

Special Called Meeting

Town of Cooleemee

May 6, 2024 5:00PM

Minutes

Open Session

Mayor Smith opened the meeting at 5:00 PM welcoming guests in attendance.

Opening the meeting topic was the budget and the Finance Officer explaining all proposed revenues and proposed expenditures to the board line for line. The board asked that the Finance Officer up the funding in Code Enforcement, add Christmas Bonus to Administration line, and add a line to the budget that would allow the hire of an assistant of such that could come in be a face in the office during vacations, trainings, or illnesses when the Clerk/Finance Officer would not be in the office. Those adjustments will be made and re-submitted to the board the following day. Discussions arose about Powell Bill Spending and Grant Spending and should be budget for those now. The Finance Officer explained it was best to balance your budget from Revenues and Expenditures and create amendments along the way, as the State (LGC) wants your approved budget to be balanced to start your year off. Then as unknown Revenue or Expenditures come in create budget amendments to rebalance.

It was discussed as to how to address the River Park funding as the Town owns the property and it is a current line item as it shows and if the Town ever decides to move in a different direction, it could move that into a donation line. As the Town is allowed to award some funding to 501C3 non-profits such as the Fire Dept and River Park but currently the Town needs to simply decide if it desires to keep the River Park as a line or change up. The current thought was to keep a line in our budget.

More discussions on where and how to budget for Powell Bill and streets the Finance Officer again explained its best to 'budget' for what you will receive and then decide on a project and create a budget amendment for that expense once funding is required.

The Finance Officer explained the Lawn Service portion looked bloated only because they had combined Lawn Service with Leaf Service and was to begin paying those monthly verses one large payment according to the new agreement with the contracted Server.

The Finance Officer upped the training line to allow the board and himself proper training throughout their respected terms, upped the newsletter so the Town could arrange that to start back up trying to keep folks up to date on what's going on in the Town.

Motion made by Commissioner Tippet to adjourn the Budget Meeting.

Seconded by Commissioner Reavis; motion carried (4-0)

6:30PM Public Input Session

No one had signed up to speak.

The board would further discuss the Grant and Community Center attempting to ideas of what the public would like to see and where the Town needs to get started primary the location a few have been discussed including in front of Zachary House by the Tennis Courts, Perhaps relocating the Horseshoe pits and use that area, or the Pool area. Once bids come in from the potential pool demo then they can really begin to research what that area would take as possible ground build up would need to take place to make sturdy and level.

Commissioner Tippett created a slide show that shows potential possibilities for the Center including a Library, Restrooms, small Kitchen, Council Meeting room, and Town Hall. Then showed areas of potential expansion with Amphitheater, Outdoor Fitness, and a Pump Track. The slide is included in the minute packet at Town Hall.

A few questions were asked about the need to retain the Bath House if the Pool was demoed. And what if the pool could be reopened. To which the board is looking at all possibilities at this time but feel the re-birth of the pool in its current state would still need to begin with a demo and re-build, but the question remains what would that cost taxpayers? Then we must maintain that, and we currently have one employee, and they feel compared to surrounding areas the pool would not generate enough funding to hire employees or maintain itself. But again, all options are being discussed currently which is why we are now at 5 public meetings to allow the Town to communicate different aspects and avenues to explore.

Motion by Commissioner Ferrell to adjourn the Public Input session.

Seconded by Commissioner Reavis; motion carried (4-0)

Mayor, Jeff Smith

Clerk, Steven Corriher