

Town of Marshville
Town Council Meeting

Monday, May 16, 2011 at 7:00 PM

Marshville Town Hall – 201 W. Main St.

Present: Mayor Deese, MPT Margaret Bivens, CM Dora Bridget, CM Matthew Jefferson, CM Ned Beachum, TM Radford Thomas, Clerk/FO Tonya Johnson, Chief Matt Tarlton, DPW Bivens Steele, PD Alan Thifault, Attorney Bobby Griffin, John Edmondson, editor of the *Home News*, and Lacy Hampton, *The Enquirer Journal*.

Open/Welcome/Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Deese opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. The invocation was given by MPT Margaret Bivens. All gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments: Limited to 2 minutes per person, 10 minutes total, if any

Ronnie Marble – 318 Chamber Street, Marshville signed up to speak during public comments. Mr. Marble voiced concerns to the Mayor and Council of harassment by officers of the Police Dept. for no reason. He claims he's being stopped and searched sometimes when just walking down the streets of town. Mayor Deese suggested to Mr. Marble that he come in and talk with TM Radford Thomas regarding his concerns.

Adopt Agenda

MPT Margaret Bivens made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by CM Dora Bridget. Vote: All ayes.

Consent Agenda

- a. Approve Minutes from the May 2, 2011 Council Meeting (Pgs. 2-5)
- b. Approve Budget Report as of April 30, 2011 (Pg. 6)

A motion to approve and adopt the consent agenda as presented was made by MPT Margaret Bivens, and seconded by CM Dora Bridget. Vote: All ayes.

Receive information packet from Robert S. Segal, CPA PA requesting to provide consultant services to examine and analyze revenues/expenses and to make recommendations to achieve savings, credits, refunds or additional revenues

TM Radford Thomas suggested that council go on to the discussion of Item #7 before getting into the budget discussions. It was the consensus of the council to precede with the discussion of agenda item #7 prior to the discussion of items #5 and #6. TM Radford Thomas reviewed information received from Robert S. Segal, CPA. TM Thomas explained that this company specializes in expense reduction and revenue enhancement by auditing utility/telecommunications vendors. TM Thomas explained there is no upfront cost to the town for digging into and analyzing these expenses. Mayor Deese asked if the fees seem standard for

this type of service. TM Thomas commented that, based upon our research; the fees do appear typical for the type of service provided. Attorney Bobby Griffin interjected that he knows an individual that performs a similar type service for non-profits and his fee is 50% of the recognized savings. Mayor Deese asked council if they're comfortable paying 50% of the monies back to the consultant. MPT Margaret Bivens expressed that she did not clearly understand the process and asked for an example. TM Thomas explained that if the audit company should review our Windstream bills and find savings for the town, the audit company receives 50% of the savings for a twenty-four month period. This is how they are compensated for their services. CM Beachum commented that he would like the names of references. TM Thomas commented that before going forward council would have to approve a contract. He suggested we obtain answers to some questions and bring the information back to the council. MPT Margaret Bivens commented that her main concern is whether this would be beneficial to the town. TM Thomas commented that it would be money for the town. Staff was directed to get answers to several questions and bring the information back to the council.

Receive First Draft of FY11-12 Budget

TM Radford Thomas stated his goal to find money in the General Fund to be able to reduce Fund Balance used to \$150,000. He commented that he did his best along with the help of the department heads and their willingness to hold the line tightly. He expressed his appreciation to the department heads for their work and effort with the budget. TM Thomas commented on the effort to make the budget stand on its own. He made council aware that cuts and changes were made. TM Thomas commented that he feels we've made some positive steps. TM Thomas reviewed with council the FY2011-2012 budget summary sheets provided in their agenda packet (see attachment). The current year's tax collection rate is 97.5%. We can only budget tax revenue based upon the current year's collection rate. The recommended budget amount for property taxes for FY2011-2012 is \$659,520. For vehicle taxes the requested budget amount is \$48,111.47. No property tax increases are proposed for FY2011-2012. TM Thomas commented that according to NCLM estimates, sales tax revenues are expected to remain flat. Also, Powell Bill funds may reflect a slight decrease. Per capita calculations will be less due to the 2010 census results. Marshville's census results indicated a decrease in population. TM Thomas stated that the recommended budget total for Fund 10 is \$1,547,440, which is \$146,915 less than the current year's budget total for Fund 10. Likewise, the recommended budget total for Fund 30 is \$995,725, which is \$113,600 less than the current year's budget total for Fund 30. This represents a 9.5% reduction. The recommended budget reflects a 2% COLA adjustment for all budgeted positions. TM Thomas commented that there has been no salary increases in the past three years. There has been a reduction in employee benefits. In an effort to save the town money last year the dental benefit was eliminated. The line items for insurance reflect a 15.5% increase in our current rates, which results in approximately \$12,500 annually. TM Thomas explained that he's looking into other healthcare plan options with United Healthcare, and also quotes from other insurance carriers. The proposed budget reflects the town paying 100% of employee's health insurance premiums. This year the Special Separation Allowance in the police department is budget at 100%, which will be approximately \$13,500. TM Thomas explained that in Dept. 5000 the position for an Asst. Public Works Director was eliminated. A part-time position was made into a full time position and a new part-time position was created. CM Jefferson commented that he thought the reason for an Asst. DPW was to have a second in command. TM Thomas commented that he and DPW Bivens Steele have discussed this and feel

