

TOWN OF COATS  
Board of Commissioners  
Budget Meeting  
March 20, 2021  
**OFFICIAL MINUTES**

**I. ABSTRACT:**

A scheduled budget meeting of the Board of Commissioners held on March 20, 2021 in the Board of Commissioners' Meeting Room at Coats Town Hall.

**II. ROLL CALL:**

Mayor Chris Coats, Mayor Pro-Tem Jerry Beasley, Commissioner Kelvin Gilbert, Commissioner Marc Powell, Commissioner John Raynor and Commissioner Allen Mosby were present.

Town Manager Nick Holcomb and Town Clerk Karen Wooten were present.

Department Managers Chief Storicks, Rodney Pleasant, Teresa Brown and Mike Collins were present.

**III. CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Coats called the budget meeting to order and lead those present in the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. Approval of Agenda**

**RESOLVED**, to approve Agenda.

**MOTION BY: COMMISSIONER JOHN RAYNOR: SECOND BY: COMMISSIONER KELVIN GILBERT  
APPROVED, AYES (5), MAYOR PRO-TEM JERRY BEASLEY, COMMISSIONERS POWELL, RAYNOR, MOSBY  
AND GILBERT  
NOES (0)**

**IV. NEW BUSINESS:**

The budget meeting with each Department Manager heard by the Board of Commissioners as listed below. (**Reference #1**)

**Parks and Recreation – Mike Collins**

The following are request from Mike Collins Recreation Director

- a. Increase salaries/other to \$10,000 – Mr. Collins expressed the challenges in using Public Works employees to help assist at the park
- b. Increase in referees/umpires due to the adult games, which revenue received to cover the increase. This includes the youth programs also
- c. Increase repairs equipment/building to \$2,000 – Split unit for office at park
- d. Increase printing and advertising - \$250 for boards and signs
- e. Increase park improvements – drainage for left field, complete trail project, picnic tables

Mr. Collins mentioned line items where possible reduced, or are the same as present budget. Mr. Collins expressed the difficulties in registration for youth programs due to the competition in surrounding towns and that he is trying to *“market what we have”*. Mr. Collins confirmed that the Town would receive the same amount from the County as we did last year.

**Police Department – Chief Ken Storicks**

The following are request from Chief Storicks

- a. Added line item Recreation/Program Supplies - \$500 – requested to market the police department. **(Reference #2)**
- b. Increase Computer Equipment \$1,000 to purchase computer. **(Reference #3)**
- c. Increase on Capital Outlay – Dodge Durango, highway taxes ( replaces 2013 Charger) **(Reference #4)**

Chief Storicks presented the Board with a starting salary from local Law Enforcement agencies. Chief Storicks expressed the concerns trying to recruit police officers and retaining their services competing with over towns. Chief Storicks asked the Board to consider increasing the starting pay. **(Reference #5)**

Chief Storicks explained the need for ammunition each budget year. Training, qualifying each officers, new officers and reserve officers.

**Library – Teresa Brown Director**

Teresa Brown Library Director updated the Board there were not any increase needs within the Library. She informed the Board of shelves that we were receiving from the County Library at no cost to the Town and some painting/repairs that are scheduled. Mrs. Brown stated the Library to close for a week for the transition of new shelves and repairs. Mrs. Brown shared the hours for herself at 16, Jeanette Elkins at 17 and part-time position at 10.

**Streets and Water Department – Rodney Pleasant**

The following are request from Rodney Pleasant

- a. Increase Capital Outlay, 10-4510-5100 – Ford F150 - \$27,000 replace 2005 Chevy
- b. Added new 10-4510-3530 - \$3,000– repairs mainly for leaf truck

- c. Reduced several line items
- d. Water Department reduced 60-7110-2260 – Material and Supplies
- e. Added line item 60-7110-7205 Utility Cut/Repairs- monies moved from 60-7110-2260 Materials and Supplies to clarify utility repairs to roads
- f. 60-7110-5100 - \$1,000 added for unknown purchase
- g. Solid Waste – reduce tipping fees

Discussion among Board that Public Works Director have new vehicle and transfer present vehicle to public works department.

