

When in the Dell

Weekly Newsletter for the Town of Wendell Team



From the Desk of: Finance Budget 101

Senior Accountant Garrett Johnson

It is this time of year that brings about the favorite season for some Town staff. Springtime? Not knowing if it will be 50 degrees or 80 on any given day? Pollen coating everything?! No, no, I think not.

IT'S BUDGET SEASON!

For some, the idea of a budget can be daunting. But for us calculator-crunching-number nerds at the Town of Wendell, we couldn't be more excited.

The Town of Wendell is required by North Carolina General Statute (the state law) to prepare and adopt by ordinance a budget for upcoming fiscal years, which span from July 1st to June 30th.

EMPLOYEE NEWS

Each newsletter, we'll let you know what Town staff has been busy with in our employee news sidebar. The Town has 6 different departments: Administration, Finance, Planning, Police, Parks and Recreation, and Public Works.

- Finance staff attended a webinar to participate in FEMA reimbursement related to COVID-19.
- Public works put all available hands toward yard waste pickup as the volume has steadily increased with citizens staying at home.



In addition to simply preparing an annual budget, it must also, by state law, be presented in a balanced manner. A budget is balanced when the sum of estimated net revenues and appropriated fund balances is equal to appropriations.

What does that mean? Well, it means the Town must show that it plans to generate enough revenues and has enough extra savings (if necessary) to pay for all of the expenses it plans to incur in the coming year. This is not so different from your personal budget: you want to make sure you are bringing in enough income to cover your rent/mortgage, utilities, groceries, etc. and any other extracurricular activities.

If you aren't bored to sleep by this point, you can continue to read on and learn about the three key components that make up the budget.

Revenues

The first component of the Town's budget is projected revenues. Without any generated revenues, the Town cannot pay for any of its operating and capital needs. The Town receives its revenues from a variety of sources, but about 90 percent of all of the Town's projected revenues come from just five different sources.

EMPLOYEE NEWS

- On Wednesday, Sgt. Jody Wall participated in a Tracs 18 conference call. Tracs 18 is the system used to do traffic accident reports through DMV.
- Police Captain John Slaughter participated on a webinar for the Regional Recruitment Partnership Steering Committee through the TJCOG. The Town of Wendell is part of this partnership to help improve our recruiting efforts within the police department.
- Parks and Recreation staff is working on rescheduling all of the Spring sports (adult and youth) and canceling all rentals through May 1
- Six new single family permits were granted this week



EMPLOYEE NEWS

- Parks and Recreation staff completed FEMA training.
- Youth Summer Basketball registration deadline is April 24.
- Town staff met to discuss holding a virtual Town Board of Commissioners meeting set for Monday, April 27th, 2020.
- The contract with Nealon Planning for the Comprehensive Land Use Plan was signed.
- Edgemont Landing Phase 3 was submitted, contains 200 single family homes and is proposed on the northside of the current Edgemont Landing.
- Planning & Admin staff met with Publicinput.com on community engagement and virtual meeting services
- Anderson Farm (306 single family & townhomes) Construction Drawings were approved and signed off by staff.

The largest revenue stream comes from you, the taxpayer, in the form of (you guessed it) property taxes. The taxes that you pay for your real estate, registered vehicles, and other personal property funds about 50 percent of the Town’s operating budget.

Property Taxes	51.95 %
Sales Tax (Redistribution)	20.84 %
Solid Waste Fees	9.81 %
Utility Franchise Tax (Redistribution)	5.15 %
Powell Bill [Motor Fuel Tax] (Redistribution)	2.56 %

Expenditures

The next part of the budget is appropriated expenses. The Town allocates funds towards all of the departments as requested by the respective department’s directors, proposed by the Budget Officer, and approved by the Board of Commissioners to fund salaries, operating expenses, and any capital needs that may be necessary (new vehicles, equipment, buildings, or other infrastructure). The departments that are budgeted for annually are below.

Governing Body	Planning & Community Development	Powell Bill (Street Maintenance)
Administration	Public Buildings & Grounds	Parks & Recreation
Information Technology	Police	Non-Departmental
Finance	Fire Services	Special Appropriations
Economic Development	Public Works	

Fund Balance

Does your budget balance to the penny every single time? For better or worse, neither does ours. It is important to remember that the budget is just a projection of revenues and expenditures. The key word here is projection. There are times when the Town brings in more money than it spends. That is great because the Town is able to save that extra money for future needs. This is extra money referred to as Fund Balance.

There are also times when the Town may spend more than it brings in and that's okay, too. Unexpected things happen. Perhaps revenues didn't come in like we thought they would. Maybe an HVAC system went out and needed to be repaired. It is possible that we experienced a storm that caused major damages to equipment and property. The Town has the ability to use available Fund Balance to cover these unplanned expenses.

It is important to remember that the budget will not play out exactly as proposed and adopted. While the budget is balanced using an equation, getting both sides of the equation equal can often be an art more so than a science. Ultimately, the budget document is an actualization of the priorities of Town leadership and guides the Town in a direction in which they believe will best benefit its citizens.

If you have budgetary questions or concerns, please stay tuned in to Town communications, as there will be outlets provided to citizens to express themselves.

Yours in Service,
Garrett Johnson, Senior Accountant

New Employee: Debbie Cannady, Human Resources Administrator



Debbie Cannady comes to us with approximately 14 years of State and Local Government experience. She has a Master of Education and Master of Business Administration with a concentration in Human Resources. She comes to us from the City of Raleigh's Human Resources Department. Her hobbies include singing and performing wedding ceremonies. She loves spending time with her family and friends as well as her church family. She is super-excited to be a part of the local government for a small town with big charm! She has family ties to the town and has a strong desire to be an asset to the Town of Wendell.