

MINUTES

TOWN OF KURE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL

117 Settlers Lane • Kure Beach, NC 28449



Dean Lambeth, Mayor
Chuck Keener, Mayor Pro Tem
Jim Dugan, Commissioner
Barry Nelder, Commissioner
Emilie Swearingen, Commissioner

PUBLIC HEARING

JUNE 8, 2011 at 6:30 pm or soon thereafter

Fiscal Year 2011-2012 PROPOSED BUDGET

The Kure Beach Town Council held a public hearing on Wednesday, June 8, 2011 at 6:30 pm for the purpose of receiving public comments on the proposed FY11-12 budget. Town Attorney Canoutas was in attendance and there was a quorum of the Council present.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Dean Lambeth
Commissioner Barry Nelder - arrived 6:47 pm
Mayor Pro Tem Chuck Keener
Commissioner Barry Nelder
Commissioner Emilie Swearingen
Commissioner Jim Dugan

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Fire Chief Harold Heglar
Finance Officer – Arlen Copenhaver
Town Clerk – Nancy Avery

STAFF ABSENT

1. Call to order and opening of public hearing

Mayor Lambeth called the public hearing to order at 6:30 pm stating the purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments on the proposed fiscal year 11-12 budget as follows:

General Fund	\$3,269,698
Water/Sewer Fund	\$1,500,150
Storm water Fund	\$ 232,275
Powell Bill Fund	\$ 60,000
TOTAL All Funds	\$5,062,123

Mayor Lambeth reviewed highlights of the budget as follows:

- 2.75 cent tax increase per \$100 of value
- \$1.50 per month increase each on minimum water & sewer rates for residential customers

MINUTES

TOWN OF KURE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL

117 Settlers Lane ▪ Kure Beach, NC 28449



Dean Lambeth, Mayor
Chuck Keener, Mayor Pro Tem
Jim Dugan, Commissioner
Barry Nelder, Commissioner
Emilie Swearingen, Commissioner

- \$2.00 per month increase each on minimum water & sewer rates for commercial and out of Town customers
- \$4.00 per month increase for both residential and commercial storm water rates
- Addition of one full time Police Officer and one full time Fire Department employee
- Average 2% merit increase for employees
- No compensation or cell phone reimbursement for Town Council

Mayor Lambeth stated the average monthly increase for residential property valued at \$500,000 is:

\$11.46 property tax

\$ 3.00 water & sewer minimum

4.00 storm water

\$18.40 Total

Mayor Lambeth stated that notice of this hearing was posted at Town Hall and on the Town's website on May 18, 2011 and advertised in the Island Gazette newspaper on May 25th, June 1st and 8th, 2011 as per General Statute 159-12.

Public Comments:

- 1) Marty Fuller, resident on Settlers Lane, stated:
 - I understand there have been increasing costs that have to be accounted for and I understand there needs to be a tax increase to some degree.
 - I am having a problem with the addition of more staff. Do we really need additional staff? I think we have wonderful employees, but do they really need a raise considering the economic situation? Most people I know have lost jobs and I wrote this in my email.
 - I think we are putting a burden on people now who can't afford it. It is hard for me to accept extra police and fire personnel and a raise in the 401K. I know there are arguments for an extra police position. I was told the police only asked for ½ position and you want to give them a whole position.
 - I think there is a lack of accountability and transparency. It is hard for the Town Commissioners as a group to be on top of what employees do. I don't think we know enough about how those groups are working or what they are doing. I think there is an advisory committee that has suggested an advisory program to work with staff on showing data and quality called performance based budget. My feeling is that until they start doing some of those things and showing in clear, quantitative terms that we need those positions, I don't think we need to keep handing them out. Our retirees have been hit hard because of stock returns.

MINUTES



TOWN OF KURE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL

117 Settlers Lane ■ Kure Beach, NC 28449

Dean Lambeth, Mayor
Chuck Keener, Mayor Pro Tem
Jim Dugan, Commissioner
Barry Nelder, Commissioner
Emilie Swearingen, Commissioner

- I feel for all employees in Town. I would love for them to have a raise, but I don't think it is justified right now. Maybe when they do these performance based things and can show us why. Maybe then. We used to have zero in paid fire employees and now we have three. I don't doubt those employees work very hard and on Council on a pittance, but I disagree with those increases now. I feel with additional help with the advisory committee and this gentlemen here (Finance Officer Copenhaver) some increases are justified but need to be kept to a minimum.
- I think you ought to keep your stipend. You work really hard. I know this for a fact. That little thing, at least you can go out to dinner and we can say to you all that we appreciate what you are doing. You shouldn't have to pay your own cell phone bill to do Town work. It's not a lot to get people on Council. I don't know why anyone would be on Council. We need to be attracting people to Council and if that little bit help, we should do it.

2) Rick Carona, resident, stated:

- Can you explain the increase in the water/sewer thing? Is it \$1.50 more for 3,000 gallons?
- I don't know how we are going to justify these increases when no one has any money/ There needs to be more consideration for the Town before we do these increases.

Finance Officer Copenhaver replied it is an increase of \$1.50 per month on water and \$1.50 a month on sewer for a total increase of \$3.00.

3) Patricia Bolander, 114 Settlers Lane, stated:

- I am trying to figure out what my water bill will be. It looks like \$1.50 and then \$4.00 so \$5.50 a month.

Finance Officer Copenhaver stated the water and sewer combination will increase \$3.00 a month and then, separately, the storm water will increase \$4.00, for a total increase of \$7.00.

4) Roxanne Kurtwright, resident, stated:

- I agree with what Ms. Fuller said about you keeping your stipend and cell phone reimbursement.

MINUTES

TOWN OF KURE BEACH TOWN COUNCIL

117 Settlers Lane ■ Kure Beach, NC 28449



Dean Lambeth, Mayor
Chuck Keener, Mayor Pro Tem
Jim Dugan, Commissioner
Barry Nelder, Commissioner
Emilie Swearingen, Commissioner

4. Closing of the public hearing

MOTION - Mayor Pro Tem Keener made the motion to close the public hearing 6:45 pm.

SECOND – Commissioner Dugan

VOTE - Unanimous

5. Council discussion of proposed budget and possible direction to Finance Officer Commissioner Dugan commented:

- A funding request was included in the agenda packet from Federal Point Historical Center for \$3,000. They missed the cut off date and I said to send it in anyway in case money came available later.
- To address the comments about new staff. The Fire Department position is not a new position. There were three people. We went down to two and was using part time, but now are bringing it back to three full time. The main reason for the paid positions is to reduce the fire insurance for everyone in town. Paid employees helps a get better classification. That and the new water tower saved between \$200 and \$400 per household in fire insurance premiums.
- As for the Police Department, Chief Cooper has been asking for an additional officer for three years and we've turned him down. We now have Disc Golf Course and additional pressure from citizens to have presence on the beach and the new park. It is necessary for the safety of the officers to have additional staffing since they must be available seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day.

Mayor Pro Tem Keener stated I agree with Commissioner Dugan. Also, there has been no change to the 401K. It's what it has always been.


Commissioner Swearingen stated there is no change to the 401K. It is what is has been for years.

6. Adjournment

MOTION - Commissioner Swearingen made the motion to adjourn at 6:50 pm

SECOND – Commissioner Dugan

VOTE - Unanimous


Dean Lambeth, Mayor




ATTEST: Nancy Avery, Town Clerk

NOTE: These are action minutes reflecting items considered and action taken by Council. These minutes are not a transcript of the meeting. Persons wishing to hear the recording of this meeting may request to do so by contacting the Town Clerk