

Minutes
Budget Work Session
Aberdeen Board of Commissioners

March 17, 2009
Tuesday, 5:30 p.m.

Aberdeen Town Hall
Aberdeen, North Carolina

The Aberdeen Town Board met on Tuesday, March 17, 2009 to discuss the budget plans for the Public Works Department. Board members present were Mayor Betsy Mofield and Commissioners Walter Wright, Jim Thomas, Pat Ann McMurray, Donna Shannon and Robbie Farrell. Mayor Mofield called the Budget Work Session to order. Town Manager Bill Zell, Public Works Director Rickie Monroe and Town Clerk Regina Rosy were also in attendance. Dave Hohn & Richard Self from Johnson Controls were in attendance to make a presentation for Johnson Controls.

Dave Hohn stated Johnson Controls was hired to find ways to save the Town money. He went through a timeline of how we have arrived where we are now, program goals (install MasterMeter 3G 'drive-by' Automated Meter Reading system, decrease water meter errors, reduce energy and operating costs, better control of HVAC systems in buildings, replace old and inefficient equipment, and reduce noise level of HVAC system in Town Hall Board Room), scope of work, utility system analysis, financial analysis, and conclusions. He stated the Town's water and sewer rates are too low. He stated 90% of the State's water utilities charge more, and the Town can't keep up with wastewater treatment costs from the County. He stated the impact on the Town is the water system operating ratio is dangerously close to causing financial loss in the water system. Also, there is an inability to save for future capital investments for the water system. He stated this issue also causes the Town to be ineligible for grant funding opportunities due to a conservation water rate structure not being in place.

Mayor Mofield was very concerned about increasing the water base rate and the sewer base rate by \$3.00 each. She felt that was a huge increase for one year, and she felt like the Town would be using a huge amount of the extra revenue to pay Johnson Controls. Commissioner Wright stated the Board should hold a work session on just the water and sewer rate structure. The Board agreed a separate meeting needed to be held.

Commissioner Shannon left at 6:22 p.m. due to a prior commitment.

Public Works Director Rickie Monroe informed the Board of some different options regarding trash pickup. He gave the Board some figures as to how much it would cost to contract out the trash pickup. Rickie explained that it would cost the Town money to contract out the garbage. Rickie explained another option would be to go to one day per week curbside trash pickup, which would save the Town \$128,800 per year by eliminating three staff members, less fuel, and other minor cost savings. Mayor Mofield stated she hated to see Rickie lose three of his employees when there is so much extra work to be done within the Town. The Board held a long discussion about the possibility of going to one day per week trash pickup. The Board agreed that curbside pickup is not the problem, but going to one day per week pickup will be the issue with the citizens. The Board decided to put this item on the Work

Session Agenda for April 2, 2009 and then present it to the public on April 13, 2009 at the Regular Board Meeting.

Manager Zell explained Planning Director Liles needs a resolution signed tonight for the annexation process. A motion was made by Commissioner Farrell, seconded by Commissioner Thomas, to approve a resolution authorizing the use of the alternative method of notification for notice of an annexation public informational meeting and public hearing. Motion unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wright, seconded by Commissioner Thomas, to adjourn the budget work session. Motion unanimously carried.

Regina M. Rosy, Town Clerk

Minutes were completed in
Draft form on March 18, 2009

Walter H. Wright, Presiding Commissioner

Minutes were approved
on April 13, 2009