

THE ERWIN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BUDGET WORKSHOP

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2026 @ 9 A.M.

ERWIN MUNICIPAL BUILDING BOARD ROOM

AGENDA

- 1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**
 - a. INVOCATION**
 - b. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- 3. REVIEW OF MARCH 26, 2026 BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES**
- 4. DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED FY 2026-2027 BUDGET**
- 5. DISCUSSION OF CURRENT FY 2025-2026 BUDGET**
- 6. ADJOURNMENT**

ERWIN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES****MAY 28, 2026****ERWIN, NORTH CAROLINA**

The Board of Commissioners for the Town of Erwin with Mayor Baker presiding held its First Annual Budget Workshop for FY 2026-2027 in the Erwin Municipal Building Board Room on Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 9:00 A.M. in Erwin, North Carolina.

Board Members present were Mayor Randy Baker, Mayor Pro Tem Ricky Blackmon, and Commissioners Charles Byrd, David Nelson, Billy Turnage, and Alvester McKoy.

Board Member absent was Commissioner Timothy Marbell.

Town Manager Snow Bowden, Town Clerk Lauren Evans, and Finance Director Linda Williams were present.

Mayor Baker called the meeting to order at 9:10 A.M.

Commissioner McKoy gave the Invocation.

Finance Director Linda Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the agenda as presented and was seconded by Commissioner McKoy. **The Board voted unanimously.**

REVIEW OF MARCH 26, 2026 BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES

The Town Board reviewed the minutes. These minutes will be placed on the consent agenda for the Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting in June.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED FY 2026-2027 BUDGET

Town Manager Snow Bowden informed the Board that this was a very scaled-back version of the budget in line with potential SB 889. He had to use the previous year's ad valorem base and based it on conservative numbers. It did include a 3-cent tax increase. A 5-cent increase would be better, but he felt he could make a 3-cent increase work. Since he did not know the current ad valorem, revenues may increase. He stated the Budget included a 3% COLA, but no other salary increases were included. The only capital purchases were two new police cars, which were being paid for through a fund balance transfer. He cut back everything he could; this budget basically covered everything we needed to operate.

MINUTES CONTINUED FROM MAY 28, 2026

Discussion continued among the Board regarding the revenues.

Governing Board

Town Manager Snow Bowden stated there was nothing new in the Governing Board budget.

Mayor Baker verified we were not putting any funds in contingency.

Town Manager Snow Bowden stated he would be looking at putting some funds in contingency in the final budget when he has clear numbers. He stated that he did include miscellaneous funds, breaking it down by individual sponsorships: \$1,500 for Shop with a First Responder, \$500 for Lion's Club Vision Ball, \$4,000 for Employee Recognition/Citizen of the Month Award/Event, and \$5,000 for Miscellaneous Sponsorships.

Administration

Town Manager Snow Bowden stated there was a 3% COLA for all staff. Increased Health, Dental, and Vision. The only other difference was that the retirement rates went up. The computers discussed at our last budget workshop were cut from the proposal. No additional staff requested or additional raises.

Non-Departmental

Town Manager Snow Bowden stated that the biggest change in Non-Departmental was that he cut \$10,000 from the HRA transfer, which was originally estimated at \$25,000; this was the money we transferred to our HRA that funds our employee benefits card. The balance in the HRA account was healthy currently, and with the transfer this year, he felt we would get by. He trimmed back contracted services and cut the sponsorship request from Harnett County Economic Development. Workers' Comp was lower this year. This was a bare bones budget; we were only funding what we needed to operate. He included funds for Town Events and may be able to add additional funds when he had clear numbers. He planned to bring stage options to the Board at our June Board Meeting.

The Board discussed the events that are important to Erwin.

The consensus of the Board was to focus on the two main events, Erwin's Community Day and the 4th of July Event, rather than having a concert series. We will continue with our Gospel Sing and Christmas Events as well.

Town Manager Snow Bowden stated we can always amend the Budget when we see the final numbers as well.

Commissioner Nelson stated that the Gospel Groups for the Gospel Sing in October have requested more money this year, if we can add that into the budget.

