

## MINUTES

TOWN OF WEAVERVILLE  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP  
TUESDAY, April 11, 2017

The Town Council for the Town of Weaverville met on Tuesday, April 11, 2017, at 5:30 p.m. in the Training Room within Weaverville Fire Department at 3 Monticello Road, Weaverville, North Carolina.

Council members present were: Mayor Dottie Sherrill, Vice Mayor/Councilman John Penley, Councilman Doug Jackson, Councilman Doug Dearth, and Councilman Andrew Nagle. Councilman Patrick Fitzsimmons was absent.

Staff present were: Town Attorney Jennifer Jackson, Town Manager Selena Coffey, Town Clerk Derek Huninghake, Police Chief Greg Stephens, Fire Chief Ted Williams, Finance Officer Tonya Dozier and Public Works Director Tony Laughter.

### 1. Call to Order

*Mayor Sherrill called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.*

### 2. Tax Revaluation and Revenue Neutral Rate

Town Manager Selena Coffey opened the workshop discussing the tax revaluation based on Buncombe County figures. The tax revalue is anticipated to come in at about a 22% increase as opposed to 32% originally reported. Total revalue is estimated to be around \$824.5 million so a penny of the tax rate, based on 99% collection rate, should bring in about \$81,000. Out of all the property owners, the Town of Weaverville only has 163 appeals so far. By state statute when the county has a revaluation year, the Town Manager is required by law to give the revenue neutral tax rate. The Revenue Neutral Tax Rate, based on the statutory formula, for this revaluation year is 0.3622 based on numbers from Buncombe County. This rate is calculated on the valuation for the years prior to the most recent revaluation and adding in a growth rate based on the value of those previous years.

An overview of each department's preliminary budget was covered showing Personnel and Operational Expenses, Capital Outlay for Town Council, Administration, Police Department, Fire Department and Public Works, and Capital Improvements. The budget also included a match of \$60,000 to Greenways and a contingency of \$25,000 for Lake Louise Community Center study and architectural plans. The Water Fund budget was also reviewed.

### 3. Capital Reserve Fund

Town Attorney Jennifer Jackson stated that last year by resolution the Town of Weaverville setup a Capital Reserve Fund. This was done in accordance with statute but only minimally funded because Council wasn't sure how much would be eligible to go into the fund. Based on the audited financials, it looks like \$2.69 million can be moved over to the Capital Reserve Fund. Any funding or adjustments concerning the Capital Reserve Fund must be done by resolution adopted by Town Council.

### 4. Domestic Partnership Health Insurance

Town Manager Selena Coffey recommends that domestic partners be recognized within our personnel policy and be eligible for health insurance in order to be consistent with a resolution that Town Council

adopted in support of inclusion and equality within our community and in further acknowledgement of the Town's equal employment opportunities.

**5. Retiree Medical Insurance**

Town Attorney Jennifer Jackson covered the Town of Weaverville's current policy on eligibility for retiree medical insurance. Town Council discussed having a workshop in the future for this and other human resource type issues.

**6. SAFER Grant for the Fire Department**

Town Manager Selena Coffey discussed the SAFER Grant which is a federal grant that will potentially bring in \$484,115 to the Weaverville Fire Department. The total 3-year grant will assist the Town of Weaverville with funding to hire six full-time firefighters. It will not cover future pay or benefit increases, but will cut back on overtime pay and help the firefighters have enough personnel on each shift. The grant will cover 75% of funding for years 1 and 2, and 35% for year 3. After the 3 year period the grant will not cover anymore funds. This grant has been applied for and will be brought back to Town Council for consideration and possible acceptance should the Town be awarded the grant.

**7. Eller Cove Watershed Easement Earnings**

Town Attorney Jennifer Jackson explained the placement of funds from the Eller Cove Watershed Easement which are expected to be between \$525,000 and \$550,000. These funds, when received, will be considered an asset of the Water Fund since a water facility was there and revenues were being produced off of it. The Water Fund is operated as a public enterprise fund and kept separate and apart from the Town's general fund; however, the funds can be withdrawn from the Water Fund and moved over to the General Fund since the Water Fund is able to cover all of its operating expenses and debt service. A transfer out of the Water Fund, however, may affect the Town's eligibility to receive grant funding within the fiscal year of the transfer. Town Council, by a majority vote, will have to take action to move the funds from the Water Fund to the General Fund.

Town Manager Selena Coffey noted that other Budget Workshops can be scheduled, but the next Budget Workshop will be held May 9 at 5:30 at Fire Department. The Public Hearing on the Budget will be May 15 at 6 pm in Council Chambers at Town Hall.

**8. Adjournment**

*Councilman Penley made the motion to adjourn; Councilman Jackson seconded and all voted to adjourn the Council's meeting at 6:55 p.m.*

  
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DEREK K. HUNINGHAKE, Town Clerk