this will work. DPW Steele commented that if cuts must be made, to cut the Asst. DPW position would be best. He also stated that additional training is being budgeted.

TM Thomas commented that collection fees for solid waste will remain at current rates. He, however, recommends that user fees for the Park and Community Center be increased. TM Thomas feels the fees should be more in the range of \$100/4 hrs. (Resident) and \$150/4 hrs. (Non-resident). Additional hourly charges should be \$20/hr. TM Thomas suggested considering having an attendant on-site at the Park while it's rented. The proposed fee for the attendant is \$50. This money would come through the town but it would be a wash since the user would pay to have the attendant. MPT Margaret Bivens asked if the attendant would be in addition to the Park Director. TM Thomas stated that it would. This would pay to have someone at the park on Saturday and Sunday for events.

TM Thomas stated that the BLVFD contribution remains at \$15,000 and Chamber of Commerce contribution remains at \$1,500. No contingency is budgeted in the General Fund.

TM Thomas continued the budget review for Fund 30. He commented that no fund balance is budgeted in the Water/Sewer Fund. Union Co. has notified us of a 10% increase per thousand in sewer charges. Likewise, Anson Co. has notified us of a 4.85% increase in sewer charges, but no increase in water charges. There are no proposed rate increases in water and sewer rates for Marshville. Mayor Deese questioned if all Union Co. customers are getting a 10% increase per thousand in sewer charges. TM Thomas commented that he will look into that matter.

TM Thomas explained that high dollar capital outlay amounts have been eliminated. The purchase of a new meter reader truck is budgeted between the Water Operations and Sewer Operations budgets. The cost of the truck is \$17,000. Also, a small four wheel drive tractor for right-of-way mowing and park ball field maintenance is split between Powell Bill and the Park. The price is \$14,000 and includes a mowing deck. Lastly, new computers are budgeted for the Clerk, Tax Collector, and Utility Billing Clerk. No patrol cars are budgeted for one year.

TM Thomas estimated fuel at \$4.50 per gallon. He commented that the town uses approximately 14,500 gallons of motor fuel per year.

TM commented that travel and training have been reduced in the proposed budget.

Mayor Deese asked if a small tractor is purchased then what will the gator be used for. PD Alan Thifault commented that the gator is worn, but would still have uses around the park. He also commented that public works uses the gator for various things.

Mayor Deese also asked about an audit of the town's water and sewer meters to check for accuracy. TM Thomas commented that there is money in dept. 8280 & 8290 (line item – Professional Services).

Mayor Deese asked whether the water & sewer has been operating at a deficit for past years. Are we charging enough to cover the cost of providing the services? DPW Bivens Steele stated that our garbage collection fees were raised last year to cover what it cost to provide those services.

CM Ned Beachum asked if we have anything in the proposed budget for maintenance. TM Thomas commented that we do. Mayor Deese inquired whether this budget still has some money for continuing upgrades. Again, TM Thomas replied that it does. DPW Bivens Steele commented that he feels the Sewer Rehabilitation Project is providing the town some savings.

TM Thomas expressed that he feels we will be safe with the rates for another year. He reminded council that, in the worst case scenario, water and sewer rates can be raised mid-year.

MPT Margaret Bivens asked about park concessions. TM Thomas replied that we don't run the concession stands. PD Alan Thifault commented that we allow the Booster Club from East Union Elementary School to run the concession stand. They furnish all their supplies and concessions. TM Thomas asked PD Thifault if we charge the schools for use of the park. PD Alan Thifault replied that we do not.

Mayor Deese asked if we've received a report, update, or request from the Fire Department. TM Thomas commented that he's received no communication to date. Mayor Deese suggested TM Thomas contact them to verify their annual contribution request.

