

**MINUTES – WORKSHOP/RETREAT
BOONE TOWN COUNCIL
June 4, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

A special meeting of the Boone Town Council was called to order electronically on Friday, June 4, 2021 at 9:29 a.m. Mayor Rennie Brantz presided. Council members present included Mayor Pro-Tem Connie Ulmer, Sam Furgiuele, Dustin Hicks, Nancy LaPlaca and Virginia Roseman. Staff present included Town Manager John Ward, Town Clerk Nicole Harmon, Finance Director Amy Davis, Fire Chief Jimmy Isaacs, Human Resources Director Dale Presnell, Police Chief Andy Le Beau, Planning Director Jane Shook, Intern Adam Zebzda, Administrative Specialist and Communications Officer Laney Pilkington, and Public Works Director Rick Miller. The purpose of the meeting was to hold the annual budget retreat.

FY 2021/2022 BUDGET DISCUSSION

The Town Manager presented the FY 2021/22 proposed budget, and pointed out the following highlights:

- Increased tax rate to \$.44 cents per \$100 valuation
- Maintains current service levels
- No water and sewer rate increases
- Use of \$388,364 from Fund Balance to fund capital outlay down payment, additional fund for AppalCart and parking meter replacement
- Two new Police Officer positions and a new Long Range Planner position in Planning and Inspections
- Parking meter replacement

Mr. Ward indicated that the proposed tax increase would promote public safety, accomplish tasks that Council believed to have a huge impact on planning and development in town and would fund sustainability. Mr. Ward noted that federal funds received by the Town came with special requirements, but that staff would be able to utilize them for certain projects including certain outside agency requests, and a 10% one-time bonus for essential employees for the next two years. He noted that \$20,000 would need to be pulled from the reserve fund to pay for the Sesquicentennial Celebration next year. Council members wanted to make sure that employees were aware that the bonus was a one-time deal and not an on-going raise in pay. Mr. Ward indicated that staff would make sure this was communicated to employees. Ms. Roseman was concerned about continuing to fund a raise in pay for employees after the federal funds expired. Mr. Ward indicated that no money from the tax increase would fund pay increases, but that funding for pay increases for staff would come from money received from increased property tax collections as exemptions from the brownfield program phased out. Discussion turned to hiring difficulties throughout the area, and noted the acceleration of training, specifically mental health training, the Police Department has seen under Chief Le Beau's administration. Mr. Hicks suggested that one of the proposed new officer positions be a social worker position that would assist the department. Chief Le Beau indicated that the department developed a community resource officer position last year and that the officer had been working with many different organizations and boards in the community. Mr. Ward pointed out that the remainder of the American Recovery Act funds received by the Town would be used to fund infrastructure, including maintenance and repair to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mr. Furgiuele stated that Council should incentivize employees living in town, or for those who did not live in town, incentivize their purchase of electric or hybrid vehicles to reduce the carbon footprint of Town employees commuting. He also voiced his desire for a neighborhood advocate position to help protect neighborhoods.

Mayor Brantz declared a break at 11:29 a.m. Council reconvened at 11:47 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Roseman made a motion, which was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Ulmer, to adjourn the meeting at 11:57 a.m.

Nicole Harmon, Town Clerk

Rennie Brantz, Mayor