

**SNEADS TOWN COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING  
June 3, 2025**

The Town Council of the Town of Sneads, Florida, met in a Special Meeting at the Sneads Town Hall on Tuesday June 3, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

Mike Weeks called the meeting to order the following present:

Mike Weeks, Angela Locke Tim Arnold,  
Kay Neel and Tim Perry, Council Members  
Daniel Cox, Attorney  
Bill Rentz, Town Manager  
Danielle Guy, City Clerk  
Jordan Knight, Deputy Clerk

**Invocation & Pledge Allegiance:** All

Police Department, Bill Rentz Presented a slide show of a Budget and Feasibility Study.  
Attorney Dan Cox spoke on the State Budget issues and stated that the State Budget should be out in July.

**Public Comments:**

Quinton Hollis	Stephanie Cook
Donna Tritz	Rev. James
Chris Roberts	Ron Mansfield
Jim Hamilton	Judy Lanier
Paul Daniels	Cloretha Dudley
Larry Dean	
Jason McCalpin	

Meeting was adjourned by Councilman Tim Arnold @ 6:44 P.M

Respectfully Submitted,

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**Jordan Knight, Deputy Clerk**

**APPROVED:**

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**MIKE WEEKS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

**TOWN OF SNEADS  
AGENDA**

**MEETING DATE AND TIME:** SPECIAL MEETING, JUNE 3, 2025, 5:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER: PRESIDENT, MIKE WEEKS  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
2. POLICE DEPARTMENT
3. ADJOURNMENT

### **Vehicles to Sell**

2009 Ford Crown Victoria 2FABP7BV5AX100545 #168 Tag #XH3227

2011 Ford Crown Victoria 2FABP7BV8BX152026 #282 Tag #XF6562

2016 Ford Explorer 1FM5K8AR1HGA04424 #405? Tag #XD8971

Needs to Have the Motor Replaced

2018 Dodge Charger Grey 2C3CDXAG7KH547601 #402 Tag #XD8969

This car is a money pit. We would be ahead of the game to sell it

2016 Ford Explorer Tan Unmarked 1FM5K7D88HGA73771 Tag #QCNR15

Should be sold. We will no longer use unmarked cars

1997 Ford Focus White Undercover Car 1FALP52U1VA229400 No Tag

Needs a Right Front Tire

### **Vehicle Requesting Permission to Donate**

2011 Chevrolet Tahoe K-9 Car 1GNLC2E04BR373184 Tag #XJ7477

Requesting Permission to Donate This Vehicle to Liberty County

### **Vehicles to Keep and Associated Repairs Needed**

2017 Ford Explorer 1FM5K8AR9HGC14057 Tag #XJ7478

Has New Stripe Package

Needs Water Pump Replaced Estimated Cost \$3000

Can't Locate Keys

2016 Ford Explorer #404 1FM5K8AR7HGA04427 Tag #XD8972

Needs to be Restriped

Needs Front End Work

2018 Ford Explorer #403 1FM5K8ARXKGA12626 Tag #XF6556

Needs to be Restriped

Needs Siren Repaired or Replaced

2016 Ford Taurus 1FAHP2L80GG122442 Tag #XJ7476

Has New Stripe Package

Needs to Have Radio Installed

Needs to Have Headlight Repaired

May Need a Battery

2017 Ford Expedition Brown VIN #1FMJU1GT8JEA30684 Tag #RKLD60

Has New Stripe Package

y

Needs Water Leak Fixed

Needs Exhaust Leak Fixed

2018 Ford Expedition White #1FMJU1GT4JEA30679 Tag #XL1735

Has New Stripe Package

Will not go in Reverse

# Town Manager Job Duties

(as listed in the job description)

- “Prepare the budget annually and to submit it to the Town Council and be responsible for its administration after adoption.”
- “Prepare and submit to the Town as of the end of the fiscal year a complete report on the finances and administration of the Town for the proceeding year.”
- “Keep the Town Council advised of the financial condition of the future needs of the town and make future recommendations as may seem appropriate.”
- “Submit annually to the Town a list of recommended capital improvements, which in the opinion of the manager are necessary or are desirable to be constructed during the forthcoming period, such a list is to be listed in order of preference, with recommendations as to which projects shall be constructed.”

## Town of Sneads General Budget

### Revenue Sources

Property Tax	195,647	State Revenue Sharing	130,839	County Recreation	7,789
Franchise Electric Fee	104,000	Mobile Home licenses	618	State DOT	15,500
Local Gov't Infrastructure	253,603	Alcoholic Beverage Licenses	1000	State Clinic Rent	1,200
Utility Tax- Electricity	183,500	Gen. Fund Carryover	44,754	Tax Collector Rent	13,000
Utility Tax-Propane	5,400	Sales Tax	115,530	Sales Surplus Property	2,000
Local Communications Tax	53,080	Fuel Tax Rebate	1,635	Jackson County School Board	8,295
Business Tax Receipts	6,000	County/Public Safety	30,500	Miscellaneous	71,038
Animal Control/Sanitation	9,800	Fines/Forfeitures	3,700	Police Education	235
Police Automation	1,030	Special Events	3,000	Total	1,262,693

## Expenditures from the General Fund (9 Departments)

- Administration
- Streets
- Volunteer Fire Department
- Fire/Rescue
- Sanitation/Mosquito Control
- Health Department
- Sneads Park
- Recreation
- Police Department

# 2025 BUDGET / FEASIBILITY STUDY

- During the budget review conducted in July of 2024, the Town was approximately \$350,000 in the red. Of that deficit, approximately \$200,000 was from the Water/Sewage account and \$150,000 from the General fund.
- The Water/Sewage deficit was largely due to the ACI fees for usage of the sewer. The contract had not been reviewed or increased in several years. This problem has been resolved by implementing a revised contract with the Department of Corrections and by the recent increase in water/sewage rates.
- The General fund budget deficit was due to the police raises and increased staffing using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The intent of these nonrecurring funds was to build an equitable economic recovery from the economic effects caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. **Using these nonrecurring funds for recurring salaries and raises has left the town without the means to pay these expenses in the future.** We have resolved this deficit by reducing police staff through attrition.