MINUTES CONTINUED FROM MAY 28, 2026**Planning**

Town Manager Snow Bowden stated the biggest change in Planning was adding additional funds under Professional Services for the Engineer on Call. He changed the title of the Code Enforcement Officer to Code Compliance Officer. He slightly lowered the contracted services line item.

Powel Bill

Town Manager Snow Bowden stated there is a list of streets he had planned to get to this year. This budget includes \$480,000 for street resurfacing and an ADA transition plan. There was also \$5,000 for patching potholes, stone, gravel, and miscellaneous materials for street maintenance.

Mayor Baker asked whether Powell Bill funds could be used for the drainage issue at Porter Park. It was a can that continuously gets kicked down the road.

Town Manager Snow Bowden stated that we were working through the grant for Porter Park. That was one of the sites TRC was looking at for the Stormwater Project.

Police Department

Town Manager Snow Bowden stated that the biggest difference in this proposal from the last Budget Workshop was that he removed the two additional supervisor positions that were requested. This budget did not include any cuts, but it did include a 3% COLA for all full-time employees and two new Police cars.

Mayor Baker inquired about the vacant Corporal position and the software requests from the last Budget Workshop.

Town Manager Snow Bowden informed the Board that the Police Department was fully staffed, but the Corporal rank was vacant. He stated all the additional equipment was cut from this proposed budget.

Commissioner Byrd inquired about the vehicles the Town owned.

Town Manager Snow Bowden reminded the Board that they voted to replace two police cars each year so that we did not get behind.

The consensus of the Board was to continue purchasing two police cars every fiscal year.

Police SRO

Town Manager Snow Bowden stated that the majority of this budget was reimbursed by Harnett County per the three-year contract we have.

MINUTES CONTINUED FROM MAY 28, 2026**Fire Department (Contract)**

Town Manager Snow Bowden stated that this Budget was the contract we have with the Erwin Fire Department to lease our Town Employee to them. This budget included a 3% COLA for all 12 employees, the retirement rates are the same as a standard employee, and all costs are reimbursed 100% by the Erwin Fire Department.

Fire Department (Tax)

Town Manager Snow Bowden stated that Chief Blackmon informed him of a typo in the fire tax, and he would ensure it was fixed before the final budget.

EPW Admin

Town Manager Snow Bowden stated that this budget was for the general administration of Public Works. There was a request for a pressure washer, but it was not included in this budget. He brought it to the Board's attention that utility costs have increased.

EPW Streets

Town Manager Snow Bowden stated this was the Department we discussed adding a position to, but it was cut from this budget. The Street Department had 4 positions; 1 of the 4 positions was currently vacant. He stated he did not include the requested lawn mower for HWY 421 in this budget, but he would like to find a way to purchase it if we can come up with the revenues. We also bill our street lights through this department.

Commissioner Blackmon asked why this Department was not funded through the Powell Bill. You could not fund it all, but you could fund part of the department from the Powell Bill. It would free up money in the general fund.

Commissioner Nelson asked how much the mower cost.

Town Manager Snow Bowden stated that the mower was \$16,000.

Commissioner Blackmon recommended purchasing the lawn mower with Powell Bill funds.

Mayor Baker stated he does not want any of our departments to need a piece of equipment for safety, and the Board not fund it because we did not look hard enough to find the funding. We could use part of the Powell Bill fund, but we needed to be cautious because that was what we used to pave our streets with.

Commissioner McKoy stated that K Street had been closed a long time. This was another issue we have been kicking down the road. We need to permanently close it or fix the issue.

Mayor Baker stated he has had conversations with Representative Pike, and he has requested 1.2 million dollars from the State's Budget to help Erwin repair K Street.

MINUTES CONTINUED FROM MAY 28, 2026**EPW Sanitation**

Town Manager Snow Bowden stated there were no employees in this department, but this was the department where we bill our Sanitation contract with Liberty Waste and charge our Landfill tipping fees. Starting July 1st, Liberty will charge us \$7.92 per cart, but with the price of fuel, the pricing could increase. He is recommending that we charge \$8.50 per trash cart on our fee schedule to prepare for rising diesel costs.

Discussion continued among the Board.

