

TOWN OF BURNSVILLE
Special Meeting
June 13, 2017

On June 13, 2017, the Town Council, with members Mayor Theresa Coletta, Ruth Banks, Judy Buchanan, Shannon Peterson and Ron Powell present, held a special meeting at the Burnsville Town Center. Also in attendance were staff members Brian Buchanan, Leslie Crowder, Niles Howell, Jeanne Martin and Ronnie Tipton. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a work session and possibly take action on the following:

1. FY 2017 – 2018 Budget; and
2. Economic Development

FY 2017 – 2018 Budget:

- Sidewalks on East Main Street – Ronnie Tipton gave an update on the sidewalk project being considered on East Main Street, mentioning that the grant application must be submitted by July 1st, and we have two years to produce the matching funds, some of which could come from the Powell Bill funding. It is now estimated that the original project would cost the town \$150,000 for its 20% match. Options to deviate from the original plan were discussed, and a three phase plan was conceptualized. Phase I would run from Longview up East Main Street to Pensacola Road up to its intersection with the bypass. Phase II would run from Pensacola Road up East Main Street to Hunter Street, and Phase III would run from the bypass south to the DSS on Pensacola Road.

Ron Powell moved to commit to Phase I of the project if the cost estimate comes back under \$250,000; and if so, authorize Ronnie Tipton to seek and obtain right-of-way and submit the grant application. Mr. Powell further moved that if the town's economic development project that is currently being pursued falls through, the town commits to all phases of the sidewalk project; if we don't know the final status of the economic development project by July 1st we move forward with Phase I. Theresa Coletta seconded the motion, which carried.

- Fire Department – Fire Chief Niles Howell explained that the 1.5 cent increase in fire tax in the district will result in an increase in revenues of approximately \$39,000. A 1.5 cent increase from the town would result in an increase in revenues of approximately \$23,974. The 1.5 cent increase on a \$150,000 property would mean a \$22.50 increase in property tax.

Theresa Coletta moved to increase town taxes by 1.5 cents, with all revenues from the increase benefiting the fire department. Judy Buchanan seconded the motion. Voting was as follows:

Ayes
Ruth Banks
Judy Buchanan
Theresa Coletta
Ron Powell

Abstaining (counted as an "aye")
Shannon Peterson

- Elevator for Town Hall – Ronnie Tipton updated Council on the status of an elevator for the Town Hall. He said that at the suggestion of Councilor Ron Powell he obtained an estimate for an exterior platform lift in a plexiglass enclosure at a cost of \$32,000 to \$34,000. Mr. Powell said he asked for the estimate so there would be a backup plan. The Mayor agreed to call about the status of the grant application for the elevator and email Council with an update.
- Economic Development – Shannon Peterson moved to enter closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4) and NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5). Judy Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried.

No action was taken as a result of the closed session.

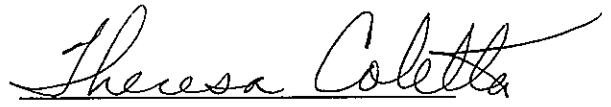
Other discussion revolved around the town's contribution to the Yancey County Economic Development Commission. It was noted that the Town contributes to economic development in many different ways, including the operation of the Town Center along with its debt service, funding five non-profits, leasing a parking lot that benefits visitors, businesses, the tag office, as well as county and town government, contributing to a public arts program, and various other expenses directly related to economic development, such as the Main Street Program which will now require a part-time individual. In addition, the town is currently undertaking a major project that will directly impact economic development, benefiting both the town and county. It was agreed that while economic development and job creation is of prime importance, the town cannot shoulder an increase in its contribution to the EDC to the extent of 40% of its operating budget in addition to these other initiatives that are meant to help improve the local economy.

Ron Powell moved to increase the town's contribution to the EDC from \$15,000 in the current fiscal year to \$20,000 for FY 2017-2018. Theresa Coletta seconded the motion, which carried.

There being no further business, Shannon Peterson moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ron Powell and carried.



Jeanne Martin, Town Clerk



Theresa Coletta, Mayor