

SPENCER BOARD OF ALDERMEN MEETING
MAY 22, 2012
6:30 P.M.
(RECESSED FROM MAY 15, 2012)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Jody Everhart
Mayor Pro-Tem Jim Gobbel
Aldermen: Scott Benfield
Kevin Jones
Jeff Morris
David Smith
Reid Walters

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Mayor Everhart reported that Aldermen had received an email from Alderman Morris concerning Basic Policy Decisions and Outsourcing of Land Management Services. Gobbel questioned what problems are perceived with the current Land Management services. Morris replied that he has heard that the needs are business-friendly permitting and adequate code enforcement. Morris feels there is no need to attend various meetings as is currently being done and privatization would improve services. Gobbel feels that the problem with the code enforcement is that one man is trying to do two jobs.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN MORRIS TO ADOPT THE PROPOSALS HE SUBMITTED AND SEND OUT FOR RE-BID. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF A SECOND.

Walters feels that the demand for land management services is down, and perhaps two part time positions should be created, one for administrative duties, and one for code enforcement. He thinks-in house land management services would be better than outsourcing. Gobbel and Everhart agreed that in-house services are better. Everhart thinks attending meetings is important. Town Manager Smith agreed that attending meetings can be beneficial, and pointed out that it would be hard to get a planning professional to serve in a part-time capacity. Walters suggested that the fire department could handle code enforcement duties, as is done in Landis. Gobbel feels that complaint driven code enforcement is not working well. Walters pointed out that repeat offenders are causing a lot of the code enforcement problems. Town Manager Smith reported that Rowan County's response was that they do not think they can provide what Spencer wants and needs. Rowan County would not do proactive code enforcement.

Board members reviewed the budget by line item and asked various questions. Capital expenditures include one patrol car, and a replacement for the fire department brush truck.

Following discussion of postage costs, **MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN MORRIS TO ASK THE PLANNING BOARD TO CONSIDER CHANGING THE**

NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR HPC BACK TO 100 FEET, AS REQUIRED BY NCGS. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN SMITH AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN BENFIELD TO RAISE THE GRASS HEIGHT FOR CODE ENFORCEMENT FROM 8 INCHES TO 12 INCHES. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN MORRIS AND DEFEATED BY A VOTE OF FOUR:

AYES: BENFIELD, MORRIS, SMITH

NAYS: GOBBEL, JONES, WALTERS, EVERHART

Alderman discussed where to find the money to fund a part time code enforcement position. Town Manager Smith stated he felt he could tweak the budget with the help of department heads to fund that position.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN JONES TO DIRECT THE TOWN MANAGER TO WORK THE FUNDS FOR A PART TIME CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER INTO THE BUDGET. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN GOBBEL AND CARRIED BY A VOTE OF FOUR:

AYES: GOBBEL, JONES, WALTERS, EVERHART

NAYS: BENFIELD, MORRIS, SMITH

MOTION WAS MADE BY ALDERMAN BENFIELD TO PROPOSE THE TAX RATE OF .628 PER 100. MOTION SECONDED BY ALDERMAN SMITH. Following discussion, MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

With no further business, Mayor Everhart adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa B. Perdue, CMC
Clerk to the Board