. 5-added more money to the audit, health insurance changes.

Pg. 6-added \$2k more to Bookkeeping salaries, increase in health insurance, increased part time salaries for Vehicle Maintenance. He stated that Public Works, Recreation and Fincastle would be the departments hit the worse on minimum wage.

Pg. 8-Fire Department call out pay would stay the same, Workers comp went up.

Mr. Holt asked how long the call out pay had been the same.

Mr. Watson stated 10-15 years. He stated that we were allowed to pay them a stiffen to help pay for things and that the county had bought air packs for all of the county Fire Departments.

Mayor Harris suggested asking Bluefield College for a donation for all of the times the Fire Department responds to their fire alarms.

Pg. 10-VRS change of \$2k, \$170k every year for paving and if we did not pave that year we banked that money. He stated that we would finish from where it stopped to Dudley Law Office, increased Refuse salaries to balance. He stated that we had to send in a report to VDOT every year showing them we spent the money we were supposed to spend.

Pg. 11-Health Insurance Changes, the person who was cleaning the Treasurer's office is no longer cleaning it, we now have someone doing it during regular hours. \$3,800 was taken from Recreation Salaries.

Pg. 12-took a little from here and there, FICA changes, HGMP has been cleared off.

Pg. 13-Historical Society added \$1k for their yearly request for Twisted History, downtown project non line item expense.

Mr. Holt asked about the kickoff.

Mr. Watson stated that it was not included.

Pg. 14-\$1k was added to wrestling for their yearly request.

Mr. Holt asked about a big event.

Mrs. Roberts stated that Fincastle was planning a July 4th event and that the Field Fest in June would also be held there. She stated that the committee had talked about moving them but there was a big demand to keep them downtown.

Mr. Holt stated that he would like to have something.

Mr. Bailey stated that it was a good idea and suggested leaving it up to staff.

Mr. Watson stated that we had a July 4th event here and had the East River Band perform and suggested partnering with Fincastle.

Mrs. Roberts stated that plan B for Field Fest was to move it indoors to Fincastle.

Mr. Watson asked council how much they would want to budget for this.

Mr. Bailey stated that we would probably be able to get some donations.

Mr. Holt suggested \$15k and to work with Fincastle to split the cost.

Mr. Bailey stated that some of the long term members may help support an event.

Pg. 14-Zoning Administrator salary is split between Building & Zoning.

Pg. 15-shows the \$230,612 transfer to Recreation Facility and an extra \$50k added, \$255k for the Community Center LGIP. He stated that a manager of staff was hired for Fincastle and this person had experience in restaurants.

Mr. Holt asked if the Chef was in a supervisory position.

Mr. Watson stated yes and no.

Pg. 16-Debt Service shows the Water Bond, High Street, Utility Truck/Bobcat, etc. and shows the \$42k State Brownfield Grant that was used for Bluefield Iron & Metal which was almost finished. He stated closer to June, we would swap the money out already used for the \$600k EPA Brownfield Grant.

Pg. 17-total expenditures showed a change of \$1,572,000. He stated it was a balanced budget.

Water-new meters being installed and information is being updated on the system, increased water sales, tiny usage on expenditures.

Pg. 2-more money in contingency, Industrial Park Escrow \$72k not really \$2 million, VDH Loan payment \$101,044 @ 2.25% for 30 years, paid off the \$90,700 loan so a \$9k difference in the two payments.

Pg. 3-plant side, additional \$33k added to backwash & basin.

Cemetery-stayed same.

Transit-is a set budget.

Fincastle-added more to food service income, will be bidding out the roof.

ADJOURN

Mayor Harris adjourned the Work Session at 7:00 p.m.

Don Harris, Mayor

Kim Hernandez, Town Clerk