

A “Called Meeting” to discuss financial issues of the town and the “Preliminary” Budget for FY 2023-2024, was held by the Boydton Town Council on Monday, May 22, 2023, at 5:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Christopher “Chris” Starke residing.

THOSE PRESENT

**Christopher “Chris” Starke, Mayor
T. G. Gill, Vice Mayor
Ronny C. Worley
W. H. Coleman
Paul “Ray” Cherry
David M. Crowder (Absent)
Bill Thompson
Rhita M. Burton, Deputy Clerk
Shirley S. Bowen, MMC, Clerk of Council**

GUESTS

Mayor Starke opened the meeting by first discussing financial issues of the town that needed attention, before our next council meeting on June 13, 2023. These issues were all discussed in a “Closed Meeting” and according to the Code of VA, Section §2.2-3711 (A)(6). There were no motions made upon reconvening; however, Mayor Starke advised the council, he would contact First Citizens Bank on their behalf and the town.

Secondly, the first viewing of the “preliminary” budget for the fiscal year 2023-2024, was presented and discussed. Mrs. Shirley Bowen, Clerk-Treasurer, distributed “preliminary” budget spreadsheets to the council and Mayor, to allow them the opportunity to view how the new budget for FY 2023-2024, was progressing through the month of April 2023. She explained there were “no totals” provided for this first meeting, since she needed their help as to whether there would be any rate changes, increases in salaries, along with other pertinent information needed, before she could put the entire budget together for their review. She noted this was an important and essential part of being able to provide more precise figures. She stated after discussion of these matters and with decisions made, she would be able to complete the budget process with more accurate figures, knowing what the council wanted to do, and as previously stated, the spreadsheets supplied tonight, were only “projected” amounts through April 2023. New rate increases, each of the department requests, and salary increases were also discussed to provide her with this much needed information, as well. She advised the next step would be to fill in the “requested” amounts column in order to calculate expected totals through June 30, 2023, which would allow her to substantiate the new FY 2023-2024 budget.

It was the consensus of the council, after review of what was presented, to meet again on Wednesday, May 31st at 5:00 P.M., to give Mrs. Bowen ample time to prepare more accurate figures, along with totals being entered in the budget for the council and Mayor's review.

This would give them a clearer idea of how the budget for FY 2023-2024 would be presented for the newspaper advertisement of a Public Hearing on Wednesday, June 21st, and if approved, the budget would be adopted on June 28, 2023, before the new fiscal year begins on July 1, 2023.

This meeting was adjourned at 6:15 P.M., since there were no more questions or concerns.

**Shirley S. Bowen, MMC
Clerk of Council & Treasurer
May 22, 2023**

**Christopher D. Starke
Mayor**

A “Special Meeting” to discuss the FY 2023-2024 Budget was held by the Boydton Town Council on Tuesday, May 31, 2023, at 5:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Council Chambers with Mayor Christopher “Chris” Starke presiding.

THOSE PRESENT

Christopher “Chris” Starke, Mayor
T. G. Gill, Vice Mayor (Absent)
Ronny C. Worley
W. H. Coleman
Paul “Ray” Cherry
David M. Crowder (Absent)
Bill Thompson
Rhita M. Burton, Deputy Clerk
Shirley S. Bowen, MMC, Clerk of Council

GUESTS

R. H. Park III, WWTP Operator
John Roberts, Maintenance Supervisor

Mayor Starke opened the “special” meeting regarding the FY 2023-2024 budget.

Mrs. Shirley Bowen, Clerk of Council and Treasurer, provided the councilmen and mayor with new “requested” amounts shown on the new budget spreadsheets she’d prepared for review and discussion. Mrs. Bowen explained how the computer software calculated the amounts from April through June for the “projected” figures, and how it also calculates the “requested” amounts for the new fiscal year. These figures were discussed, as well as, rate increases, new department requests, and salary increases. Upon discussion of rates, Councilman W. H. Coleman moved to increase the “hook on fees” for out-of-town customers from \$1,250.00 to \$1,500.00 per connection, and also to increase the sewage rates for in-town and out-of-town customers using over 3,000 gallons. This would change the current amounts from \$5.00 to \$5.54 for in-town customers who use over 3,000 gallons per 1,000 gallons and the out-of-town customers using over 3,000 gallons would pay \$11.08, rather than the current rate of \$10.00 per 1,000 gallons. This motion also included giving Mrs. Bowen the authority or permission to advertise these rate changes “twice” in a local newspaper, which would begin on June 7th and again on June 14th. Councilman Bill Thompson seconded the motion, with all remaining members voting in favor.

The budget meeting continued by the councilmen, mayor, and the Clerk-Treasurer looking at each of the town’s general ledger fund accounts regarding revenue and expense accounts. Discussion ensued with questions and responses made, along with some corrections being noted. Salaries were also discussed using a 5% increase across the board; however, it was the consensus of the council not to increase salaries using this method and advised her of their chosen/preferred method.

After completion of all these facts and figures, it was agreed upon by the town council for Mrs. Bowen, Clerk-Treasurer, to make their approved adjustments to the budget to be presented and approved by the town council at the next regular meeting on Tuesday, June 13, 2023. If this was done, this adjusted “proposed” budget could be advertised “once” in the local newspaper on Wednesday, June 14th. Following protocol, a “Public Hearing” would be held on this proposed FY 2023-2024 budget on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, for comments from the public. Seven (7) days later, on June 28, 2023, the budget (according to the Virginia Code § 15.2-2503) would have to be adopted, in order to be in compliance for the new Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget, to take effect on July 1, 2023.

With no further questions or concerns, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

Shirley S. Bowen, MMC
Clerk of Council & Treasurer
May 31, 2023

Christopher D. Starke
Mayor