

4/22/2014

To: Town council members

From: Betty Wassmundt, council member

Re: Some things to think about regarding the budget

The Swap Shop:

The initial idea of a Swap Shop where citizens could leave usable items they no longer wanted so other citizens could make use of these, seemed like a really great idea and project, BUT, it didn't work out that way.

The project became messy so a volunteers came along to keep it organized. BUT, some volunteer used the time to select the best items to place in a private tag sale and another volunteer used the swap shop to take the best items for the Senior Center and Library tag sales. Maybe this is okay but some people think it's not in the spirit of the Swap Shop.

Of course, some citizens used the Swap Shop to dispose of junk. SO, management instituted a charge to leave items at the Swap Shop. This is not in the spirit of the Swap Shop.

Now, in this budget we are being asked to use citizen tax dollars to staff the Swap Shop.

I say close the Swap Shop. It's time to recognize that it just doesn't work the way it was supposed to.

Another fireman:

The Fire Department has been way over budget for several years and there has always been an excuse. Each year the new budget starts with an increase over the last one. I say no new firemen until we have the time and information to make an informed decision about the current operation of this department. How do other fire departments operate and what is their cost? Do my colleagues have such information? I would like the time to do some research on this.

There was talk in the past of closing one of the fire houses. This should be discussed again, seriously. I see there are plans for a ladder truck. Let's consider the impact of the ownership of that truck before we expand this department further.

I believe that this council has an obligation to the taxpayers of this town to review any, and all, new programs after a period of time. Our professional fire department has never had council review. I request an ad hoc committee to review the operation and finances of this department. No new firemen at this time.

New positions at Town Hall:

No new positions at this time.

An intern for the Town Manager is not necessary.

Regarding the new inland/wetlands position, we don't have sufficient information. I've requested further information and want to have time to assimilate it and to share it.

Maintenance of town roads:

This is a core function of government. People are complaining about the condition of their roads. Let's talk about this.