Call for Public Hearing for FY2011-2012 Budget Presentation

Mayor Deese asked the council's preference in canceling the budget work session scheduled for Tuesday, May 17, 2011. He commented that a budget work session is also scheduled for Tuesday, May 24, 2011. TM Thomas commented that council needs to call for a public hearing on the FY2011-2012 proposed budget to be held June 6, 2011. The following action was taken by the council:

A motion to call for a Public Hearing for the FY2011-2012 budget presentation to be held June 6, 2011, at 7:00 p.m., at Marshville Town Hall was made by CM Ned Beachum, and seconded by MPT Margaret Bivens. Vote: All ayes

A motion to call for a special meeting for the purpose of a budget work session on Tuesday, May 24, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall was made by MPT Margaret Bivens. The motion was seconded by CM Ned Beachum. Vote: All ayes

A motion to cancel the special meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 17, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall for the purpose of a budget work session was made by MPT Margaret Bivens. The motion was seconded by CM Ned Beachum. Vote: All ayes

Discussion and Review of Proposed FY2011-2012 Annual Budget

CM Jefferson commented that considering there's been no increase in three years he feels a 2% COLA increase is too low for the employees. He feels there should be some incentive from this council toward the employees. He suggested a 5% COLA increase for employees. MPT Margaret Bivens commented that she doesn't feel the town can afford 5%.

CM Ned Beachum commented that he would like to see this council give an incentive for police officers to reside in town. He feels this would offer some gasoline savings. He stated he likes to see the police cars patrolling the town and feels other citizens do also. CM Matthew Jefferson agrees that there should be some incentive for police officers to reside in the corporate limits. MPT Margaret Bivens stated her opinion that the budget should be accepted as it is in the draft.

CM Matthew Jefferson suggested enclosing the park shelter and locking the park or putting up a gate.

TM Radford Thomas commented that he and PD Alan Thifault are looking into that, as well as some procedures. He commented that we may be able to take care of this issue out of this year's budget. He commented that we don't want to discourage people from using the park, but we

cannot continue to spend money to repair vandalism. PD Alan Thifault commented that most parks are kept locked.

Mayor Deese suggested that everyone spend time reviewing the proposed budget and come back to the budget work session with comments, questions, or concerns. CM Matthew Jefferson asked TM Thomas to see a 5% COLA increase on paper. TM Thomas estimated that each percent of increase in COLA would result in approximately \$4,000 throughout the budget.

Comments

PD Alan Thifault informed council that a concert will be held Friday, May 20, 2011, from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Community Center. The concert will feature country music. He also gave information of a baseball tournament that will be held at the park on Memorial Day weekend. The tournament is sponsored by the Athletic Association. PD Thifault also commented that Summer Camp fliers are ready for distribution. The cost for camp will be \$60 per week per child. Camp will be held two week prior to and two weeks following July 4th. Camp staff will be hired as needed based upon the number of camp participants.

DPW Bivens Steele stated that the Hwy. 74 E. Water Line project is 90% complete.

Chief Tarlton and F/O Tonya Johnson had no comments.

Mayor Deese expressed his appreciation to the department heads for the job they do.

CM Matthew Jefferson informed council of a Memorial Day event sponsored by the American Legion. The event will be held at the park and will begin at 10 a.m. CM Jefferson also gave an update on his efforts to put together a Veterans' Day event. He commented that Ryan Stafford, as a member of Warriors and War birds, may be able to get a flyover for the Veterans' Day event. CM Jefferson commented that he would like to purchase small flags and maybe lapel pins. He also asked the council's assistance in getting a marching band to play patriotic music. PD Thifault commented that he may be able to assist in getting a band for the event. CM Jefferson would like to have banners made in order to promote the event.

CM Jefferson inquired about the progress of "Yard of the Month".

CM Ned Beachum commented that he could be about the business of "Yard of the Month" as early as tomorrow morning. CM Beachum commented that the street sweeping contractor is doing a good job.

MPT Margaret Bivens commented regarding "Yard of the Month". She stated that she felt the committee should get organized and have a meeting to determine "Yard of the Month". MPT Bivens informed council that she's received complaints about the brushy growth on Bost Street. She also asked about the grant money for curb siding and sidewalks on the end of town toward Carelock Street. TM Thomas stated that we have not been able to get the necessary easements from property owners to proceed with the sidewalk project. He commented that he and DPW Steele are looking at prices for the town to install sidewalks on Elizabeth Avenue (from Hwy. 74 to Old Hwy. 74). TM Thomas commented that if we deviate from the project as specified in the grant they may not provide funding. Mayor Deese stated that we can possibly do Elizabeth Avenue and as money becomes available then we can do Hambrick Street, but the sidewalks won't connect. He pointed out that the purpose of the sidewalks is to make connections. Mayor Deese went on to say that if easements cannot be obtained we may need to look at other areas that we can improve.

