

TOWN OF WEBSTER
February 28, 2020 Board Meeting Work Session
Minutes



The Board of Commissioners for the Town of Webster met for a work session at Town Hall, 1411 Webster Road. Mayor Tracy Rodes called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

Members/Staff Present: Mayor Tracy Rodes; Vice-Mayor Leigh Anne Young; Commissioners Allen Davis, Kelly Donaldson, Allan Grant, and Danell Moses; Town Clerk Debbie Coffey

Members Absent: None

Others Present: None

GENERAL MEETING

Ethics Statement

Mayor Rodes read the Ethics Statement. No board member expressed any conflict of interest.

1. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Commissioner Moses moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Young seconded. Motion carried.

2. Formulation of 2020-2021 Budget

Each board member was provided a worksheet for the 2020-2021 fiscal year budget. The board discussed each line-item for formulation of the budget proposal. Revenue projections for ad valorem tax are \$30,400, with a total projected revenue of \$81,550. Expenses of \$93,875 funds all current line items with \$2,100 funded for Miscellaneous Expenses. This creates a \$12,325 deficit requiring fund balance reserves to be appropriated for a balanced budget proposal. Discussion included adding a line item "GOV: Professional Fees and Services" to be used for coding payment of professional services, excluding attorney's fees. These fees are currently coded as Miscellaneous Expenses or Office Expenses, and the addition of this line item would serve to add clarification and transparency.

3. 2020-2021 Fee Schedule

A brief discussion of the fee schedule resulted in a consensus to keep the fee schedule as is.

4. Tax Rate Evaluation

The current Webster tax rate is .05 per \$100 dollars of value. This rate has not been increased in several years. Commissioner Moses noted that fire protection costs have increased over \$4,000 since 2017. Commissioner Grant stated that the cost of doing business in general has gone up significantly over the past several years, especially utilities. With expenses rising, and based on having to use fund balance reserves to balance the budget over the past several years, it was the consensus of the board to



consider a tax rate increase for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. A worksheet was provided outlining projected revenue levels based on the current Webster tax assessment of \$52,120,120. An example property valued at \$17,500 was sited, showing a current tax payment of \$8.75 per year. This example was expanded to show what a projected payment would be based on several different increased tax rates. Unfunded expenses that need to be addressed include digitizing records, purchasing heat resistant filing cabinets, and town hall maintenance such as roof replacement.

5. Opportunities for Community Service and Involvement

There are several wonderful programs within Jackson County that provide the opportunity to give back to the community including the Community Table and Meals on Wheels. One annual opportunity is the Hands On Jackson Day. This event is held in October with nonprofits and businesses forming teams to go into communities and perform services for the elderly and disabled. Hands On Jackson is spearheaded by Eddie Wells at Jackson County Council on the Aging and provides a terrific opportunity to volunteer. Commissioner Donaldson noted that the Chamber of Commerce and Rotary have provided teams in the past and it could be a good opportunity for Webster to form a team and participate.

6. Community Dinner

Mayor Rodes noted that Duke Energy provides a small \$500 grant that the town has used in the past to offset the cost of the Community Dinner. She also said it would be good to have the Board of Commissioners, Planning Board, and Board of Adjustment in attendance to encourage community engagement. Previous powerpoint presentations could be updated and this could be used as a platform to get feedback on a potential tax rate increase.

7. Additional Discussion:

Jackson County Tourism Director Nick Breedlove spoke at the Planning Board meeting on February 20. The Planning Board recommended that Mayor Rodes draft a letter asking the TDA to help fund areas of parking for visitors fishing the Tuck. Parking on the sides of North and South River compound the dangerous conditions created by narrow shoulders and speeders. Town board members agreed with the Planning Board and requested that the Mayor draft a letter to the Tourism Development Authority.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Commissioner Moses moved to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

Next Meeting

Regular Meeting: Wednesday, March 4 at 5:15 p.m.

Tracy Rodes, Mayor

Debbie Coffey, Town Clerk