

**ABERDEEN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
ADOPTION OF FY2008-2009 OPERATING BUDGET
JUNE 16, 2008 @ 5:00 P.M.**

The Aberdeen Board of Commissioners met Monday, June 16, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. for consideration of adopting the FY2008-2009 Operating Budget for the Town of Aberdeen. Members present were Mayor Elizabeth B. Mofield and Commissioners Pat Ann McMurray, Robbie Farrell, Jim Thomas and Walter Wright. Commissioner Donna Shannon was not in attendance. Others in attendance were Town Manager Bill Zell, Town Clerk Nancy Matthews, Planning Director Kathy Liles, Police Chief Mike Connor, Fire Chief Phillip Richardson, Public Works Director Rickie Monroe, Finance Officer Beth Wentland, Purchasing Agent Sharon Simpson and Leigh Baggs, Parks & Recreation Director.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Mofield called the meeting to order. She welcomed all the department heads for being in attendance for this special meeting.

2. Consideration of adoption of FY2008-2009 Operating Budget Ordinance for the Town of Aberdeen.

Manager Zell briefly reviewed with the Board the proposed Town's FY2008-2009 Operating Budget Ordinance. He stated the total operating budget came in at \$8,021,842.00. He then did a brief review with the Board of each section of the proposed budget. He also stated the tax rate should reflect \$.43 instead of \$.45 per \$100 property valuation. He stated he would correct this error. He also informed the Board that there was no increase in the water and sewer utility rates for this fiscal year. He stated overall and with the financial situation of the nation, Aberdeen is still in good financial standing.

With no comments or discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Wright, seconded by Commissioner Farrell, to adopt the FY2008-2009 Operating Budget Ordinance for the Town of Aberdeen as amended (correction of tax rate to \$.43). Motion unanimously carried.

3. Consideration to approve year-end budget amendments.

Finance Officer Beth Wentland reviewed with the Board the various budget amendments for consideration giving general description and budgeted amounts. Those amendments as follows:

- a) BA#08-09 To adjust appropriations for various expenditures and revenues at yearend.
- b) BA#08-10 To cover expenses for converting 107 N. Poplar into the Town's Finance Building.
- c) BA#08-11 To amend the budget to include a contribution from NCDOT for sidewalk installation costs.
- d) BA#08-12 To appropriate in the budget for the cost of tree-house-themed playground equipment for Colonial Heights Park.
- e) BA#08-13 To adjust appropriations for various expenditures and revenues at yearend.
- f) BA#08-14 To appropriate in the budget to cover the Town's commitment amount to the CDBG: Midway.
- g) BA#08-15 To appropriate in the budget to cover expenses for the sewer project on Magnolia Road.
- h) BA#08-16 To appropriate in the budget to cover expenses for the sewer line replacement on Summit Street.

After review and discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Wright, seconded by Commissioner Thomas, to approve the FY2007-2008 budget amendments as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

4. Board discussion on "Things of Interest."

The Board had "Things of Interest" items to discuss with the department heads. The following were discussed:

- a) Mayor Mofield asked about the dedication of Berkley Park. Parks & Recreation Director Baggs stated the dedication was scheduled but had to cancel due to extremely hot weather and the park not completely finished. She stated she is looking at another date for the dedication. She also stated her department is maintaining and keeping the park clean. She stated the Berkley Community is working on upgrading the

Community Center. She informed the Board that funds for the playground equipment at the Berkley Park had to be cut from the budget. She also informed the Board that she had received two quotes on fencing for the Berkley Park.

There were some questions as to the fencing; P & R Director Baggs understood fencing would only be on two sides – The Board had requested fencing on three sides.

After a consensus of the Board, Director Baggs was instructed to get another quote to have fencing placed on three sides of the park.

- b) Commissioner McMurray asked about Sharp Park. She stated she had requested several times for Exchange Street to be extended, not as a thru-way but to extend the street about 200 ft. in order for extra parking. She also requested to have an aerial light installed.
- c) Colonial Heights Park – P & R Director Baggs stated she received a call informing her that there will be a social worker who is to meet with her who will be doing some activities at the park.
- d) Commissioner McMurray asked about the Firemen's Shelter – Director Baggs informed her and the Board that the Firemen's Shed is almost completed.
- e) Commissioner McMurray asked about signage on walking trails around Aberdeen Lake Park. She suggested the signs be mounted or placed on concrete pillar poles so that vandals could not destroy.

Commissioner McMurray asked about the potential of a minor-league ballpark. Manager Zell stated the property behind the lake is just not feasible due to acquiring extra property and the land not being flat. He stated the group interested in this project is looking more towards an in-town area or even at or near the community college.

Commissioner McMurray asked about obtaining the deed and property to the Malcolm Blue Farm. She stated the farm has tremendous historical history and value, and it needs to be maintained. She suggested if property can be obtained, to put this under the Parks & Recreation Department. She stated the Town could seek grants to help in the upkeep of the farm. She asked the Board to direct Manager Zell and Mayor Mofield to look into this issue. She also suggested meeting with the MBF Board of Directors and expressing to them the Town's concern.

