FY 2020-21 Annual Operating Budget

Multiple factors influence the annual budget process, including the condition of the national, state, and local economies and the needs identified in our community by elected officials, staff, advisory boards, and citizens. Burgaw will continue to strive to provide outstanding services. Taking into account the external effects of the economy and the needs identified for our community, this year’s proposed budget represents a significant amount of careful consideration and study in order for the Town to meet its obligations, fulfill its goals, and remain fiscally healthy.

In preparing the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Budget, town staff followed guidance from the Board of Commissioners through our 2020 Strategic Budget Retreat and building on the goals established in last year’s budgeting process to develop a balanced budget. Every year is a year of unknowns; however, this year has been like no other. The full impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has yet to be determined. Multiple forecasts exist for how long the pandemic and recession will last and each forecast offers a range of economic projections. It is clear that Burgaw will feel a negative effect on revenues because of the recession. The town began taking action to mitigate revenue shortfalls in FY 2019-20. In past years, the town has benefited from sales tax and new development revenues, both of which will suffer during a recession. In addition, sales tax collections lag by three months and data to assess the true impact of the recession may not be readily available.

Even during these unprecedented times, this budget represents the commitment of the Town to its citizens, businesses, industries, and visitors. The full FY 2020-21 Budget is available online at https://burgawnc.gov/budget.

Board of Commissioners Meeting

June 9, 2020 | 4:00 PM
Historic Train Depot, 115 S. Dickerson Street

This meeting will be held open to the public with social distancing measures in place. It will also be available via online/phone: Phone: 857.444.6500 (ID 359-158-251 #) | Online: join.me/359-158-251

Notice of Public Hearing
Public Hearing #1: Consideration of Adoption of the FY 2020-2021 Budget for the Town of Burgaw. The Town Manager/Budget Officer has submitted the FY 2020-2021 Annual Budget to the Board of Commissioners. The Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing at 5:30 PM (or thereabout) on June 9, 2020 to receive public comment regarding the proposed FY 2020-2021 Municipal Budget.
The pocket park received some more attention this week with a new swing installed by John, Robert and Ben. John and Robert also fixed the duck at Rotary Park.

The lift station on HWY 53 West was repaired to help cut down on the I&I by Tealbriar. A new meter was also installed for one of the businesses on 53 West.

Green team focused on the cemetery, railroad right-of-way, parks, wells, train depot and the museum.

Ditches on Fremont Street between Campbell and Lloyd were cleaned to help improve drainage in the area.

We cut back the brush on Walker Street to help improve the site line on the crosswalk by Johnson Park.

Roland, Brian and Jeremy helped repair water service at a residence on North Wright Street.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

- On Monday, the PD assisted the Pender County Early College with a celebration parade for their graduates. Congratulations to all those students, as well as any other Burgaw or Pender students graduating.
- On Saturday, June 6, 2020, there is a rally scheduled from 4 pm until 6 pm at Pender Memorial Park off of Highsmith Road. Please be aware of increased vehicle and pedestrian traffic in that area.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

- From 4/1/20 to 5/31/20 we have processed 6 new commercial applications and 18 new residential applications.
- The Governor issued Executive Order 142 on May 30, 2020 and it extends waiving disconnects and late fees for another 60 days. This order states the town must provide customers service regardless of payment until the new order expires at 11:59pm on July 29, 2020. No late fees or disconnections will be applied during the EO124.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

- Assisted folks working to locate businesses.
- Assisted several citizens on locating toolsheds and other types of residential accessory structures.
- Worked with TRC reviewing the WLS subdivision submittal.
- Worked responding to code enforcement complaints.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

- The pocket park received some more attention this week with a new swing installed by John, Robert and Ben. John and Robert also fixed the duck at Rotary Park.
- The lift station on HWY 53 West was repaired to help cut down on the I&I by Tealbriar. A new meter was also installed for one of the businesses on 53 West.
- Green team focused on the cemetery, railroad right-of-way, parks, wells, train depot and the museum.
- Ditches on Fremont Street between Campbell and Lloyd were cleaned to help improve drainage in the area.
- We cut back the brush on Walker Street to help improve the site line on the crosswalk by Johnson Park.
- Roland, Brian and Jeremy helped repair water service at a residence on North Wright Street.

We are here to serve you!

