

**TOWN OF AYDEN
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
OPEN SESSION MINUTES**

February 16, 2015 – 6:00 pm (Special Called Meeting)
"Old Town Hall" – 4106 West Avenue, Ayden

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Call to Order
Mayor Tripp called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

B. Roll Call

Present:

Mayor Tripp

Commissioners Davenport, Harris, Mewborn, Skinner and Ross

Absent:

Sherri Scharf – Town Clerk

Also Present:

Brandon Holland – Town Manager

Samuel Jones – Ayden Fire Chief

Barry Wood – Ayden Assistant Fire Chief

II. DISCUSSION

Town Manager Brandon Holland stated that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the feasibility of the Town supporting the Ayden Fire Department's request for a new fire equipment truck.

Ayden Fire Chief Samuel Jones stated the Fire Department's 1985 model needs to be replaced as it is 30 years old, adding that his goal is to set up a fleet rotation that ensures none of the trucks exceed a 20-year life cycle. He is requesting that the Town match the \$48,000 currently in the Fire Department's budget, and that the total be used as a down payment for a new fire department equipment truck. He stated that in a previous meeting, the Rural Fire Commission approved a 1.24 cent tax increase to fund its portion of the cost for this truck, adding that the benefit of the rural-town partnership is that the Town is only responsible for half the cost.

The truck engine costs \$436,000 but the Fire Department plans to use \$11,000 from its special insurance receivables fund to outfit the truck. Chief Jones anticipates that the County will

contribute \$10,000 as it has done in the past. Subtracting that amount and the combined \$96,000 down payment would leave \$330,000 to finance over the next 7 years. Chief Jones is confident that the financing interest rate would be 2.5% (or perhaps better) and calculated the Town's annual cost to be \$25,719 over a 7 year period.

Mayor Tripp stated that financing for the new fire equipment truck would be added to other fire department debt making the Town's annual payment for the fleet at least \$62,000 over the next 4 years, but adding that he thinks the obligations this year will be closer to \$82,000.

Town Manager Holland stated that if making this purchase is something that the Board wants to do, then he is confident that the FY 2015-16 budget can absorb the costs while still maintaining current funding levels to cover the Town's overall operations. Mayor Tripp cautioned that doing so will create a very tight budget, and that the Governing Board will have to work hard to balance the budget. Commissioner Mewborn stated that as long as there will be no tax increase to Ayden citizens, he would be in favor of the request.

Chief Jones will present the proposal to the Rural Fire Department Board this month for final approval before submitting the request to the Pitt County Board of Commissioners, who must approve it before Ayden's Fire Department can buy the fire equipment truck.

After much discussion, the Governing Board agreed by consensus to provide the \$48,000 match as a down payment in the upcoming FY 2015-16 budget and plan to incorporate the debt payment schedule into the FY 2016-17 budget.

III. ADJOURNMENT

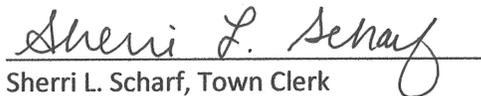
Having completed the business before them, Mayor Tripp announced that without objection the board would stand adjourned at 6:50 pm.

CERTIFICATION

Minutes from the February 16th Special Called Meeting were adopted and certified this 9th day of March 2015 in Ayden, North Carolina.



ATTEST:


Sherri L. Scharf, Town Clerk

AYDEN, NORTH CAROLINA


Stephen W. Tripp, Mayor