

June 18th, 2014
Special Called Meeting
Public Hearing
2014-2015 Budget

At 6:00pm, on Wednesday June 18th, 2014, in the Board Room of the Landis Municipal Building, Mayor James Furr called to order the Town of Landis Special Called Meeting. Those present along with the Mayor were Aldermen Roger Safrit, Dennis Brown, Dorland Abernathy and Tony Hilton, Town Manager Reed Linn, Public Works Director Steve Rowland, Police Chief Bob Wood, Recreation Director Andrew Morgan, Deputy Town Clerk Debbie Goodman, Finance Officer Ginger Gibson, and Administrative Assistant Heather Wood.

A quorum was met.

Mayor James Furr opened the meeting and welcomed all those in attendance.

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mayor James Furr.

Mayor Furr called the Public Hearing to order to discuss the proposed 2014-2015 fiscal budget.

Manager Linn stated that the Board had a copy of the budget for all funds, and as presented the budget was balanced in all funds.

The General Fund – which includes Administration, Police, Fire, Streets, Sanitation and Recreation – was \$2,828,393.00; the Light Fund was \$6,696,183.00; the Water Fund was \$930,224.00; the Sewer Fund was \$801,781.00; and the Stormwater Fund was \$92,600.00. The total budget for all funds for the 2014-2015 fiscal year was \$11,349,181.00. This was up \$400,000.00 from the previous year, mostly due to the increase in power purchased in the Light Fund.

The final rate increase from Salisbury was 2.9%, but Staff had only budgeted for a 2% increase in the budget. There was some discussion of the increased sewer bills from Salisbury and how it was being handled.

The proposed budget was balanced as presented and included no other fee or tax increases.

Mayor Furr then opened the public hearing for citizens' comments.

Nadine Cherry: stated that she was opposed to the budget as it currently stood. She stated that the Town gives \$250.00 to the Rufty Homes every year but they won't "keep up" with the audio and video in the Council Chambers. She stated that there had been seven microphones purchased but only six were in use and she wanted to know why the seventh wasn't being used. She stated that for a time it had sat in the window in the chambers, but then it had disappeared and earlier tonight it had been back but was once again missing. She stated that in the Salisbury Post George Simmons had written an opinion

about why citizens in Salisbury had to pay more for their water bills just to support Fibrant and she wanted to know the same thing: why citizens in Landis had to pay more for their water bills when they received no benefits from Fibrant. Ms. Cherry stated she was also against a 3% raise for employees, that it should be no more than 1% or 2%. She stated that the Town had never let citizens know that the water line to Salisbury had been paid off and she felt it was because they wanted to use the money for their “pet projects”. She stated that she knew nothing she said would change anyone’s mind.

There were no further comments from citizens.

Mayor Furr closed the public hearing.

Alderman Abernathy inquired about the status of the PARTF Grant. Director Morgan stated that they would be meeting on July 11th, 2014 and it would be awarded then.

Alderman Hilton motioned, seconded by Alderman Brown, to adopt the 2014-2015 fiscal budget as submitted. All voted aye.

The budget was accepted and the Board thanked Staff.

Alderman Safrit motioned, seconded by Alderman Brown, to adjourn the meeting. All voted aye.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:09pm on Wednesday, June 18th, 2014.

Heather Wood
Administrative Assistant