

TOWN OF RED SPRINGS

Mayor John M. McNeill
Mayor Pro Tem Caroline Sumpter
Commissioner Duron Burney
Commissioner Edward Henderson
Town Manager U. James Bennett



Commissioner Shearlie McBryde
Commissioner Murray McKeithan
Commissioner Eula McNeill
Town Clerk Letitia Currie

May 12, 2016

Hon. Mayor and Members of Board of Commissioners
Town of Red Springs
Red Springs, North Carolina 28377

Mayor and Board

It is with a sense accomplishment and pride that I present the budget for 2016-2017. These feelings radiate because of the willingness of you, our elected board, and staff made in working through this budget process. It began with our Fourth Budget Retreat in having a common denominator to provide the best service for our citizens without a tax increase. At our Retreat, we had presenters from Social Media, Voltage Conversion and our Auditors. The Board decided it wished to spend more time understanding the needs of the various town departments. The Board then met for Budget Workshop Meetings on (April 11, April 25 and May 9th). The Board has plans to meet on June 7th for a Public Hearing and the adoption of a balanced budget.

EXPENDITURES

This proposed budget represents estimates of information available at the time. In some instances, assumptions were made and are reflected in this budget.

- 1) Salaries will reflect a 1.5% COLA – This the fourth cost of Living Adjustment in over (8) years;
- 2) FICA will remain the same at 7.65%
- 3) The Town will make a 1% contribution to employees' 401K;
- 4) Medical Insurance reflects a modest increase, but still down from five years ago
- 5) Workers Compensation reflects a 12% decrease;
- 6) Property Liability reflects no increases;
- 7) Administration will purchase a new desktop computer for the Administrative Assistant/Town Clerk;
- 8) The Fire Department will purchase a Commercial Washer and Dryer;
- 9) The Sanitation Department will begin grinding-up the Landfill;
- 10) The Police Department will purchase AEDs and computers;

- 11) The Inspections and Zoning Department will have funding for Housing Demolition;
- 12) The Recreation Department will purchase new playground equipment for parks;
- 13) Buildings and Grounds will replace the roof at the Sanfatex Building;
- 14) The Electric Department and the Water Department will implement Smart Metering for utilities;
- 15) The Waste Treatment Plant will purchase/replace 1 drying bed and begin the Dewatering Process to replace the remaining drying beds;
- 16) The Electrical Department will complete the 3rd Avenue Electric Conversion.

GENERAL FUND REVENUES

Based on information from Robeson County Tax Office, at a collection rate of 87% on real and personal, utilities at 100% and motor vehicle at or over 95% (WE STILL HAVE TWO MONTHS LEFT IN THIS FISCAL YEAR FOR COLLECTIONS) the projected revenue will be as follows:

Pre Billing Figure for Real, Personal and Public Utilities
\$1,030,381

- 1) Payment in lieu of taxes is approximately \$7,500/yr. for Robeson County Housing Authority;
- 2) Payment in lieu of taxes is approximately \$2,500/yr. for the North Carolina Indian Housing Authority;
- 3) Community Building Rental is at \$9,000.00/yr;
- 4) Sanfatex Building Rental is at \$157,000.00/yr;
- 5) For Sanitation, Water and Sewer and Electric Rates please refer to the Schedules of Fees and Rates;
- 6) Inspections is projected to bring in \$30,000 for Permits and Fees;
- 7) North Carolina Governor's Crime Grant;
- 8) Cemetery Revenues is at \$6,000/yr.

The 2016-2017 Fiscal Year Budget represents an effort to support the continuation of existing services while funding capital projects that are paramount to the growth and survival of our town. We are adding money to our capital Reserve Fund in Electric, we have budgeted \$351,990 for FY 2016-2017. Capital Reserve in the General Fund is \$131,462.

We all join together in being able to provide core services to the citizens of Red Springs without a tax increase. In addition, we have been able to plan areas that will improve the quality of life for recreational, renovation of town owned properties, social/economic development and help foster a deeper pride in residing in this community.

As you can tell, there are many new and exciting things happening in Red Springs that will cause revitalization of community spirit while encouraging future economic development. Many of these events are made possible as a result of the leadership of the Mayor and Board of Commissioners. It is being made possible because of the ability to work together in an unselfish manner.

Again, a special note of thanks to Staff, that go over and beyond the normal call of duty, as they provide services to the Town of Red Springs.

Kindest Regards,

U. James Bennett
Town Manager