## 2025 Police Department Operating Expenses

Item	Amount
Salaries	350,143
Social Security	25,065
Retirement	100,632
Health Insurance	39,772
Professional Services	3,000
Dispatcher fee (JCSO)	21,090
Travel/Per Diem	500
Communications	10,000
Freight/Postage	300

Item	Amount
Repairs/Maintenance	12,500
Other expenses	3,500
Office Supplies	500
Operating Supplies	20,000
Memberships	300
Equipment	5,000
Utilities	5,000
Liability Insurance	90,000
Total	687,302

# **Budget Information**

The current town general budget is approximately \$1.2 million.

- The Police Department budget:
  - **Fiscal year 2024    \$732,853**
  - **Fiscal year 2025    \$687,302**

# Budget Concerns

FDLE is implementing a mandatory Cybersecurity update for ALL Police/Sheriff Departments, which will increase the Police Department budget by approximately **\$50,000** a year.

If the town had kept full time dispatchers, we would have to add **\$150,000** which would result in the Police Department budget increasing to **\$887,302** which would be **73%** of the Town's general fund budget.

Without dispatchers and with the Cyber security future increase, the Police Department budget will be **\$737,302**, which is **61%** of the General budget.

# Future Budget Concerns

- **DOGE – Department of Government Efficiency**

The Town of Sneads has submitted the first round of budgetary items requested by the Florida DOGE office, who is looking into how the Town is spending its money. They are looking for waste, duplication of resources, and inefficiency.

- **Property Taxes-** The Governor is pushing for abolishing property taxes, and this item is being reviewed to be placed on the 2026 ballot. It is uncertain what the future of these funds will be and what, if any, monies will replace them. The town received **\$195,000** in property tax revenue in 2025.

- **GRANTS-** The future of grants is uncertain due to federal and state DOGE efforts. All information received indicates a possible reduction in grant opportunities in the future. Grants have provided funds for the many projects in the Town of Sneads.

## Cities/Towns with No Police Department

<b>Town/City</b>	<b>Population</b>
Freeport	10,000
Calloway	13,890
Crawfordville	6,000
Cedar Grove	3,148 (2008)
Pace	30,000
Woodville	3,099
Century	1,713 (Substation)
Eastpoint	2,337
Wewahitchka	2,074 (Substation)
Malone	1,200
Baldwin	1,400
Bristol	1,000
Destin	14,354 (Contract with Sheriff's Dept.)
Vernon	800

Percentage of local General budgets for Police Departments listed below:

**Marianna 23%**

**Graceville 29 %**

**Chattahoochee 29%**

**Sneads 61 %**

If the citizens of the Town of Sneads funded the police department at full capacity, it would cost each household approximately \$75 per month.

Each town contacted indicated no crime increase and they were able to do more for their community with the increased funds!

## Additional Costs Incurred

Records for the Town of Sneads indicate that operating the police department has resulted in several lawsuits. Legal expenses resulting from police activity total **\$1.1 million** dollars over the past several years.

These expenditures have caused the Town's liability insurance to increase to **\$265,000** a year.

# Possible Solutions

#1 Keep the police department as it operates currently.

Pros	Cons
24-hour local coverage	Cost to town: 737,302 ; 61% of budget
	No funding for projects if grant opportunities are reduced.
	No funding for unexpected expenses such as vehicles, equipment repairs, infrastructure, etc.

Officer Retention

# Possible Solutions

#2

Disband the Police Department and turn Law enforcement responsibilities over to the Sheriff's Department.

Pros	Cons
Saves the town \$737,302	Reduced local coverage
Increased funding for town projects	Possible reduced response time
Increased funding reserve for unexpected expenses, such as vehicles, equipment repair, infrastructure, etc.	
Sheriff's Department uses town police building as a substation, which should increase JCSO deputies in town.	
Limits liability expenses	



# Possible Solutions

#3

Reduce the number of Sneads officers and let the Sheriff's Department cover remaining shifts.

Pros	Cons
Local coverage	Continued Operating Costs to Town; Example – dispatch fees, cybersecurity fee, car/liability insurance
	Less funding for other town projects

# Possible Solutions

#4

Contract with the Sheriff's Department for two officers who will be assigned to Sneads, and other sheriff's deputies will cover remaining shifts. The officers assigned to Sneads will work during the peak volume hours.

Pros	Cons
The Sheriff's Department will utilize the Town's Police building as a substation for the Sheriff's Department, putting deputies on this side of county.	Pay for two deputy salaries/benefits
Continue to have local coverage	Loss of 24-hour local coverage
Use of JCSO more sophisticated resources	
Eliminate liability	
Saves the town approximately \$500,000 a year.	