Due to the lifting of some restrictions by Governor Cooper in response to the pandemic, we have decided to open Town Hall so we can better assist our residents and visitors.

Payments made online or by phone continue to be the preferred method of payment. However, payments by check, cash and money order can now be accepted at the Customer Service window if a receipt is needed. We encourage our residents to utilize the drop box in the parking lot or lobby when a receipt is not needed. Payments by credit/debit card can now be made at the window and processed by the customer without direct contact with staff.

The safety of our staff, citizens and visitors are top priority.

As we continue to take extra precautions to keep everyone safe, we ask you to adhere to the CDC guidelines by staying at least six (6) feet away from others and wear a mask if possible when visiting town facilities.

Thank you for your cooperation during this time as we all work together!

Volunteer Needed for Planning & Zoning Board

The Town of Burgaw is currently accepting applications for the Planning & Zoning Board to fill one (1) vacancy effective July 1, 2020. Applicant must reside within the town limits or is a qualified non-resident business or property owner. Applications may be downloaded on the town website at www.burgawnc.gov and submitted to the Town Clerk at kwells@burgawnc.gov.

Public Works Department

Emergency Response # 910-470-0457
On-call person this week is: Charles Hall

REMINDER:
This phone is only answered after hours, 4:30PM- 7:30AM and is for water and sewer emergencies only. Unless Public Works has been giving prior notice we cannot turn your water on due to non-payment shut off.
PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

- The Parks & Recreation worked this week to improve our local parks and playgrounds. Projects included painting the new mini library, cutting grass at Harrell Park, and planting new grass seed at the pocket park and Harrell park. Next week we will be improving the singles tennis court at Harrell Park as well as fixing up some existing landscape.

- This week we ordered 20 birdhouse kits to conduct our first summer camp activity. Birdhouses will be available at Town Hall on first come first serve basis beginning next week. A detailed list regarding summer camp activities will be released after further information is gathered from Governor Cooper’s executive orders.

- Looking to get out of the house for a little exercise? The Osgood Canal Greenway and Urban Trail is a 2.2 mile loop around the central portion of the town limits. The trail follows the Osgood Canal through town and offers walks through wooded areas along the canal, through urban areas in the downtown, connects to the schools located in town and offers the convenience of both passive parks and playground parks along the way. Get a copy of the trail map and enjoy a scenic walk around Burgaw!

- We also worked this week to begin making repairs to the ADA ramp at the Burgaw Train Depot. Existing wood has become rotted and in need of changing. We will be working with the contractor the next few days/weeks to improve the functionality of the existing ramp.

These events have been canceled due to COVID-19
Burgaw Gets Phone Service

The Depot in Burgaw had a telegraph system installed around 1851. This remained one of the main forms of long distance communication and in operation until the more modern phone system was installed and became popular. In 1902, installation of long distance lines between Wilmington and Raleigh by Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company began. The installation process was quick and progressed at the rate of approximately 2 miles per day. At the end of September 1902, phone lines had been installed from Rocky Point to Raleigh. It was touted that Rocky Point had access to talk to people in New York before people from Wilmington could. All that was lacking in a full connection was a two mile section in Castle Hayne where Southern Bell was having troubles acquiring the right-of-way over land owned by Sam Blossom. Phones had been installed in public locations in Rocky Point, Burgaw, Wallace, Rose Hill, Magnolia, Warsaw, Faison, Mt. Olive, Goldsboro and various other points headed to Raleigh. The locations where the phones were installed were known as “toll stations” and messenger boys were employed to locate persons who were wanted on the phone.

Phone service with toll stations in Wilmington were only meant to be temporary. Wilmington installed five sound proof booths – The Orton, Bonitz House, J. Hicks Buntings Pharmacy on Front Street, J. W. H. Fuch’s Drug Store and the Chamber of Commerce. On November 15, 1902 at 7 o’clock in the morning, Wilmington opened the long distance lines to the public. The line would have been open 2 weeks prior if not for trouble on the circuit. Southern Bell employees searched the entire line, from Goldsboro to Wilmington looking for the issue. They climbed every pole and finally located the issue three miles south of Rocky Point. Someone had “maliciously climbed one of the poles and attached an enunciator wire to the metallic circuit, run it down by the insulator to the arm, thence along the arm, and attached the wire to the ground wire running down the pole”. The circuit was grounded making long distance calls impossible. Another of the same issue was located three miles south of Burgaw. Once fixed, calls could be made to most major points east of the Mississippi River.