Mayor Pro-Tem Jerry Beasley asked if there were items that could be sold as surplus, Public Works Director Rodney Pleasant stated brush hog, leaf truck and looking at other equipment.

***Board took a short break at 9:30 a.m.***

**V. CAPITAL EXPENDITURES:**

Town Manager Nick Holcomb presented a power point with an overview of Revenue Projection and Budget Outlook. The following were items of discussion.

- a. Salaries adjustments for Police Department and Public Works
- b. Longevity change -\$1,000 plus \$100 for each additional year – amendment for Employee Handbook

The Board directed Town Manager Nick Holcomb to get the salaries in line and stated that this is the year to get this set up.

- c. Street Repaving – Mr. Holcomb expressed the difference in bidding for the project on Johnson Street and the need to have an engineer look into the project. Mr. Holcomb stated that the Town could address five (5) streets next year.

Mayor Pro-Tem Jerry Beasley suggested increasing the budget amount under contract services to \$150,000, which would require money from unappropriated.

The Board directed Town Manager Nick Holcomb to have an engineer looked into the project on Johnson Street and do a budget amendment if needed. The Board expressed concerns of the liability of the Town if our staff were involved in maintaining safety during the project.

- d. Beautification –Need to purchase Christmas lights for the Town.
- e. Planning - Asking to increase demolition - \$50,000 – asbestos issues at 184 and 198 East Jay Street. Address Lemon Street demolition prior to nuisance concerns.

The Board directed Town Manager Nick Holcomb to address nuisance issues first and then Lemon Street.

Town Manager Nick Holcomb shared with the Board the importance of reviewing and updating the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances to insure the vision of the Town's future development. Mr. Holcomb stated as an example, gravel streets and the importance to have clear ordinances to insure future developments are for the betterment of the Town. Mr. Holcomb commented that this would be an ideal time to address and update our Ordinances, with the changes examined by N-Focus due to 160-D required by the state.

#### **MeterSYS Presentation – Lauren Brown**

Ms. Brown introduced MeterSys Company as a metering consultancy for Radio Read Water Meters. Ms. Brown updated the Board of the decision from Harnett Regional Water to work with their company to upgrade the county's water meters and express the issue of the Town's position to upgrade along with HRW. Ms. Brown presented an overview of the operation of Radio Read Water Meters and with the connection between HRW and the Town of Coats. Ms. Brown presented four (4) options for the Town recommending options three (3). **(Reference #6)**

Points of discussion among the Board listed below:

1. Town will have to face upgrading our meters eventually
2. Would need to update Ordinances pertaining to property damage
3. Would help control leaks on streets
4. Need to work with County if possible
5. Information needed from County about piggyback with County
6. Lock in present pricing, price will only be higher later years
7. More efficient for Town and residents.
8. More immediate information and notices.

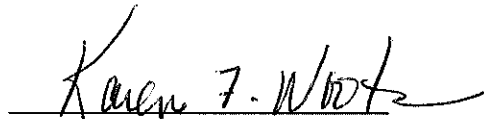
Board directed Town Manager Nick Holcomb to contact HRW and the possibility to work with them to update Town customers.

**VI. ADJOURN:**

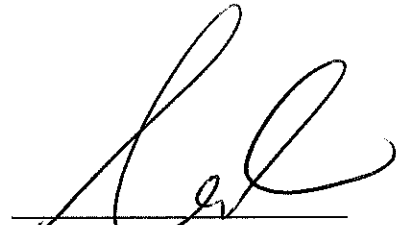
**RESOLVED**, to adjourn meeting.

**MOTION BY: COMMISSIONER JOHN RAYNOR: SECOND BY: COMMISSIONER MARC POWELL  
APPROVED, AYES (5), MAYOR PRO-TEM JERRY BEASLEY, COMMISSIONERS POWELL, MOSBY, RAYNOR  
AND GILBERT  
NOES (0)**

Meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m.



Karen F. Wooten, Town Clerk



Chris Coats, Mayor