

Town of West Jefferson - Board of Aldermen
Special Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2026 | 5:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Mayor Rusty Barr, Alderman Phil Absher, Alderman Brian Blanco, Alderman Calvin Green, Alderman David Miller, and Alderwoman Beth Shelton

Town Staff Present: Town Manager Brantley Price, Assistant Town Manager Rebecca Eldreth, Police Chief Bradley Jordan, Maintenance Supervisor Eric Miller, WWTP Superintendent Brandon Patrick, Fire Captain Josh Walters and Fire Captain Matt Lambert

At 5:00 p.m. Mayor Barr called to order the special meeting of the Board of Aldermen.

Special Session - Discussion of FY 2026-27 Budget.

Discussion of Revenues

- Property tax
- Tax Rate - \$0.35
- One penny equals \$42,218 in tax revenue

Discussion of Cost-of-Living Adjustment for Employees

- Social Security Increase 2026 – 2.8%
- 5% COLA for town employees was unanimously approved.

Administration - Town Manager Brantley Price reviewed the administrative requests for the budget. The noteworthy items discussed are as follows:

Health Insurance – BCBS (same coverage) – estimating a 10% increase over FY 25-26 - \$692.27/month (\$8307 annually) to \$761/month (\$9137 annually) – recommend keeping same benefits for employees

- Possible increase in property insurance
- Downtown Wi-Fi and Maintenance
- Christmas Decorations
- Garbage pickup
- Southern Software
- Nordic annual IT costs
- Two porta johns on North end of town (June-October)
- GE incentive
- Pay Study
- New server for town hall office
- Increasing Fee for Weekly Town Hall cleaning

Police - Police Chief Brad Jordan went over the proposed Police Department budget items which included the following:

- Uniforms
- Southern Software
- Training & Education
- Departmental supplies
 - Tasers (3)
 - Ballistic vests (3)
 - Replace 3 desktop computers
 - Miscellaneous equipment
- Body Cameras (4 more years)
- Flock Cameras
- Maintenance Repair vehicles
- Police Vehicle

Maintenance - Maintenance Supervisor Eric Miller discussed his proposed budget for the Maintenance Department, Streets, Park, and Cemetery. Items discussed include:

- Increase overtime money
- Small tools (includes shop battery vac, parts washer & drill press)
- Flowers on poles in planters unanimously approved
- downtown flowers/shrubs/mulch unanimously approved
- Storm Drain Boxes & tile replacement additional (School Ave)
Maintenance 163/221 Aesthetics project
- Paving –
 - Long St
 - Resurface Ridge Ave
- Sidewalk Repair – due to salt damage
 - Lifestore Bank
- Salt
- Welder
- Bucket for skid steer
- Steel to Replate Ton Beds
- Dump Trailer
- Snow Plow hoists
- Roof for maintenance shop
- Heat an additional bay for maintenance equipment
 - Insulation
 - Heater
 - Wall

Park

- New weed eaters
- Mulch playground
- Insulate/Heat lower park restrooms / Stain Shelters / replace damaged wood-replace roofing screws
- Bear Proof trash cans
- Relocate pipe storage lot to use area for parking

Cemetery

- Increase plot price from \$500 to \$800
 - Remaining plots for sale - 28

Fire Department

- Start providing Light Rescue Services – opens new grant opportunities
 - Required 8 certified – currently have 6 certified – have 4 taking training
 - Currently working with limited equipment until Rescue Squad responds
- OSFM Grant for supplies
 - Supplies (grant)
- 2 Zoll – Cardiac Monitors
- First Responder Equipment
- Dept Supplies
 - New Furniture
 - Misc Cleaning equipment
- Truck maintenance
 - Ladder 7 engine repairs – remove emissions – improve fuel & running conditions – stop overheating issues and rough idle
- Turnout Gear
- Hose and ladder testing
- Helicopter insurance
- New Pumper/Tanker (replace #5 – 1997 model)

FEMA – Capital Project - \$\$\$

- Complete all projects - \$1.3 million

Small Biz Grants - \$1.3 million

- Sidewalks
- Line Sewer lines
- Water tank project water plant

Golden Leaf Storm Water

- Maintenance and Park – designed and bid looking for additional funding
- Long St/Backstreet

State Budget

- Upgrade Greenfield Pump Station

AIA Grant/ARPA Funds

- Water
- Sewer

EDA/IDF Water Sewer Project

- New Well, Upgrade Headworks

Revenue Water/sewer

- Fund Balance

Water - WWTP Superintendent Brandon Patrick discussed items for the water and sewer budget which included:

- Increase funding for pipe and fittings due to price increases
- Extra Samples
- Misc. Parts for Filter Plant
- Training and Education
- Penalties and Fines
- Pressure Transducer
- Detention Tank Sensors
- Chemical Feed Pumps
- New Well Meters
- Extra SCADA Parts
- Ross Valves Maintenance
- Small Hand Tools
- SCADA upgrades
- Building and Grounds Extra
- Boots/Rubber Boots
- Mud pump
- Replace Roman Myers water line
- Well and Detention Pumps
- Filter Plant Pump
- Extend water line at Terrace
- Generators – wells (connect to natural gas)
- Engineering – projects – Oakwood Booster pumps
- Utility Services
 - West Tank maintenance
 - East Tank Maintenance

Sewer

- Penalties & Fines
- Training & Education
- 4" Trash Pump
- Core driller
- Jetter nozzles
- Backwash Pump for Filters
- Suction Hoses
- Small Hand Tools
- Blower Service
- Polymer/Landfill Tipping Fees
- Beaver Creek Pump Station
- UV Bulb replacement
- Belt Press Maintenance
- Boot/Rubber Boots
- Extra Sampling
- Upgrade tertiary Filters Controls/add to SCADA
- Belt Press Service Call
- Trailer Tires
- Reuse water pump
- Gear motor bar screen
- Gear motor clarifier
- Line sewer lines BC School RD
- Sewer line to cross 221 business at Dough Shed – possible new housing development behind NAPA – bore under 221 business
- High Drive 8" sewer line

Adjournment- With nothing further, Alderman Green made the motion to adjourn the special meeting. Alderman Absher seconded with a vote of 5-0 in favor.

Rusty Barr, Mayor

Rebecca Eldreth, Town Clerk