

City of Bull Shoals Budget Meeting 11/4/2025

Budget Review: The meeting focuses on reviewing and reconciling budget figures for various city departments for the upcoming year (2026).

Departmental Budgets: They discuss budgets for Parks (Dam Site, Browns Beach, etc.), Fire, Police, Sewer, Water, Streets, Solid Waste, and City Hall.

Reconciling Figures: They identify discrepancies between different versions of the budget documents (Tony's vs. Paula's) and work to correct errors and inconsistencies.

Addressing Issues: They discuss specific issues impacting the budget, such as:

- Sewer system problems and potential fines.

- Water main breaks and the need for repairs.

- Capital improvements for parks and water towers.

- Building inspector costs and allocation.

Set-Aside/Surplus: They debate the appropriate level of a "set-aside" (surplus) for the general fund, considering the city's current financial situation and immediate needs.

Transparency: There's an emphasis on ensuring the budget is understandable and defensible to the public.

Future Planning: They discuss the need for quarterly budget reviews to track progress and make adjustments as needed.

Conclusions:

Budget Revisions: Significant revisions are made to various departmental budgets, correcting errors and adjusting allocations based on updated information and committee discussions.

Sewer and Water: The sewer system is identified as a major concern, requiring significant investment. The water department is also facing challenges.

Limited Surplus: The city's overall financial situation is tight, with a limited surplus after accounting for all expenses.

Set-Aside Recommendation: The committee agrees that a 10% set-aside is not feasible given the current circumstances. They lean towards a 5% set-aside, acknowledging the need for financial prudence while addressing immediate needs.

Next Steps: Paula will prepare a consolidated budget package with all the agreed-upon changes. The committee will meet again on Thursday to review the final budget before presenting it to the city council and the public.

In essence, the meeting is a detailed working session to refine the city's budget,

balancing the need for fiscal responsibility with the pressing demands of infrastructure and public services.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Randal Bolen', with a stylized, cursive script.

Randal Bolen

Budget Chair