

Council Notes-July 6, 2011

For questions or information, contact Town Hall at 886-2177 or Council Members at signalmountaintn.gov.

- The council held a public hearing June 27th on the proposed 2012 Budget Ordinance. Despite this year's lean budget, the town faces a projected deficit of approximately \$300,000 as a result of decreased revenues and higher costs. To address this deficit, the council considered two options: Option 1) divert a portion of the funds earmarked to pay down the school loan. This action would extend the life of the loan to 2021, incur \$150,000 in additional interest costs, and still leave a budget shortfall of \$105,000. Option 2) increase property taxes by 15 cents per hundred of assessed value. This action would allow the town to continue to accelerate payment of the \$3.2 million school loan and cover the entirety of the projected deficit. The majority of the council voted for Option two. A final reading will occur July 11th at 6:30pm at the Town Hall.
- In other business, the council set its agenda for the July meeting, approved an agreement with M & T Properties to allow the Police Department to use the basement of the former SMMS gym as a police training center; and, heard a presentation from Johnson Controls for water system improvements, which could save the town money through better meter accuracy, automatic reading, leak detection, and improved cash flow.
- The Town welcomes new Building Inspector Chuck Martin, who will also serve as Code Enforcement Officer and Storm Water Technician.
- Citizens are asked to remember to trim shrubbery and low hanging branches on their sidewalks as required by town ordinance.
- The Board of Zoning Appeals has an opening for a new member. For information, contact the Town Manager. Applications are available on the town website.