

BUDGET HEARING and SPECIAL BOARD MEETING of June 25, 1997, with Mayor John Cleaveland and Commissioners H. N. James, Mike McCall, Donnie Calloway, and Zeke Sossomon present.

Also present were Richard Betz and Curtis Hayes.

A. Budget Hearing.

The Mayor called the Budget Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m., and stated that this was the time and place to receive comments from the public on the FY 97-98 Budget, as presented on May 28, 1997; notice had appeared in The Highlander newspaper pursuant to law.

There were no comments from the public, and the Mayor declared the hearing closed.

B. Special Board Meeting.

I. The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

II. Business.

1. The Clerk reviewed some minor changes in the FY 97-98 Budget presented in May, including an increase in cost for a brush unit in the Fire Department, inclusion of \$45,465 still due from FEMA for Hurricane Opal relief, reference in the Capital Improvement Program to the Fire Department's proposed purchase of a new pumper unit this year to be funded in FY 98-99, and the need to fund the final payment on the SNLC loan in FY 98-99 and FY 99-00.

Comm. James expressed some concern that the FY 97-98 budget indicated only \$19,500 for scholarships disbursed; that amount had already been awarded, and additional scholarships to be awarded to college students next month would require the Scholarship Committee to disburse funds which had accumulated as a "cushion" over the years.

He felt that next year the Scholarship Committee should be given a definite budget, rather than simply a statement showing funds available for distribution.

The Clerk also reported that he had been informed by Blue Cross that rates for group insurance would increase 40% next year; he said he would be exploring several alternatives.

MOVED BY COMM. CALLOWAY, SECONDED BY COMM. MCCALL, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE BUDGET OF THE TOWN OF HIGHLANDS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 1996 THROUGH JUNE 30, 1997.

A copy is attached hereto and made a permanent part of this record.

2. MOVED BY COMM. CALLOWAY, SECONDED BY COMM. JAMES, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO ADOPT THE TOWN OF HIGHLANDS BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 1997 THROUGH JUNE 30, 1998. A copy is attached hereto and made a permanent part of this record.

3. The Clerk reported that he had conducted a survey of pole attachment fees paid by GTE in the area; he recommended increasing them from \$4.00 per pole to \$10.00 per pole.

MOVED BY COMM. SOSSOMON, SECONDED BY COMM. CALLOWAY, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO INCREASE POLE ATTACHMENT FEES FOR GTE FROM \$4.00 PER POLE TO \$10.00 PER POLE, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CLERK.

The Board asked the Clerk to determine if pole attachment fees for Northland Cable TV can be similarly increased.

III. MOVED BY COMM. CALLOWAY, SECONDED BY COMM. MCCALL, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO ADJOURN. Meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.

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Richard Betz, Town Clerk