

Council Work Session Minutes

April 06, 2017

The Tazewell Town Council met in a budget work session at 6:00 a.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers.

Present:

Mayor A. D. Buchanan Jr

Vice-Mayor Terry Mullins

Councilmember Chris Brown

Councilmember Jack Murray

Councilmember Glenn Catron

Councilmember Jennifer Boyd

Staff present were: Town Manager, Todd Day; Executive Assistant, Robin Brewster; David Hilton, Accounting Clerk, Rescue Squad Administrator, Syndee Saleem.

Absent:

Councilmember David Fox

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Buchanan reconvened the meeting.

EMS

Manager Day discussed the budget and stated that he has had an elected official ask for numbers regarding the EMS revenue. He also stated that he has asked Pat Green to give money to our EMS and she has denied. Rescue Squad Administrator, Syndee Saleem discussed her budget. She stated that she has tightened her budget for the next year. Currently, payments for the past year are \$339,000.00 and has a projected revenue of \$455,000.00 and a projected revenue of \$500,000.00 next year. With the new rates, they are getting \$50.00 more a call. There was a loss of \$150,000.00 with the name change and from PMC doing our billing. It is estimated that transporting for dialysis would create \$100,000.00 in revenue.. It was also said that there would be no overhead cost with that. Councilmember Brown and Councilmember Catron discussed this. There was discussion about adding a transport division. Manager Day stated that if we took on a transport division, what would it mean for us financially and it could mean that we will not get any money from the county. Councilmember Brown stated that doing transports for dialysis would be a gamble but he does not approve of town taxpayers paying for the costs of running calls in the county. Manager Day believes that the county knows that the town is having issues with the rescue squad and that members of our board do not approve of town tax payers footing the bill. Councilmember Brown stated that they public needs to know that. Councilmember Murray suggested the county take over the rescue squad and they can have the expense of it. Councilmember Boyd stated that we keep the services in town only. Manager Day stated that if we are called to a county call, we have to go. Manager Day further discussed budget numbers on EMS charts. He showed the expenses versus revenue for EMS. There needs to be a decision

made based on the finances. Councilmember Brown stated that there was a loss of \$653,000.00 over the last few years, the last three years more so than previous. It would take over a year to begin a transport service. Councilmember Murray stated again he thinks we should turn the rescue squad over to the county. Councilmember Boyd stated that she doesn't feel comfortable shutting the rescue squad down. Councilmember Brown stated he would like to see a letter written to the county that tells the revenue/expense of the rescue squad and state that we are serving their tax payers but town taxpayers are having to pay for it and he feels this should be made public. This will be added to the agenda for the council meeting. Mayor Buchanan stated that something will be written and ready. Councilmember Brown and Rescue Squad Administrator, Syndee Saleem, discussed the revenue and expense. Manager Day stated he would like to utilize the charts that we have for this. Councilmember Catron discussed 50% of the expense going to the county. Vice Mayor Mullins stated he feels like the citizens will ask what happened if we turn the rescue squad over. It was discussed that there needs to be communication between the town and Mike Hymes. We need to discuss this matter with him and see if the county would be able to help us be sharing some of the expenses. It was recommended that this take place before the council meeting. Manager Day stated for now, keep supporting Syndee until something can be determined.

WATER FUND

Manager Day discussed the water fund. He discussed the study that David Dawson conducted. The revenue from PSA is increasing due to pumping water to Pocahontas. There can be an increase of \$62,000.00. They then discussed revenue and expenses of the water fund. It was stated that we are creating a slush fund to save money. Manager Day stated that there was a grant to do the Pocahontas project and he has in the budget to payoff the costs. Manager Day stated we have a balanced budget for water. His goal is to have 1/3 reserve. Council agreed to move money from the loan payoff to reserve.

SEWER FUND

The sewer rate will not change. Manager Day stated there was a \$2,000.00 reduction in internet. There were also reductions in telephone expense, supplies, etc. There is \$32,000.00 in contingency that if it is not spent it will be moved to the LGIP. Everyone at Drytown is hooked up or paying non-user fees.

BUSINESS LICENSE

Manager Day discussed business license, the procedures, and moving the due date of the license. It was discussed what businesses were delinquent. Also, home occupational permits were discussed and stated we need to have a section in our code regarding this.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Buchanan recessed the meeting at 7:17am.