The consensus of the Board was to put additional money in sanitation for diesel pricing. The Board directed Town Manager Snow Bowden to have a Plan A, which would keep the levy at \$.50, or Plan B with a \$0.05 increase, depending on pending legislation.

EPW Stormwater

Town Manager Snow Bowden stated that Stormwater was fully funded through the Stormwater fee. He provided the Board with an update on the Stormwater Management Plan. TRC was about 80% done with the plan, and he hoped to share the full Stormwater Management Plan with the Board soon. We will also present a Capital Improvement Plan to the Board to be funded through the Stormwater fee to help improve the ditches.

Recreation

Town Manager Snow Bowden stated that Recreation was pretty standard. We did not discuss adding anything to this department. As for the land we acquired behind the park, he planned to apply for a PARTF grant to build a bathroom and parking area. Recreation Director Doug Stevens asked for a new lawn mower and truck, but he did not include funding for those items.

Commissioner Nelson asked if teams were sponsored, then why did we allocate funding for uniforms?

Town Manager Snow Bowden explained that we do not bring in enough money to cover everything.

Mayor Baker inquired about Danny B. West under contracted services.

Town Manager Snow Bowden stated that we use Danny B. West to pay our Officials for games. He kept it in the Budget because even though it is \$2,000, it was less work on Town Staff.

Finance Director Linda Williams explained that Danny B. West handles all the Officials and their 1099s, versus her having to do it and making sure they have all the tax documents that they need.

MINUTES CONTINUED FROM MAY 28, 2026**Library**

Town Manager Snow Bowden stated that this department was a wash.

Community Building

Town Manager Snow Bowden stated this department would be adjusted once the final numbers come in. He was considering transferring funds from the Fund Balance or our savings to remodel the kitchen in the Community Building.

Fee Schedule

Town Manager Snow Bowden stated that when we set the rate for the garbage fee, fuel was a little bit lower. He planned to increase the fee for garbage in the final budget.

Mayor Baker recommended charging \$8.30 per trash cart to cover the cost of the cans and fuel surcharge.

Commissioner Byrd left at 10:45 AM.

Commissioner Blackmon recommended charging \$8.25 per trash cart and then a 5% surcharge or 2% admin fee.

Town Manager Snow Bowden stated there were minor increases in the fee schedule. The subdivision fees were increased. He added engineer cost fees for the Engineer on Call. He also increased the site plan fees, homes in floodplain fee, and the fees for the Planning Board/Board of Adjustments.

Mayor Baker stated he would like to require a traffic impact analysis study requirement for any large-scale developments on a Town-owned street at the cost of the developer.

Commissioner Blackmon stated we could charge for a driveway connection permit as well.

Final Comments

Commissioner McKoy stated he agreed with everything said at the meeting. He stated this was non-budget-related, but he wanted the Board to know that he was at Town Hall the day prior, and that every time he came to Town Hall, it was pleasurable. We are so fortunate to have the employee we have with the Town of Erwin. He enjoys working with the Board. It was special to sit around the table with men and women to find common ground and come out being friends.

Commissioner Turnage stated he was hoping Plan A would work out, but if it doesn't, we have a good Plan B. We had a good group working for Erwin.

MINUTES CONTINUED FROM MAY 28, 2026

Commissioner Nelson stated he agreed with everything said. He encouraged the leaders to show up to the Town events.

Mayor Baker stated this was his 25th budget and the 1st time having a Plan A and Plan B. He stated that Town Staff was the Town's most valued asset. He did not feel there was any wasteful spending of taxpayers' money. He commended Town Manager Snow Bowden on a well-done budget. He stated he looked forward to what's to come.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner McKoy made a motion to adjourn at 11:10 A.M. and was seconded by Commissioner Turnage. **The Board voted unanimously.**

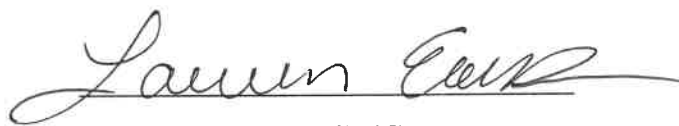
**MINUTES RECORDED AND TYPED BY
LAUREN EVANS TOWN CLERK**

ATTEST:



Randy Baker

Mayor



Lauren Evans, NCCMC

Town Clerk