

**BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 4, 2010 - 6:00 P.M.**

A budget workshop was held on March 4, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Village Hall. Present at the meeting were Mayor Keith Snow, Mayor Pro Tem Myron Marion, Councilor Mark Baker, Councilor Robin Beck, Councilor Lori Shore-Smith, Administrator Dan Corder, and Attorney Amy Lanning. Total attendance was 7.

Mayor Snow called the meeting to order and asked Administrator Corder for the current year budget update.

Administrator Corder updated the Council by delivering spreadsheets showing the actual costs and revenues for a three year period and projections on how the Village would finish the current fiscal year. The Village has controlled expenditures very well and all line items are performing better than expectations. Revenues will be greater than expenditures by the end of June and the general fund balance and overall total fund balance will increase by approximately \$30,063. At the next budget workshop, a suggested budget will be formulated for the next fiscal year. We should have about the same amount of money to run next year as we had this year. There may be some new items that will have to be incorporated and paid for with this year's savings in next year's budget.

The discussion then moved to agenda items as follows:

1. **Community service award** – There has been interest in establishing a monetary service award for someone in the community. Attorney Amy Lanning was asked to comment. Attorney Lanning explained that the Village must have constitutional and statutory authority to do this. There is some authority which would allow the Village to do this award, but it must be limited in nature. There are statutes that would allow an award for service performed for low income people in the community or for senior citizens. Otherwise awards must be limited to some form of recognition as yet to be determined.
2. **Technology grant for Old Richmond School** – Attorney Lanning explained that there was no statutory authority for the Village to contribute money to a school. NCGS160A-20.1 allows municipalities to appropriate money to any person, corporation, association etc. but only to carry out a public purpose that the municipality is authorized to carry out itself. Because there is no statutory authority allowing towns to appropriate money to schools, it should not be done.
3. **Disposition/sale/use of old Village Hall property** – The Council discussed this property at length. All were in agreement that it would cost much more money to renovate it than to determine what it would cost to demolish or sell the building itself for removal. Attorney Lanning advised the Council that her experience with moving old houses had not been good and created many more problems than it actually solved. The house is currently in poor condition and would probably fall apart on a move anyway. A demolition contractor has been consulted and it would cost approximately \$1200 to fill the well in with cement and cap it, and

about another \$1,000 to pump the septic tank, cave in it and fill it up. The house itself has asbestos siding and some flooring which would require removal prior to any demolition. The contractor could remove it and demolish the house and fill back and level with dirt for about \$5,000. The town could save about \$2,500 or so off the total cost by burning the structure once the asbestos had been removed. The house and its contents could be declared surplus and some of the materials sold prior to any demolition to defray some of the cost. The Council was in consensus that the best thing to do with the property was not to attempt any sale, but to proceed with the investigation on demolishing the house and expanding the park or the parking area as a future use. The Village will save on insurance, maintenance and liability costs. Any demolition would have to be done in a winter timeframe as park usage is too high during the warmer months. Administrator Corder will get an official quote from the contractor and also some cost to put gravel in the resulting space and possibly add or move existing fencing. Mayor Snow and other Council members will touch base with interested parties prior to any declaration of surplus or actual acceptance of a contract for demolition. This would have to take place in regularly scheduled meetings. However, the budget may incorporate the amount of money necessary for the work.

4. **Disposition/sale/use of property at 4140 Tobaccoville Road** – Councilor Beck was in favor of proceeding with a plan to sell the property and invest any money in an account to pay for maintenance of the Community Center. The Village will save maintenance and mowing costs on this property. Councilor Beck and Administrator Corder will meet with a realtor to determine a realistic cost for a potential sale and report back at the next meeting. Administrator Corder advised the Council that the house itself needed some work on the outside if we continue to keep it. It needs painting and the porch flooring is in really bad shape. The water to the house has been disconnected, but the power is still on at this time.
5. **Addition of welcome sign at Doral Drive at King/Tobaccoville limits** – The Council discussed adding a sign here, but it was felt that the construction that was taking place in this area would need to be completed prior to any permanent placement. There was some interest in adding a metal sign or redwood sign on two posts until a permanent placement could be done. Administrator Corder informed the Council that the sign at Reynolda was starting to deteriorate and would need to be repainted this year. The removal, re-conditioning and remounting would take about \$1,200. In order to keep the redwood sign in good condition, it must be repainted every so often.
6. **Purchase of replacement truck** – The Council felt that it was time to go ahead and replace the old town truck. Investigation to determine cost and bring back a recommendation to Council concerning budget cost to do so will need to be done before budget adoption.
7. **Assistance to FCSO for hiring of deputy** – The Village Council has reviewed the Sheriff's proposal to buy equipment and cars for deputies if the towns would participate by footing the salary and administrative costs. The proposal calls for salary to be less for about three years until equipment has to be replaced at which the towns would then be responsible for costs in the range of about \$95,000 per deputy or more. The Council was in agreement that the Village probably does not need to make this investment now, but needs to continue to talk with FCSO about staffing needs in Tobaccoville. Tobaccoville citizens

already pay county taxes for law enforcement and crime is actually decreasing according to a 5 year trend report. Any actual hiring of a deputy assigned to patrol the village would mean a tax increase for Village residents. No dollars were assigned to the budget for this purpose. The Village is currently providing an office, communication, and substation free of charge for the FCSO at the new Village Hall location.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Beck and seconded by Councilor Shore-Smith. All were in favor of adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Minutes Prepared By:

Dan Corder, Administrator