Rates at night were half the day time rate. Rates were collected in the toll stations by dropping coins into the slot. Each coin made a distinctive sound. The operators were trained to listen to the sounds and knew when correct change was placed in the toll station. If coins were dropped into the wrong slot, the operator would detect it and the person making the call would be out the money. Operators were held responsible for every cent deposited into the toll station cabinet and carefully listened to make sure correct change was placed in the correct slot. Each booth was outfitted with an oak cabinet with slots for coins in the denominations of $1.00, $.50, $.25, $.10 and $.05. Later, Southern Bell made changes to its Wilmington exchange and discontinued the booths and subscribers were to have their own phones.

It was not until 1906, that Burgaw received the capabilities of local phone service. W. D. Croom lobbied for the service and Southern Bell agreed to install 26 phones. Southern Bell further agreed to provide service to farmers and other out of town citizens within ten or fifteen miles in either direction as long as they agreed to construct and maintain the lines from their residence or place of business to a point one mile from the exchange. This made life easier for the farmers around Burgaw. This allowed for long distance connections from the growers and truckers to be in touch with the markets to which they shipped.

The monthly rates for this personal service was:
- Businesses - $2.00 to $2.50 per month
- Residences - $1.50 to $2.00 per month

These monthly fees did not include any long distance charges that were incurred. As the town grew in size, so did the need for a more wide spread phone system.
Make Nature Faces

Self-Portrait Art for Preschoolers (or all ages!) using Items Found in Nature

Turn a walk into a treasure hunt!

Looking for these treasures on your daily stroll through town can turn into a magical adventure!

- Grab a basket or bucket before heading out.
- Look around and collect unique nature treasures, such as grasses, flowers, leaves, sticks, buds, etc.
- Head back home, grab some glue, and make a fun self-portrait nature face on an oval shape piece of cardboard!
- Submit a picture of your piece of art for a prize!

ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN!

Send a picture of your completed Self-Portrait Nature Face to the Town Clerk at kwells@burgawnc.gov by 12 noon on Wednesday, June 10, 2020 for a chance to win a fun summer prize!

Send one (1) picture along with your name, address, and age (all ages can enter!). The photos will be judged by town staff and the winner will be announced in our newsletter issued on Friday, June 12, 2020.

SUMMER STORMS AND HURRICANE SEASON ARE HERE. SIGN UP TODAY TO RECEIVE WEATHER ALERTS!

Receive EMERGENCY ALERTS & IMPORTANT INFORMATION on the go with CodeRED!

Sign-up to receive alerts by text, call, and/or email today!

Visit BurgawNC.gov
RU OKAY?

Let the Burgaw Police Department check on your loved one!

We would like to remind the Town of Burgaw residents and family members of the RU Okay? program established by the Burgaw Police Department. The program calls individuals weekly to check their safety and security. The program is open to Burgaw residents who are elderly, shut ins, or just could use someone to check in on them throughout the week. Those individuals are also notified during inclement weather conditions such as hurricanes or ice storms of safety concerns. If you or a family member are interested in being added to the program, please contact the Burgaw Police Department at 910-259-4924.

IN AN EMERGENCY, CAN YOU BE FOUND?

Reflective Address Signs CAN SAVE LIVES!

Get yours today for only $10

See Customer Service to place your order. Ready for pick up within 1-2 days.

TOWN WIDE MOSQUITO SPRAYING

The weather is getting warmer and the mosquitos are starting to come around. We would like to remind our residents if you have beehives in the town limits, please let us know so we can keep your hives away from the mosquito spraying chemicals.

Call or email your name, address, and phone number to cabbood@burgawnc.gov so we can add your address to the ‘no-spray’ areas.

For questions or concerns, please call 259-2901.

Stay IN THE KNOW

We encourage everyone to enroll with “Notify Me” on our website to receive the weekly newsletter directly to your email and/or via text message. There are also options for enrolling to receive emergency notifications or when special events are added to our online calendar. For assistance, please contact the Town Clerk at 910-663-3441 or email kwells@burgawnc.gov.

Visit our website at BurgawNC.gov