

TOWN OF WEBSTER
March 24, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes



The Webster Board of Commissioners met at the Webster Town Hall, located at 1411 Webster Rd., Webster, on Wednesday, March 24, 2023, 9:30 a.m. for the Annual Planning Work Session Meeting to review and discuss the proposed budget for fiscal year 2023-2024.

Members/Staff Present: Mayor Tracy Rodes; Vice Mayor Leigh Anne Young; Commissioners Dale Collins, Brandon Core; and Danell Moses

Members Absent: Commissioner Alan Davis

Others Present: None

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PLANNING MEETING

Call to Order/Ethics Statement: Mayor Tracy Rodes called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and read the Ethics Statement. No board member expressed any conflict of interest.

FORMULATION OF 2023-2024 PROPOSED BUDGET

- 1. Budget items for review**
 - Tax Rate .15/\$100 property valuation
 - Landscaping: Litter Pick up & Veterans' Garden mulch
 - Town Hall Apartment: Rent, Utilities, Maintenance, Kitchen Floor, W&D
 - Office Needs: Laptop, Chair, Monitor Filing
 - Residential Services: Expansion Joint Sidewalk Maintenance, Traffic Patrols
 - Town Hall Maintenance: Property Management, Electrical Upgrade, Window Replacement, Basement, Pressure Washing
 - Capital Improvements: TWSA Expansion
 - Community Dinner/Party: Duke Grant \$500
 - Pavilion: \$13,000 plus any upgrades
 - Miscellaneous Donations and Memberships: Webster Memorial Cemetery, Chamber of Commerce, Circles of Hope, Rescue Squad
 - Board Stipends
 - Clerk Wages
- 2. Investments:** Consider moving additional money from checking to the Money Market account.
- 3. Fee Schedule FY '23-'24:** Adopt with Budget
- 4. Opportunities for Community Service:** Flag Duty, Litter Pickup, Community Table

The Town Board discussed the budget items up for consideration and those that are ongoing. Commissioner Collins mentioned getting another speed trailer to address concerns for North and South River Roads, Buchanan Loop and Webster and noted that they are not allowed on state roads. The board recommended allowing a new item under residential services for \$10,000 for Traffic Enforcement. Mayor Rodes mentioned that Webster needs to have a contract with the Sheriff's office for officers patrolling Webster on their own time. The board suggested having the attorney create and/or review the contract.

Commissioner Moses discussed the former idea of digitizing files and a potential business that could do that in Asheville, she will follow-up.

Mayor Rodes mentioned she had spoken with Blue Ridge Premier about potential property management and that they charge \$500 each time a new tenant moves in and they get 12% of any work done on the property.

Board members discussed Franchise and Utility Taxes were much less and noted that they should reduce that line item approximately \$8,000. Also noted was that Sales & Use Tax had increased and added approximately \$10,000 to that line item.

Expected increases are for Ads and Legals in the amount of \$300, Audit and Accounting in the amount of \$500 and Liability Insurance in the amount of \$625.

Council stipends, Attorney Fees, Election Expenses, Payroll Expenses and Obligations, and Professional Fees and Services remain unchanged from last year's estimates.

Residential services were projected to increase by \$18,300 due to two new line items for Traffic Safety budgeted at \$10,000 and Community Events with a budget of \$2500. Expenses for Fire, Law Enforcement, Rescue, Street Lights, and Sidewalks are expected to remain close to last year's budgeted amounts. An increase was noted for landscaping due to the rising cost of labor and materials.

Town Hall expenses are expected to increase by \$4,450 from last year's budget. The additional line item of Property Management to address repairs and maintenance of the rental property accounts for this increase.

ADJOURNMENT

It was the consensus of the board to adjourn the meeting at 12:15p.m.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, April 5, 2023 at 5:30pm

Tracy Rodes, Mayor

Stephanie Gibson, Town Clerk