

The Richlands Town Council held a public hearing in the Richlands Council Chambers on Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at 7:00 pm with following present:

Mayor: Janis White  
Town Manager: Tim Taylor  
Town Attorney: Brad Ratliff  
Town Clerk: Kelly Goodman  
Council Members: Joe McCracken, Larry Johnson, Doug Ratliff, Mary Ann Strong, Frances Meadows, and Rod Cury

Mayor White called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Mayor White asked for public comments. There were no public comments.

Tim Taylor went over the proposed budget. The Town of Richlands for the fiscal year of 2015-2016 proposes to adopt a tax rate of \$0.16 per \$100.00 of assessed valuation, which is the current rate. The town also proposes an electrical rate increase of 4.5 percent in collection rates per 1000 kilowatt hour's consumption.

Tim Taylor also stated that the wholesale power cost is 85 percent of the budget. AEP is constructing new power lines from Richlands to Whitewood and on into West Virginia. The cost to build those new lines are passed on to the customers. It is a 4.5 percent increase which is equal to 4.5 percent on \$100.00. He also stated that 1000 KW hour consumption is equal to 4.5 percent increase. Doug Ratliff stated that the increase will still be 15 percent lower than AEP. Tim Taylor stated that the actual percent is 18 percent, it is the second lowest in the state.

Tim Taylor stated that there will be no water and sewer rate increase for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. He also stated that most departments were challenged to reduce the budget. The 4.5 percent increase is to cover the cost of rates increased on the town.

Mayor White asked if any Council members had any comments.

Mary Ann Strong stated the town has no choice but to request the increase. She also commended Tim Taylor on explaining the proposed budget and wanted the public to know that while it wasn't easy, it was a necessity for the town.

Mayor White stated that she appreciates everyone and their hard work. She asked for a motion to close the hearing. Rod Cury made the motion, Joe McCracken seconded the motion. Vote, all in favor, 6/0. Motion carried.

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Jan White, Mayor

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Kelly Goodman, Clerk