**Town of Glen Alpine Board of Alderman**

**Regular Meeting minutes March 13, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**-Mayor Benfield called the meeting to order at 6pm

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**INVOCATION**-moment of silence

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**- Motion made by Miller to approve the agenda; Pass 5-0

**APPROVAL OF DEPT REPORTS**-Motion made by Perkins to approve Dept reports; Pass 5-0

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**-Motion made by Miller to approve minutes; Pass 5-0

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**Gary Meise:** First thing, the breakfast at the Methodist church has started back on the 2nd Saturday of every month. Second, his property value has increased, and the county is looking to lower taxes from .695 to .565. He states that Glen Alpine also has more houses. Mr. Meise says that the board should consider dropping the tax rate from .34 to .24, states that the Town will still be able to pay salaries and that if the board doesn’t the citizens will be upset. He asks that the board keep the senior citizens in mind. He goes on to say that people in Charlotte pay $327 (each resident) for law enforcement. If we have a million-dollar budget and the police budget is 300,000 that is a 1/3 of the budget. Cary NC is the safest city; their police budget is only 6%. “Something is out of kilter when we are paying 33% of our budget for police protection.”

**Tim Suttles:** Mr. Suttles states that his property value went up $170,000. The Town needs to lower the rate to break even, everyone is for bringing extra money in that is fine. “The other thing I’ve got to say is if you don’t want to do that, lets drop the name Glen Alpine, we will still be Glen Alpine, but won’t have to pay the taxes” He states that we and go back to Burke County because they stay up here 90% of the time talking to our officers. He goes on to say “If you want to raise taxes and rape us while you’re doing it you need to think about what the rest of the citizens are going to say when it comes time to come in here and make that decision.”

Mayor Benfield asked Mr. Suttles if the was still received $64,000 deferment on his taxes, Suttles responded with “No, I’m not, that’s not your business” Benfield said “it is a public thing, I was just asking you, if you’re entitled to it I hope you get it”

**Ronald Taylor:** Mr. Taylor has lived in Glen Alpine for 50 years and is on a fixed income, he is asking that the Town be fair and cut taxes 10-15 cents.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Fire Department Budget

**Storage options for FD equipment**-Fire Chief Marlowe has several options for storage and Helms is going Friday to look at another trailer.

**ARP sidewalks** -Helms is asking fellow board members for permission to get quotes on some sidewalk repair using ARP funds.

**Handicap ramp -**The handicap ramp beside the building needs to be repaved and wider in order to be ADA compliant, we have a bid of $6400 from Gehams Concrete

**Fonta Flora Trail**-Representatives from the Fonta Flora Trail will be here on 4/6/2023 asking for input from the community on where the trail should be located.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**GovDeal sales for Fire Department**-Chief Marlowe is requesting to sell items on GovDeals

**McNeilly property-**McNeilly Exterminating has sold the business and has an outdoor storage building and digital sign, they are asking if the Town would be interested in leasing the building/sign.

**Set date for budget retreat.**

**Community Yard Sale**-Possibility of hosting a community yard sale.

**ITEMS FOR DECISION:**

Fire Department Budget

**Storage options for FD equipment**-Motion made by Helms to use up to $6500 of ARP/Grant money for storage; Pass 5-0

**ARP sidewalks-**Motion made by Helms to get estimates for sidewalk repair; Pass 5-0

**Handicap ramp-**Motion made by Cox to accept bid and repair the ramp; Pass 5-0

**GovDeal sales for Fire Department-**Motion made by Cox to sell the items; Pass 5-0

**McNeilly property**-Motion made by Cox to request a contract from McNeilly; Pass 5-0

**Set date for budget retreat-**Motion made by Cox to have a retreat on 4/17/2023 at 6;30pm; Pass 5-0

**Motion made by Cox to adjourn at 7:03pm; Pass 5-0**