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NEWS

Pelahatchie

Good News You Can Use

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Town battling over budget continues

Special to Pelahatchie News

After the monthly Board meeting on July 6, the Board called special sessions on July 9, July 16 and July 23 to discuss finances. As of July 1, the Town had \$128,125.34 worth of bills, but only \$91,289.54 in the general fund to pay them. In the July 23 meeting, the Board transferred \$158,000 from the Enterprise Fund to General Fund to cover salaries and expenses.

"The Board voted at the last special session to transfer funds from the enterprise (which is sewer and water utility) to general to cover the bills," said Mayor Beechem. "The money that was used was the money we need to help get our lagoon updated, etc. to help out the town meet the new MDEQ mandates or at least get close to it. We are working on a grant so we won't have to increase residents' water bills again. We should hear about that grant in December. We are already behind on

the date for updates, but our timeline is what we submitted in to MDEQ, so they can see where we are."

"I asked Eddie (Jones) what about next month and the lagoon, and he said we will worry about it when we get there."

Jones, alderman-at-large, also said that

approval of the claims docket.

At the July 16 Board special session, the Board tabled the agenda item concerning budget and decided to discuss employee salaries at another time. The monthly payroll is approximately \$20,000. So, in order to pay the employees in July,

include re-evaluating staff and expenses. She said Pelahatchie only needs three to four full-time officers and four part-time, instead of seven, and that the Town pays health insurance of 6,000 each.

"We are a small town. We simply can't afford a chief for \$52,000 or maintenance for \$53,000," said Beechem. "We have to re-evaluate this thing. A town our size has one full time officer and four part time, and they don't overspend in expenses and they don't have excessive loans."

"They have been doing this for years, and this is why we have to always borrow," said the Mayor. "Until these loans that the previous administration accumulated are paid down or off. We pay out \$20,000 a month to MDA, and \$54,000 a year with \$16,000 more interest for a bond that was obtained in 2010 in the amount of \$950,000."

The budget has to be approved by September 15 for the new fiscal year beginning October 1.



Photo by Pelahatchie News

Pelahatchie's tagline is "The Place to Prosper," but right now the Town is having financial woes.

the Board transferred the funds from the Enterprise account, which the Mayor told them they could not do.

The Mayor's recommendations

the Board is not going to hire a clerk or part-time clerk at this time.

At the July 9 Board special session, the Board did not take action on the unpaid claims docket, which meant that the bills did not get paid. The only way the bills get paid is with the Board's

Rankin County School District 2020-2021 calendar

Special to Pelahatchie News

2020			
July 29-30	New Teacher Orientation	Jan. 5	Development/Student Holiday
Aug. 3-7	Professional Development	Jan. 7	Students Return/Begin Third Term
Aug. 10	First Day of School	Jan. 18	Report Cards Go Home
Sept. 7	School Holiday	Jan. 18	School Holiday
Sept. 10	Progress Reports	Feb. 4	Progress Reports
Oct. 9	End of First Term (44 Days)	Feb 15	School Holiday
Oct. 12	School Holiday	March 12	End of Third Term (47 Days)
Oct. 15	Report Cards Go Home	March 15-19	Spring Break
Nov. 12	Progress Reports	March 22	Begin Fourth Term
Nov. 23-27	Thanksgiving Holiday	March 25	Reports Cards Go Home
Dec. 15-18	Exams	April 2, 5	School Holiday
*Dec. 18	Reduced Day/End of Second Term (44 Days) (End of Sem. 88 Days)	April 15	Progress Reports
Dec. 21-31	Christmas Holiday	May 20-21	Exams
		May 24-25	Exams
		*May 25	Reduced Day/Student Last Day/End of Fourth Term (45 Days) (End of Sem. 92 Days)
		May 26	Last Teacher Day
			*Denotes Reduced Day
2021			
Jan. 1	Christmas Holiday		
Jan. 4	Professional		

See Dr. Townsend's letter to parents on page 5.

Jean Ross turns 95



Photo by Pelahatchie News

A drive-by was held on Saturday, July 18, to celebrate long-term Pelahatchie resident Jean Ross's birthday. Pictured with family and friends, (l to r) first row, are: Alderwoman Margie Warren and Jean Ross; and back row: Jamie Ross, Rebecca Ross, Knox Ross, Jr., son, and Deborah Stone of Tupelo, daughter.

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