

TOWN OF WEBSTER
March 22, 2024
Budget Planning Session Minutes



The Webster Board of Commissioners met at Webster Town Hall, located at 1411 Webster Rd., on Friday, March 22, 2024, 11:00 a.m. for the specially called Budget Planning Session.

Members/Staff Present: Mayor Tracy Rodes, Commissioners Leigh Anne Young, Danell Moses, Dale Collins, and Allen Davis.

Members/Staff Absent: Commissioner Brandon Core, and Town Clerk Stephanie Gibson

Call to Order/Ethics Statement: Mayor Tracy Rodes called the Work Session to order at 11:00 a.m. and referred members to review the ethics statement. No conflicts were expressed.

Public Present: None

PLANNING PRIORITIES

1. Budget Planning for Fiscal Yr. 2024-2025:

Board discussion was centered on financial allocations to be made for the upcoming fiscal budget year. Consensus was to keep the tax rate, board stipends, monthly apartment rent, staff wages, and the Fee Schedule the same as the current year, while allowing more funding for traffic patrols as recommended by the traffic committee. The Planning Board reported that they have reviewed the Land Use Plan, and made a recommendation to continue prioritizing safer roadways by citizen education, and to study available traffic data.

Legal services were also discussed and that line item projection was increased by triple the current year's amount. Duke Energy's planned rate increases (23.8% for 2024, and an additional increase of 5.3% for 2025) were noted by Mayor Rodes. It was agreed to simplify snacks for board meetings to cheese, crackers, and candy, and to continue to provide snacks for traffic patrol officers. Housekeeping services, a new laptop, and a PA system were identified as upcoming expenses. No large capital improvement projects such as TWSA service expansions or sidewalk repairs were identified.

The proposed FY '24-'25 Draft Budget total is \$143,700. The date set for the budget public hearing is May 1, 2024, with advertising to be placed in The Sylva Herald by April 15, and the Budget letter to be posted on the town website, and bulletin board by April 18.

Commissioner Danell Moses offered to review the Chart of Accounts to help clarify which expenditures should be assigned to which line items to help with financial accounting preparation for the annual audit. It was determined that a budget amendment for the current fiscal year will need to be approved on or before June 5th. Lunch from Haywood Smokehouse was provided.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Commissioner Collins moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday April 3, 2024, at 5:30 pm, Webster Town Hall, 1411 Webster Rd.

Tracy Rodes, Mayor

Stephanie Gibson, Town Clerk