

No Tax Increase Planned

Summary Of 1956-57 Town Budget

The 1956-57 operating budget for Southern Pines has been prepared by Tom Cunningham, town manager.

In the budget Cunningham has gone over each of the town's operations and spelled out the various needs for the coming year. He said the budget was prepared with four paramount objectives in mind:

1. The maintaining of all essential services at the highest possible level and continuance of existing programs at the same level of performance in the face of ever increasing population without any increase in the real property tax rate or service charge rates.
2. The equipping of town forces with the best possible equipment to perform their responsibilities smoothly, efficiently and with maximum economy.
3. To hold the line as far as the present ad valorem tax rate is concerned and to continue the firm policy of the Council to remove from the tax dollar costs, those expenses that are for the peculiar benefit of individual citizens and property owners.
4. The paying of a reasonable living wage for municipal employees, to reward and recognize faithful and long service, and to maintain a competitive position with the increased costs of per-

sonal services in nearby towns and in nearby industry.

Cunningham said the budget provides for no tax increases. He said the town would, if the budget were adopted, probably not have to borrow funds during the coming year except for major capital and long range expenditures.

He noted that collections from the ad valorem tax rate would be up approximately \$5,000, primarily as a result of the increased growth of the town and subsequent assessments.

Revenue, however, will be down slightly from last year since the sale of a large piece of property (the May Street Community Center) was consummated during the year.

One big reduction in expenses for next year was noted because of the new bypass being constructed this year and for which the town had to pay approximately \$33,000.

Revenues during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1957, are expected to be \$310,914, Cunningham said, while expenditures during the same fiscal year are anticipated to be \$308,884.

Here are excerpts from Cunningham's budget message.

EXPENDITURES BY DEPARTMENTS

The following is an analysis of

my budget for the coming year department by department.

Debt Service

Principal payments during the coming year are up \$10,000 as the result of maturities on the recent water and sewer bond issue of May 1, 1956. Interest payments on these bonds during the coming year will amount to \$6275. This in general accounts for the overall increase in debt service in the amount of \$15,645.

General Administration

With the exception of salary increases, this department remains substantially the same during the coming year. Personal service expenses amounts to proportionate shares of five persons salaries. The large unclassified expense in this department consists primarily of dues paid to the North Carolina League of Municipalities, Institute of Government, and the International City Manager's Association Management Information Service.

Fire Department

The Fire Department utilizes about 1 1/2 man years of personal services. A reduction in the expenses of the fire department during the coming year is realized in the amount of approximately \$7200, since during the current fiscal year we purchased the new 1955 American La France 500 gallon per minute pumper.

Police Department

The \$2400 increase in this department is represented almost entirely by salary increases. Personal service expenses are attributed to nine full-time personnel and one proportionate salary person. The department consists of six uniform police officers and the Chief of Police.

Southern Pines is one of the few municipalities between 4,000 and 30,000 population in North Carolina which works its officers more than 18 hours per day.

Included in this Police Department budget are funds for a new police car.

Cemetery Department

This department is approximately the same for the coming year.

Building and Safety Inspection

This department represents 4-5 of a man year of personal service performance. There is an approximate \$1300 reduction in this department since during the current year an automobile was purchased for the Safety Engineer.

Sanitary Department

As far as we are able to determine, the personal services expenses in this department are broken down as follows: approximately six man years of labor for garbage collections from the residences and businesses; approximately two man years of labor for yard rakings and tree trimmings; and approximately four man years of labor for street sweeping.

Included in this department is

an item in the amount of \$8,000 to replace the tractor at the sanitary landfill. With these funds it is planned to purchase a smaller and more flexible piece of equipment of a less specialized nature. This purchase will be coupled with an expenditure in the Street Department in the amount of approximately \$2,000 to purchase tilt type trailer.

Repair bills on the International tractor at the sanitary landfill this year will amount to a whopping \$4,000 and repair bills on the Traxcavator Loader will amount to approximately \$1,000. Both of these pieces of equipment are over five years old and it is my opinion that the expense involved to

operate them obviate the necessity of their early retirement.

Street Department

Personal service expenses in this department amount to approximately six man years of labor.

The cost of supplies and materials in this department consists primarily of stone, asphalt, cement, etc. This item has been progressively reduced following our policy to contract with the State Highway Department to perform various maintenance projects on the 35 miles of town streets. Equipment, maintenance, and operation consists of maintaining six trucks, various pieces of street maintenance equipment,

and the Traxcavator Loader. It has been our policy in the past and, I believe it to be a sound one, to replace one truck a year in order to maintain our fleet on a five or six year replacement level.

\$2500 is included in this budget and will be set aside for the Council's discretionary beautification improvement of the new U.S. (Continued on page 11)



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