Mayor Mofield suggested that the Town Board schedule a meeting with the Board of Directors of the MBF to see if they would be interested in pursuing this issue.

- f) Commissioner Wright stated deterioration could also happen to the Postmaster's House and the Town needs to make sure this does not happen.
- g) Commissioner McMurray stated on Hwy. 211 by the old brewery building, the weed growth needs to be trimmed back around the fire hydrants and the Town sign. Rickie Monroe informed the Board that he would get this issue taken care of.
- h) Commissioner McMurray stated, on Ft. Bragg Rd at the corner of Ft. Bragg and Bethesda Avenue, if some type of concrete teardrop could be installed. She stated when you are coming from Bethesda Avenue and make a left onto Ft. Bragg Road, if you are not careful, you can cut a tire or scrap your vehicle fender. She also asked that Bill or Rickie look into something being done at Saunders Blvd. when you make a left on to Ft. Bragg Road. She stated people are passing you on the right. She asked if DOT could install a right turning lane.
- i) Commissioner McMurray also had concerns with the parking at Keys Appliance. Rickie stated this parking belongs to the railroad and he has looked into this issue before.
- j) Commissioner McMurray asked about seeking land for the construction of a new and bigger post office. She asked that Manager Zell talk with Allen Moon to see if property between

Sycamore and Tarbell could be purchased in order to build a new post office. She would like to see the Town move forward with this issue. Manager Zell was directed to write a letter to Allen Moon to see if it would be possible to acquire this property.

Mayor Mofield stated the current post office is in bad condition and needs upgrading. She stated she will write the owner of the building to see if something can be done to do some badly needed repairs and make some improvements to this building.

- k) Commissioner McMurray asked that both sides of the copying paper be used for copies of minutes, monthly reports, etc. She stated this would help reduce the amount of paper that is being used by the Town.
- l) Commissioner Wright asked that the Board and Manager to continue to stress to DOT on the need for turn signals at Hwy. #1 at Magnolia Street and Hwy. 15-501 and Johnson Street.
- m) Commissioner Wright stated the Beautification Committee's most over looked area in Aberdeen is the Hwy. #1 corridor where more people see the Town than any other entrance way. He stated the grass in the gutters is an unsightly appearance and the Town should be pressuring DOT to get this area and other areas of the Town cleaned up. He also stated the west side of Hwy. #1 should be considered for sidewalks in the near future.
- n) Commissioner Wright stated the Manager and staff need to aggressively be looking for property for both a fire and police substation.
- o) Commissioner Wright stated the Board should make garbage pick-up once a week policy with curb pick-up only except for the elderly and disabled. He stated 500 new garbage cans were put in the budget but from what he can see, they are not being used as intended. He stated the truck does not pick

them up. Instead garbage personnel take the trash out of the can piece-by-piece and places contents in a barrel they roll along the street and finally dump its contents. He wants to see this changed.

p) Commissioner Wright stated there should be a reasonable time schedule for yard debris and other yard waste pick-up. He stated it has been noted sometimes that the trucks pick up one, two or more times a week and at other times, as few as every second or third week.

q) Commissioner Wright stated the Town trucks travel the streets practically on a daily basis for one reason or the other. He stated when street problems are noted on the streets, such as pot holes, these problems should be reported and corrective action taken immediately, if possible.

r) Commissioner Wright suggested when Exchange Street is extended to Sharp Park, it would seem to be a good idea to turn the street at the park and connect it to Pine Street, thereby making the park more accessible. He stated he would not give up on this street being opened.

Manager Zell stated by opening the street to Pine Street would cause safety problems for the park.

s) Commissioner Wright requested that all rooms in the new Park and Recreation building have wainscoting installed to prevent the walls from being damaged. He stated this will also make an attractive and impressive appearance to the building.

t) Commissioner Wright stated there continues to be rumors that a Hwy. #211 bypass from the west would come out about the Wal-mart area. He stated if this is true, the Town should be sure every step possible is being taken to see that this does not happen. He stated there is already too much traffic on Hwy. # 15-501 and #1 in Aberdeen. He stated the Town should be looking for a Hwy. #1 bypass to the east of the Town.

- u) Commissioner Wright also agreed there is a need for better security around the Lake Park Trail. He stated vandals continue to destroy or damage property on the trail and their presence can even be a danger to people using the trail. He suggested that cameras be installed at the main entrance and at or near the dam to help deter vandalism.

A motion was then made by Commissioner Wright, seconded by Commissioner McMurray, to go into Closed Session to discuss personnel. Motion unanimously carried.

5. Adjournment

The Board returned from Closed Session to Regular Session. With no action taken or further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Wright, seconded by Commissioner Farrell, to adjourn the meeting. Motion unanimously carried.

Nancy M. Matthews, Town Clerk

Robert A. Farrell, Mayor Pro-tem

Minutes were completed in
draft form on July 2, 2008

Minutes were adopted
August 11, 2008