

The Town of Warsaw Board of Commissioners held a fourth budget workshop on Tuesday, June 7, 2022 at 6:00pm at the Warsaw Town Hall.

Present:

Mayor A.J. Connors  
Commissioner Scotty Smith  
Commissioner Jack Hawes  
Commissioner Ebony Wills-Wells

Also Present:

Town Manager, Scotty Summerlin  
Town Clerk, Lea Turner  
Police Chief, Patrick Giddeons

Mayor Connors opened the meeting and turned it over to Manager Scotty Summerlin. Summerlin briefly reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

Manager Summerlin asked if there were any reactions from the comments presented heard at the Public Hearing. There were no Commissioner comments. Manager Summerlin advised that the main points he recalled were questions about ARPA funds, concerns about drainage/stormwater and suggestions on how to better communicate with the public and other neighboring agencies such as the County.

Manager Summerlin advised that information had come from the insurance company that post-65 retirees are put on a supplement plan in which the monthly premium drops significantly. With this information he offered two (2) suggestions for retiree insurance. Recommendation 1: Upon 25 years of continuous service and reaching the age of 65, receive a benefit of supplemental medical insurance coverage and premiums paid by the Town of Warsaw for life. Recommendation 2: Upon 25 years of continuous service and reaching the age of 62, receive a benefit of \$400.00 per month for life. Manager Summerlin asked the Board to think about these options and it would be added to the July meeting for review. In both cases, manager recommends a "not to exceed" clause be included.

Manager Summerlin asked about the proposed \$0.02 tax rate increase. All commissioners present seemed to be on board with the two-cent increase.

Manager Summerlin reviewed the fee schedule which includes a 3% increase in water and sewer user fees. Manager Summerlin also advised that Betty Smith, Recreation Director, also recommended changes to the Recreation Rental Fees schedule. The commissioners were in favor of a fee schedule change to increase fees. Some suggested that the fees for building rental were still a little low.

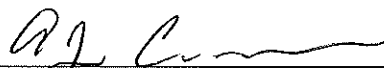
Tons of Trash contract was also discussed as this is the third year of the contract and the company is requesting a cost of living (CPI) increase. Fuel prices are rising and tipping fees at the land field are increasing. Manager Summerlin is recommending a 5% increase in this contract. The cost of cardboard dumpsters was also mentioned. Manager Summerlin stated

that the Town had been supplementing this cost and he was not sure why. However, he is recommending passing this cost back to the businesses.


Manager Summerlin brought up the American Rescue Plan Act monies totaling approximately \$984,000. Manager Summerlin stated that a request for proposals (RFP) was in the works for a \$300,000 pavement repair and resurfacing project. This equates to a single project that is about as large as six annual paving projects combined. Manager Summerlin stated there was also an allotment for \$300,000 for drainage/stormwater improvements. Additional funds would go to the Memorial Park expansion to complete the phased project that had stalled since Phase I was completed. Any remaining funds could be dispersed at the recommendations of the Board of Commissioners.

Mayor Connors asked that the Board consider using some of the funds that were to go to Memorial Park Project be moved to provide a bonus to the employees. He stated that they are considered our most valuable assets so we need to show we appreciate them. He noted that when other places closed, Warsaw remained open. There was not a consensus among the Board. Manager Summerlin advised that since he had been manager the employees had been given significant raises and he was more in favor of using this money for infrastructure improvements. He stated that use better fit the purpose of the program, in his opinion. He noted that the rescue funds should be used for projects that the Town's people will remember for years to come.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

  
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Mayor

Attest:

  
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Town Clerk