TM Radford Thomas handed out “talking points” to council. He reminded them of a Chamber of Commerce program Thursday, May 19th at the Community Center where he and CM Matthew Jefferson will speak briefly about the Small Town Main Street Program. Mayor Deese commented that working with the Chamber of Commerce is an important relationship.

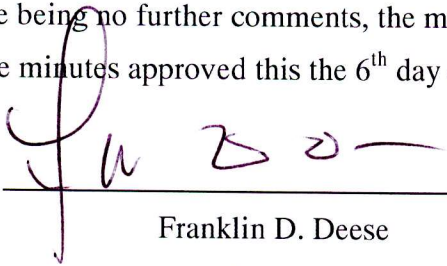
Adjourn

At 9:20 p.m. MPT Margaret Bivens made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by CM . Vote: All ayes

There being no further comments, the meeting was adjourned.

These minutes approved this the 6th day of June, 2011.

BY:



Franklin D. Deese

Mayor

ATTEST:



Debra Leigh

Asst. Town Clerk

**A brief recess may be called every 45 to 60 minutes, as desired by Council.*

TOWN OF MARSHVILLE

BGTACT60034

Run Date: 05-11-2011

GENERAL Budget vs. Actual
Period Ending: 04/30/2011
Description

Description	Budget	Month	YTD	Variance	Pct
Total Revenues	1,743,565	39,047.86	1,273,329.19	-470,235.81	73%

Expenditures

4100 ELECTED OFFICIALS	86,865	1,733.66	69,577.48	17,287.52	80%
4200 ADMINISTRATION	103,860	8,763.97	79,031.12	24,828.88	76%
4210 ANNEXATION	500	.00	.00	500.00	
4220 TOWN ADMINISTRATOR	103,605	8,195.75	77,328.00	26,277.00	74%
4300 ELECTIONS	500	.00	374.50	125.50	74%
4600 TAX COLLECTIONS	2,350	44.32	1,042.79	1,307.21	44%
4700 LEGAL	8,000	1,200.00	6,000.00	2,000.00	75%
5000 PUBLIC BLDGS.	120,455	3,913.30	47,103.83	73,351.17	39%
5100 POLICE	712,140	34,172.16	462,692.40	249,447.60	64%
5300 FIRE	15,000	.00	651.70	14,348.30	4%
5310 SAFETY PROTECTION	0	.00	.00	.00	
5600 STREETS & HIGHWAYS	137,155	7,238.57	73,429.19	63,725.81	53%
5700 POWELL BILL	116,800	5,649.29	50,412.14	66,387.86	43%
5800 SANITATION	188,935	15,614.08	147,557.30	41,377.70	78%
6200 PARK	103,150	7,113.26	70,368.31	32,781.69	68%
6300 COMMUNITY CENTER	9,950	543.95	6,187.92	3,762.08	62%
6400 CEMETERY	14,300	1,190.00	5,010.00	9,290.00	35%
6600 CONTINGENCY	20,000	.00	.00	20,000.00	
7000 TRANSFERS	0	.00	.00	.00	
9840	0	.00	.00	.00	
Total Expenditures for Fund:	1,743,565	95,372.31	1,096,766.68	646,798.32	62%

Revenues Over/(Under) Expenditures -56,324.45 176,562.51

ENTERPRISE Budget vs. Actual

Description	Budget	Month	YTD	Variance	Pct
Total Revenues	1,313,325	3,819.51	754,343.04	-558,981.96	57%
Expenditures					
5310 SAFETY PROTECTION	500	.00	38.01	461.99	7%
6601 CONTINGENCY	20,000	.00	.00	20,000.00	
7000 TRANSFERS	0	.00	.00	.00	
8280 WATER OPERATIONS	735,930	115,426.62	430,356.32	305,573.68	58%
8290 SEWER OPERATIONS	556,895	40,644.16	283,084.90	273,810.10	50%
Total Expenditures for Fund:	1,313,325	156,070.78	713,479.23	599,845.77	54%
Revenues Over/(Under) Expenditures		-152,251.27	40,863.81		

2011-2012BUDGET PREPARATION SUMMARYTax Calculations

Real and Personal Property Tax Value	\$156,335,258
Utility Property Tax Value	<u>\$8,647,882</u>
Total	\$164,983,140

Vehicle Tax Vaue	\$11,853,039
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Proposed Tax Rate	.41 per \$100 Valuation (current rate)
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CalculationsProperty Tax

\$164,983,140/100x.41 =	\$676,430.86 (97.5% Collection)	\$659,520.08
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Vehicle Tax

\$11,853,039/100x.38 =	\$48,597.45 (99% Collection)	\$48,111.47
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Sales Tax Revenues are expected to remain flat according to the NCLM estimates.

