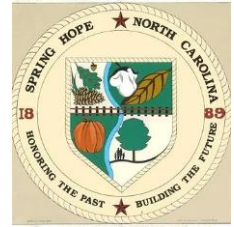


# Town of Spring Hope, NC



18 May 2023

To: Spring Hope Board of Commissioners

From: Andrew DeLonno

RE: FY2024 Proposed Budget

Background: Per NCGS § 159-12 the proposed budget has been presented to the Board of Commissioners and made public. The Public Hearing has been advertised as required and scheduled for 5 June 2023. The Board of Commissioners may hold the Public Hearing and consider budget adoption thereafter.

Budget Highlights: The proposed FY24 budget has no revenue increases beyond:

- Cemetery – increase of \$65 for internment, \$415 proposed, to cover cost of opening graves; and
- Open Space and Recreation Fee – new \$1,000/unit open-space and recreation fee (ordinance consideration July 23 meeting). This is for future subdivisions of land.

Expenditures for FY24 do not anticipate large equipment purchase or hiring of full-time employees. The proposed budget includes funding for building maintenance, training in both Police and Public Works Departments, maintenance and upgrades for the wastewater treatment plant, cemetery maintenance, completion of land use regulation updates, maintenance to the Town Park, conducting a system development study, economic development strategic planning, addition of a part-time code enforcement officer, and a 3% COLA for all other Town employees.

An additional 2% COLA, effective January 2024, is anticipated for a budget amendment once revenues from sales and use taxes are confirmed at FY23 levels. Similarly, restoring the seventh officer position is another consideration pending a January 2024 budgetary review and future ad valorem revenue projections.

Observations: The goal of the FY24 budget is holding the line on revenues given the unprecedented FY23 increase in water and sewer rates. Also, 2024 is a revaluation year for Nash County property. That will certainly yield changes in future property tax bills.

Additionally, the proposed budget balances staffing needs with available fiscal resources. The Town is on the cusp of requiring staffing increases in police, public works, and administration. In future budget years the imperative will shift toward further preparations for sustainable town growth and development.

Also, town buildings continue to require overdue maintenance. Future budgets will need to accommodate building repairs. Finally, with future revenue growth, the Town will need to begin to consider supplementing Powell Bill funds facilitating greater expenditures for street paving and sidewalk replacement.