

The Town of Warsaw Board of Commissioners held a budget workshop on March 29, 2022 at 6:00pm at the Warsaw Town Hall.

Present:

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

Also Present:

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

Mayor Connors opened the meeting and turned it over to Manager Summerlin. Summerlin briefly recapped the previous budget meeting and recognized Police Chief Patrick Giddeons for a presentation.

Chief Giddeons gave a presentation on the current state of the Police Department. He began by acknowledging his staff accomplishments. He stated that he had received grants to purchase necessary equipment each year which would continue. It was noted that these are 100% grants with no match required from the Town. Chief Giddeons continued that the Enterprise Fleet Program was working well for the department and in the next few years they should be receiving full benefit from the program. At that time, all police vehicles would be on the lease program where they would be rotating vehicles on a 5-year cycle and the gains from the sale would roll into the payment of the new vehicles. Chief Giddeons had researched the pay schedules for neighboring departments and showed where the police salaries were about to be way below those neighboring locations. He was scared the Town would become a training ground for officers in which the Town spends money on training officers for them to go to other departments for more pay. Giddeons advised that with the pay increase received last year we were able to at least reach the other departments but with the proposed raises other agencies were doing we were once again behind.

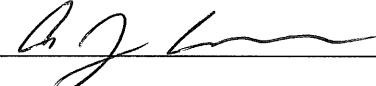
Manager Summerlin stated that we are still waiting for the projections from the League before providing firm numbers. He stated that with this budget he anticipates a 40% increase in fuel costs and a 25% increase in medical insurance. Additionally, Property/Liability premiums is expected to increase by 10%. The Fire Department has requested 2%, but he feels we should hold the line. The Chamber of Commerce has provided their budget and shows a loss but it is his recommendation to continue with the \$5,000 allocation as has been provided in the past. The Warsaw Duplin Veterans Museum has not made a formal request but has stated they would appreciate whatever the Town could provide. Manager Summerlin stated that he had budgeted the same \$5,000 for the Veterans Museum. Recreation has requested a full-time position but with low funding we are only able to accommodate an additional part-time position.

March 29, 2022

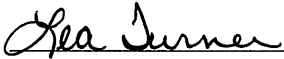
Manager Summerlin stated that he recommends a 1% cost of living raise for all employees a 2-cent tax increase, and a 3% water and sewer increase. Manager Summerlin also stated that if the Board would consider giving up their pay for a temporary period the Town could do a 2% raise for the employees. The Commissioners seemed to be in favor as long as it went to the employees however the mayor was not in favor.

Mayor Connors stated that in reviewing the graphs from the auditor's report the Police Department is at 55% of the current budget and each month there are cases left unsolved. He stated he would like to see where things are happening before adding more money to their budget. Discussion was had about the number of employees in the department. They are currently at 14 officers and 1 dispatcher. The Department has had a vacancy for several years. Citizen, Angela Mainor was given the floor for several minutes to discuss some disagreements with Giddeons' presentation. Manager Summerlin advised that Chief Giddeons has proposed a temporary freeze on hiring to fill the vacant position for next year if it will help the cause.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned. The next budget meeting will be held April 28, 2022 at 6pm.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Town Clerk