Powell Bill Funds may reflect a slight decrease.

* * Per capita calculations will be less due to the census results.

Budget Totals2010-2011 (Adopted)

General Fund	\$1,547,440	\$1,694,355 (-\$146,915)
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Water and Sewer	<u>\$999,725</u>	<u>\$1,113,325</u> (\$-113,600)
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Total	<u>\$2,547,165</u>	<u>\$2,807,680</u> (-\$260,515) (9.5% reduction)
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Salary and Benefits

Salaries and related payroll expenses reflect a 2% COLA adjustment for all budgeted positions.

Insurance reflects a proposed 15.5% increase in our current rates. This equals an approximate increase of \$12,500 annually. Quotes are being sought from other providers. Dental was cut FY '10-'11.

Insurance remains with United Healthcare.

The Special Separation Allowance in the Police Dept. is budgeted at 100%. Currently budgeted at \$9820. Beginning in 2011-2012 this amount will be approximately \$13,500 annually. Insurance is paid at 100% for full time employees by the Town.

General Fund

Fund Balance appropriation has been reduced from \$302,800 (FY '10-'11) to \$150,000 reflecting a 52% reduction.

In department 5000 the part-time position was made full time and the Asst. Public Works Director was cut.

Solid Waste Collection Fees are proposed to remain at the current rates.

Other General Fund user fees and charges are recommended to increase.

No contingency is budgeted.

Fire Department contribution remains at \$15,000 and Chamber of Commerce contribution remains at \$1,500.

Water And Sewer Fund

There is no fund balance appropriated in the Water and Sewer Fund (\$80,425 FY '10-'11).

Union County has notified the Town of a 10% increase per thousand in our Sewer Charges.

Anson County has notified the Town of a 4.85% increase in Sewer Charges and no increase in Water Charges.

No increase is proposed for the Marshville Water and Sewer Rates.

The purchase of a new meter reader truck is split between the Water Operations and Sewer Operations budgets. Total cost is \$17,000.

A part-time position was created in department 8290.

No contingency is budgeted.

Capital Outlay

Meter Reader Truck in Water and Sewer	\$17,000
Small Tractor for Powell Bill and Parks	\$14,000 (ROW mowing and Ball Field Maintenance)

Computers are budgeted for the Clerk, Tax Collector, and Utility Collections

** No patrol car is budgeted for the Police Department for one year.

Other

Gasoline is estimated at \$4.50 per gallon.

Travel and Training has been reduced throughout the proposed budget.

*** 2011-2012 proposed budget represents an estimated 20% reduction over the 2009-2010 adopted budget.

Town of Marshville
Public Comments Sign-Up Sheet
Regular Meeting Date: 5/16/2011

Please **print** your name, topic of discussion, and contact information for the record.

	PRINT NAME	ADDRESS	TOPIC OF DISCUSSION	PHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS
1	Cecilia Mule				
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Town of Marshville
Town Council Meeting
Monday, May 16, 2011 at 7:00 PM
Marshville Town Hall – 201 W. Main St.
(REVISED)

1. Open/Welcome/Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance
2. Public Comments: Limited to 2 minutes per person, 10 minutes total, if any
3. Adopt Agenda
4. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approve Minutes from the May 2, 2011 Council Meeting (Pgs. 2-5)
 - b. Approve Budget Report as of April 30, 2011 (Pg. 6)
5. Receive First Draft of FY11-12 Budget (Pgs. 7-45)
6. Call for Public Hearing for FY2011-2012 Budget Presentation
7. Receive information packet from Robert S. Segal, CPA PA requesting to provide consultant services to examine and analyze revenues/expenses and to make recommendations to achieve savings, credits, refunds or additional revenues. (Pgs. 46-53)
8. Discussion and Review of Proposed FY2011-2012 Annual Budget
9. Adjourn

**A brief recess may be called every 45 to 60 minutes, as desired by Council.*