Town of Red Cross Town Council

Minutes of Budget Workshop

At Town Hall

Wednesday, March 25, 2024, at 7:00 PM

Present:

Mayor Kelly Brattain

Council Members: Melvin Poole, Trina Plowman, Lisa Lowder, and Andrew Smith

Planning and zoning officer: Mike Efird

Clerk: Shannon Alberta

Attorney: Jim Phillips and Al Benshoff

CPA: Tony Brewer

Guests: 6+

Mayor Kelly Brattain called the workshop into session to discuss the upcoming budget for the 2024-2025 year

**Motion#1812** was made by Lisa Lowder second by Andrew Smith; Vote: 4 Yea, 0 Nay**, to Begin the workshop**

Town Clerk Shannon Alberta shared her preliminary work on the upcoming budget. This will be worked on over the next few months to be presented in May and June for approval before July 1st. Shannon Alberta looked at the revenue for the current year and the past two years and will use this information to estimate the revenue to budget for the next fiscal year. All of the items were also pulled for their previous and current years to try to budget for the next year as well. Some items will be easier to estimate than others, for instance, police protection we know the final amount for that for the next year since we signed a new contract with the Stanly County Sheriffs. The waste management prices should be easy to calculate as they have not changed and the contract price is still the same. Utilities show they stayed close to the same for the past three years. Payroll accounts will need to be increased since the number of employees has increased. Fire Protection will be better to predict in April once the town receives numbers from the tax office. Shannon Alberta also shared she would like to lay out the revenues and planning and zoning in a different manner for the budget, as it seems to be too generalized and it would be better and more detailed.

Comments from Council:

Trina Plowman commented the budget seems like the work is progressing nicely.

Melvin Poole asked when will the town know what the taxes receivable will be? Shannon Alberta answered that the tax department will send out their reports for the fire department allocations in April. Regarding the estimates of state and county taxes, generally, those are based on 96-98% of the previous year's taxes received. It is better to be conservative when budgeting especially because not everyone pays their taxes.

Trina Plowman also mentioned we need to look into the prices for providing the toters for recycling for the other homes as well.

Melvin Poole also commented the tax revenues should go up a lot more than last years, and requested to see the numbers once received.

Andrew Smith also asked when we should know more final numbers for the budget especially with the park plans in the future.

There were no further comments from citizens

**Motion#1813** wasmade by Andrew Smith second by Lisa Lowder; Vote: 4 Yea, 0 Nay**, to Adjourn the workshop**