

Walter M. Gardner, Jr.
Mayor

John Freeman
Administrator

TOWN OF WARRENTON
"Historically Great - Progressively Strong"
P. O. Box 281
Warrenton, NC 27589-0281
PHONE (252) 257-3315 FAX (252) 257-9219

June 28, 2009 Minutes of Public Hearing

The June 28, 2010 Public Hearing for the proposed 2010-2011 budget was held at Town Hall.

Those present were:

Mayor Walter M. Gardner, Jr.
Commissioner and Mayor Pro Tem Woody King John Freeman, Town Administrator
Commissioner Jules Banzet William Perkinson, Director of Public Works
Commissioner Audrey Tippet Jennifer Harris, Warren Record
Commissioner John Blalock Chief John Younts
Public Works employees Kenny Champion, Oscar
Davis and John Limer

Absent:

Commissioner Robert Davie
Commissioner Mary Hunter
Commissioner John Mooring

Mayor Gardner called the Public Hearing to order at 6:38pm.

Resident and former Commissioner Travis Pulley was in attendance and signed up to address comments on the budget. He expressed doubts that his comments would have an effect but that he felt obliged to make them and appreciated the opportunity to do so. He criticized the restructuring of Water Sewer rates that would increase bills in a difficult economic time. He pointed to negative effects of the increase in cost of living and decreased buying power of residents in general, and to the \$11 monthly increase in his bill that would make it more difficult for his hopes to retire. He said the 26% increase in utility cost is due to the money that Public Works Director Bill Perkinson has been spending on equipment and the two new work vehicles recently purchased. He said it takes a lot of money to buy these fine vehicles. He said that with the direction that the Town is taking with increased cost of landfill, water and taxes he could no longer recommend Warrenton as a place to live.

Commissioner Blalock responded to several of the points made by Mr. Pulley. First he said that no tax funds were spent on this equipment as the General Fund is separate from the Water Sewer Fund. He said that the trucks were purchased by the Board of Commissioners, not Bill Perkinson, and that criticism or questions should be directed toward the Board. Mr. Pulley observed that Perkinson and others used their vehicles to drive home at lunch, which he sees as a further privilege and waste of money. Mr. Blalock answered that it is allowed by Board approved policy, and again, that criticism or comments should be addressed to the Board.

Mr. Pulley said that he did not have further comments and thanked the Board for the opportunity of making them. There being no other members of the public in attendance Mayor Gardner asked the Public Works employees if they had any comments; there being none he asked that the Public Hearing be closed. Commissioner Blalock so moved; Commissioner Tippett seconded the motion which passed unanimously and the Public Hearing was closed at 6:50.

Respectfully submitted,

John Freeman
Town Administrator