

SPENCER BOARD OF ALDERMEN
CALLED MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2011
8:25 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Jody Everhart
Aldermen: Tracy Aitken
Delaine Fowler
Jeff Morris
David Smith
Reid Walters

MEMBERS ABSENT: Alderman: Scott Benfield

Also present were Town Manager Larry Smith, Town Clerk Lisa Perdue, Public Works Director Jeff Bumgarner, and Land Management Director Dustin Wilson.

Alderman Walters explained that he called the meeting for a preliminary budget discussion and to explore any projected shortfall. Town Manager Smith explained that he had not received the projected revenue figures from the State, but they should be received soon.

Alderman Morris suggests that maintaining the current tax rate of 60 cents per \$100 be a goal in the preparation of the budget, and is seeking consensus from the Board on that suggestion. His recommendation would be to make public safety a priority with no cuts to the fire or police departments.

Alderman Fowler stated she wants to keep taxes as low as possible but wants to see concrete figures first before making any commitment. Alderman Aitken agreed.

Alderman Morris stated he realizes the tax rate can't be set now, but just wanted to set it as a goal for the Town Manager. He feels the reduction in net wealth should result in a reduction in the total tax bill, rather than trying to come up to revenue neutral.

Mayor Everhart would rather wait until the budget is presented and look at the needs of all departments before making any decisions.

Mayor Everhart advised the Board that East Spencer's Board retreat will be Monday, March 28 at 3:00 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce building. Spencer Board members are invited to attend. East Spencer's planning session will be April 19 at 6:30 pm at East Spencer Town Hall. Spencer Board of Aldermen may be on that agenda.

With no further business, Mayor Everhart adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa B. Perdue, Clerk to the Board