

May 17, 2014 meeting,

The Town of Franklin Board of Aldermen had a special called meeting on Saturday, May 17, 2014 at 9:00 A.M. at the Town Hall Board Room. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposed budget for fiscal year 2014-2015. Mayor Robert S. Scott presided. Aldermen Patti Abel, Verlin Curtis, Joyce Handley, Farrell Jamison, Billy Mashburn and Barbara McRae were present.

Discussion on the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015

Summer Woodard – Interim Town Manager - The following items were briefly discussed.

Debt Service - Debt service payments are budgeted as required by law.

Personnel - There is a 1% one-time payment as a bonus. The IT Director is retiring in July. The Planner will assume some routine daily duties and contracting other more advanced network services as needed. The Main Street Program Director will retire in August. These duties will be split between a part-time Festival and Event Coordinator and contractually obligated firm or individual for the Main Street duties. One entry level staff position will be funded within the current fire department budget.

Operating Capital Outlay - The police department will be replacing one patrol vehicle. Public works will replace one ½ ton pickup.

Special Projects - Funds are budgeted for the upgrades to the gazebo, for a stream restoration project to be completed at Memorial Park and to complete a job classification and salary study of all Town employees.

Water/Sewer - Funds are budgeted for five small water and sewer replacement projects. Funds are budgeted for cleaning the drainage basin at the water plant.

Police Department – Bulletproof vests that are nearing expiration will be replaced. Funds were increased for fuel costs and increased vehicle maintenance. Funds were also allocated for a K-9 program.

Fire Department – Replacement of uniforms and protective gear per the 10 year strategic plan.

Water and Sewer Rates – The Board of Aldermen completed a two year water and sewer increase last fiscal year. Based on current estimates water and sewer revenues combined are estimated to be approximately \$300,000.00 lower this year than expected so changes have been initiated within the Water and Sewer budget to maintain fund solvency. A detailed water rate study will be completed by June 2014 and the Town should review the study with due diligence.

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Conclusion – The General Fund budget was reduced by \$242,000.00 and a modest tax increase is recommended to adjust the ad valorem tax rate to twenty-six cents per one hundred dollars of valuation.

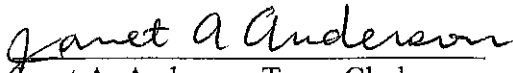
Board Changes to the Proposed Budget - (1) if a lease purchase on the police vehicles is possible, purchase two vehicles instead of one vehicle, (2) leave the K-9 program in the police department budget with the understanding that the dog selected will be a puppy, (3) add one full-time employee to the water/sewer department and take the increase in salaries and fringe benefits out of capital projects with no total increase to the water/sewer budget and (4) do a two cents tax increase in ad valorem taxes.

Information copies are attached.

Adjournment

**Motion was made by Handley, seconded by Abel to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 P.M.
Motion carried. Vote: 6 to 0.**

Robert S. Scott, Mayor


Janet A. Anderson, Town Clerk