

River Bend Town Council
Budget Workshop Minutes
May 13, 2021
River Bend Town Hall
4:00 P.M.

Present Council Members: Mayor John Kirkland
Don Fogle
Brian Leonard
Barbara Maurer
Buddy Sheffield
Bud Van Slyke

Town Manager: Delane Jackson

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. He then recognized the Town Manager. The Manager began the meeting with a PowerPoint presentation, which included information about the Town's total property assessment, the formula for calculating tax bills, the five-year forecast for the general fund, utility rates and fees and the proposed schedule of rates and fees.

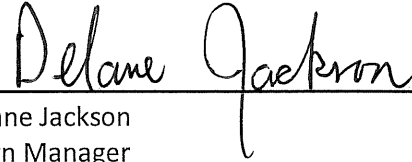
During the meeting there was considerable discussion about the current and future status of the Town's fund balance. Councilman Leonard expressed his concern of the trend of the declining fund balance. He said that we are okay currently but there may be trouble on the horizon because our costs are going up and some revenues are going down. He said that he did not want to get to the point where we were forced to do something about the fund balance. Councilwoman Maurer stated that she wanted to address the issue before we got to a critical point and she thinks we are at a critical point now. The Mayor stated that these discussions were good but he felt the projections were very conservative and we just need to take a closer look after the next property reevaluation. Councilman Leonard stated that if a tax rate adjustment was necessary in the future to help rebuild fund balance, he would rather do it in small, incremental steps rather than a single, large step. Councilwoman Maurer stated that the budget was being balanced with a contribution from fund balance and she thought the ideal way to balance it would be without a fund balance appropriation. She also mentioned that the Council was considering establishing a fund balance goal of \$2,000,000 and that we were a long way from that.

The Town Manager presented the revenue and expenditures assumptions for the general fund and noted that the next county property reevaluation was scheduled for January 1, 2022 and the five-year forecast did not contain a tax rate reduction after the reevaluation. Councilman Sheffield said he thought that property values were on the rise and that we would probably be pleased with the values from the next reevaluation. The Council agreed that while there was no need for great concern now about the amount of fund balance, there is a need to closely monitor it over the next few years.

The Manager reviewed the proposed schedule of rates and fees and pointed out that the non-residential fees would again be subject to the standard equivalent units, which are associated with the utility rate model formula. He explained that while it was not technically a rate increase, it would increase those utility bills. He also noted that the Class 9 customer base charge would increase to \$13.24 from \$10.24 to be in line with the Class 1 and 2 base charge.

The Town Manager stated that while he received much of the focus during the budget process, it was truly a team effort. He expressed his praise to the whole staff in their assistance in preparing the budget proposal during a very unusual and demanding time.

With no further questions, Councilman Sheffield motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Delane Jackson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Delane Jackson
Town Manager