Town of Stantonsburg

Budget Amendment Meeting

June 29, 2023

Mayor Pro-Tem Donnie Bass called the Budget Amendment Meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The following council members were present: Walt Bynum, Ben Harper, and Steve Mooring. Also present was Town Manager Brian Hawley, Town Clerk Alexis Whitley, Town Attorney Slade Rand. Mayor Rhodes and Councilman Ken Horne were absent.

Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer: Mayor Pro-Tem Donnie Bass led the Pledge of Allegiance and opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Councilman Bynum to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Town Manager Hawley goes over the Budget Amendment on an increase/decrease level. Councilman Bass asks if this budget amendment contains the electrical transfer. Town Manager Hawley states that Gary Pittman, accountant, said they did not need to make an amendment for the transfer but instead move it over on the ledger. Motion requested to adopt Budget Amendment #1.

Motion made by Councilman Mooring. Passed unanimously.

The Town Manager asks if the council has read over the engagement letter regarding a Certified Forensic Accountant, Danna Layne. Council Bynum asks if Town Manager Hawley is satisfied with her fee. The Town was under the impression that Gary Pittman was a CPA. He is not. Councilman Bynum would like to clean this up and get it done. Councilman Harper questions where we went wrong on hiring accountant Gary Pittman. Attorney Slade Rand states it doesn't matter whether he is a CPA or not, he has been a 30-year staff accountant for the company. Gary is just not doing all the services we were under the impression of him doing, and the Town is looking to hire Danna Layne to pick up where he is leaving off.

Town Manager Hawley is getting mixed signals from Pittman on what he is to provide and what he is going to provide. He strongly urges the council to make a motion to hire Danna Layne. Gary is mainly focused on getting the books together for Martin to do the audits. Danna would do similar actions as Gary but also more.

Councilman Mooring is in agreement to move forward and get this behind us. Councilman Harper clarifies with Town Manager Hawley what Danna Layne would do when hired so he better understands before voting. Attorney Rand states he is satisfied that she is pretty thorough.

Councilman Harper made motion to enter in a contract with Danna Layne to do work for the Town. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Councilman Harper to Adjourn.

Alexis Whitley, Town Clerk

Coley H. Rhodes, Mayor