

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING of May 27, 1998, with Mayor Buck Trott and Commissioners H. N. James, Mike McCall, Zeke Sossomon, and Amy Patterson present.

Also present were Richard Betz, Ran Shaffner, Peter Reitt, and Bobbie Reitt.

I. Mayor Trott called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and stated that the purpose of the Special Budget Work Session was to review the FY 98-99 budget with the Town Administrator.

II. The Town Administrator had hand-delivered copies of the FY 98-99 Budget, Budget Ordinance, and Budget Message to each Board member.

Prior to the meeting he had distributed copies of Town budget requests to Macon County and the Chamber of Commerce; letters to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and Chestnut Hill Limited Partnership dated May 22; letters to Main Street property owners concerning brick sidewalks; additional information from the Hudson Library; additional information from the Macon County Humane Society; and a summary of Water Treatment Plant costs. Copies of the agenda of the June 3 meeting, together with a corrected copy of the Northland Cable TV franchise agreement, were also distributed.

Ran Shaffner, Dr. Peter Reitt, and Dr. Bobbie Reitt than spoke to the Board and answered questions concerning the Hudson Library request. As he had explained in his letter of April 6, Mr. Shaffner told the Board that the Bascom-Louise Gallery was forming a separate 501(c)(3) organization, which meant that the Library must rely on its own resources for book purchases.

The Board discussed engineering fees for construction observation at the Water Plant, which had exceeded projections by more than \$127,000. The Town Administrator said that W. K. Dickson Co. consulting engineer Victor Lofquist had explained that these costs were due to the time extensions, additional work on the contract, additional State requirements, and more involvement in start-up and operations than expected; he said that Mr. Lofquist had offered to attend the next meeting to explain.

The Board also discussed the request to Highlands-Cashiers Hospital and Chestnut Hill to share in the cost of the Mirror Lake Pressure Sewer Line Project. Comm. McCall again expressed concern over the Town providing sewer service to a private corporation outside of Town, as well as the damage that effluent from the hospital had apparently caused to the Sherwood Forest Pump Station. The Board discussed the obligation of the Town to provide sewer service to Chestnut Hill. Comm. Patterson said she was not sure if the original intent of the agreement was for a private corporation to make money.

Comm. James agreed, and asked for more information on the hospital's future plans; if no information was provided, he suggested that the Board might consider a moratorium on sewer connections to Chestnut Hill.

The Town Administrator than proceeded to review the Budget Message in some detail. Comm. James suggested that the widening and paving of Maple Street be included in the Capital Improvement Program for FY 99-00, and the Board agreed. The Board also discussed various expenditures in Town departments. The Mayor asked the Board to consider both radar and surveillance cameras for police vehicles in the future.

The Board agreed to discuss individual employee salaries in Closed Session following the Regular Meeting of June 17. The Board also agreed to set a Budget Hearing for 7:00 p.m. June 25.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was declared adjourned by the Mayor at 8:25 p.m.

Richard Betz, Town Clerk