

June 3rd, 2015

The Town of Warsaw Board of Commissioners held a budget workshop on June 3rd, 2015 at 6:30pm in the conference room of the Town Hall.

Present:

Mayor Russell Eason
Commissioner Tommy Jones
Commissioner Dr. Owen Martin
Commissioner Al Searles
Commissioner Scotty Smith
Commissioner Joal Smith

Also Present:

Town Manager, Shawn Condon
Town Clerk, Lea Futrell
Public Works Director, Ivey Knowles
Wellness & Recreation Director, Josh Crowell
Police Chief, Eric Southerland
Captain, Patrick Giddeons

Mayor Russell Eason opened the meeting.

The Town Manager presented a draft proposed budget for FY 2015-2016. The Manager stated that his overall goal was to reverse the trend of depleting the Town's fund balance and to eliminate the recurring deficit that had been occurring over the past five years. The Manager stated that while progress had been made in reducing the Town's reliance on fund balance in the past budget, that the Town was still relying on fund balance to a high degree in order to fund annual operating costs. The Manager stated that this initial draft of the budget would not use any fund balance to balance the budget, and would not include an increase in ad valorem taxes or increase in water/sewer rates.

The Manager reviewed the following key points of the initial draft budget: No tax increase proposed. No proposed increase in water, sewer, stormwater, or solid waste fees. Reduction in force of 7 FTE positions to reduce costs in the General Fund. Departments affected would include the Town Hall, Police Department, and the Recreation Department. The recommended budget includes a two month severance for all staff that are subject to the RIF. Transfer from Water/Sewer Fund in the amount of \$135,560 to cover half of General Fund costs related to Water/Sewer. No appropriation of any fund balance to balance the budget. Overall 3% increase in pay for Town employees. Reduction of over \$40,000 in the Town's annual contract with Waste Industries. Health Insurance Increase of roughly 6.7% to maintain current level of coverage.

The Manager stated that this proposed draft of the budget was very difficult and required many difficult but necessary decisions to strengthen the Town's financial

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position. The Manager stated the most difficult part was the consideration of the elimination of current positions. The Manager stated that since the proposed budget included the elimination of individual positions and did not affect all personnel within the Town, that specific discussion regarding the positions take place in closed session.

Commissioner Joal Smith made a motion to go into closed session to discuss personnel. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tommy Jones. Motion passed to go into closed session.

Commissioner Scotty Smith made a motion to return to open session. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tommy Jones. Motion passed to enter into open session.

Commissioner Tommy Jones made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Joal Smith. Motion passed to adjourn.

Mayor

Attest

Town Clerk