

SPECIAL TOWN COMMISSION/ BUDGET MEETING HELD AUG 11, 2014

Public Hearing/Budget Meeting of the Town of Ocean Ridge held on Monday, August 11, 2014, at 5:00 PM in the Town Hall Meeting Chambers.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pugh and roll call was answered by the following:

Commissioner Aaskov
Commissioner Allison
Commissioner Bonfiglio
Commissioner Lucibella
Mayor Pugh

PUBLIC

a. Comments from Commissioners and Public

Clerk Hancsak summarized the July 23rd Budget Meeting stating that no changes were made to the proposed budget but the Commission did request additional information. However after the budget distribution it was discovered that the Special Detail Pay expense was not offset with the anticipated revenue (\$10,000), the trade in for the 2000 Pickup Truck was not included in the revenue (\$2000) pending approval of the new truck purchase and the Rental Registration revenue would be too high (\$3000 now reduced to \$1500) if the Commission chooses to lower the cost to \$35 as discussed at the July Regular Meeting. Also at the direction of the Town Manager, the budget was revised to provide for increases of 2.5% effective October 1st for all employees already topped out instead of the proposed 3% on their anniversary as originally presented. The other employee's proposed increases of up to 5% on their anniversary dates remained the same. The revision reflects an overall personnel increase of \$5550. On August 5th staff was presented with the renewal rates for the existing Health Insurance, Short Term Disability, Life and AD&D, Long Term Disability, Dental and Vision coverage. The NHP Health Insurance renewal rates decreased 8.7% keeping the same plan. The STD, Life and LTD also had a rate reduction by changing to another company. Dental and Vision rates remained the same. The budget has been revised to reflect the decreases (\$31,428 total). These revenue/expenditure changes result in a \$25,878 decrease in expenditures, a \$10,500 increase in revenues with an overall reduction in the original surplus needed to balance the budget (\$36,378). With these changes the total expenditures instead of \$6,003,250 would be \$5,977,372, and the total Revenues instead of \$5,566,622 would be \$5,577,122. As a result the surplus needed to balance the budget would be \$400,250.

Public Comment

Gerry Magruder, 9 Ridge Blvd, was concerned that this budget did not reflect the purchase of cameras for the Town of Ocean Ridge in order to reduce the number of break-ins and crime.

Mayor Pugh stated that the purchase of cameras was a multi-agency project and that Chief Yannuzzi had been meeting/coordinating with other municipalities for almost a year. Even though the purchase of cameras is not in this budget, there is money in the General Fund and the budget could be amended to purchase cameras once approved.

Kristine DeHaseh, 29 Sabal Island Drive, requested that Ocean Ridge present a balanced budget. She was concerned with having to dip into the reserves each year in order to balance.

Zoanne Hennigan, 91 Island Dr. South, agreed with Mrs. DeHaseh and requested that the millage rate not be increased, as the Town's revenue would already increase from the increased property values. She also thanked the Commission for providing the budget details on line. She was not in favor of salary increases and requested that the Town stay within their means.

Manager Schenck stated that the Commission had requested some additional information regarding some of the proposed capital items. 1) Golf Cart – This would be a helpful asset to the Public Works. According to the Florida Statue, a municipal maintenance use of a golf cart is under different ruling from recreational carts. 2) Pickup Truck – the old truck went to the repair shop for a detailed estimate on the ball joints. The mechanic considered it dangerous to drive, and the repairs are almost \$1000. He could not get any other necessary repair estimates until we get it back from the shop. The truck has almost 100,000 road miles and serves as our only 4 wheel drive when we have heavy flooding or storms. He would let Chief Yannuzzi discuss the Home Alarm System and the Police Car Warranties.

Comments from the Commission

Mayor Pugh agreed with the Town Manager that the pickup truck was in disrepair and needed replaced. He was concerned that it might put the Town at risk if it wasn't. He also stated that just because the funds were in the budget, didn't mean that it had to be spent. Clerk Hancsak reminded the Commission that if they did not choose to purchase the new truck then \$3000 - \$5000 would need to be added for vehicle maintenance repairs.

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Chief Yannuzzi stated that the purchase and installation of cameras was an expansive project that would include private enterprise. Cameras would be placed at 2 locations in Ocean Ridge but additional cameras would be included along 12 miles of A1A and the Town's cost would be between \$60,000 - \$120,000. He had sent a draft letter to agencies to make a presentation. This would be discussed at our September meeting. At this time we have not set aside specific funds for this project until there is a final cost, and it would probably be funded from reserves. Comm. Aaskov asked if Lighthouse Point could come to Ocean Ridge and do a presentation. There was a discussion of a possible workshop in the fall.

Chief Yannuzzi stated that regarding the Alarm Monitoring System, he had been working with SIS from Orlando. In reviewing it, he had reduced 5 work stations to 2 and also decided to have in-house training. These changes would reduce the cost down by \$10,000. This system is a fully functional alarm system. The law requires for 2 calls out for alarm companies, however; our dispatch is immediately notified when an alarm was activated and an officer responds to all calls. He felt it was well worth the funds, and was needed as our old system is no longer usable.

Chief Yannuzzi stated that the extended vehicle warranties are for 60 months or 75,000 miles and the existing vehicles will exceed the mileage probably by the end of December. If the Commission chose to wait until a vehicle was down, before we ordered the replacement, it can take 6 months to receive the new patrol vehicle. This would place more wear/tear on the remaining vehicles and reduce the trade-in value of the broken vehicle. Since the existing police equipment for the Ford vehicles would become useless, the consensus was to keep the existing vehicles as long as possible.

Comm. Bonfiglio stated that unfortunately the Town had no control over the 4% minimum Fire/EMS Contract annual increase or other certain costs. However; he did state that he would be in favor of putting one patrol vehicle in the budget. Comm. Allison stated that the Town in the past has attempted to purchase 2 new vehicles every year if possible and rotate out the cars with the highest mileage.

Comm Allison stated that she was in favor of keeping the golf cart in the budget. Mayor Pugh stated that the Polaris ATV approved last year was supposed to serve both the maintenance and police department.

Comm. Lucibella was not in favor of the SIS program as he felt the price was too high. He was also concerned of potential programming issues with the new system, and felt that there were other systems available at a lower cost of \$20,000 that would be CAD system accessible.

The cost of an additional officer was also discussed, and it was noted that the average time to hire personnel takes 4-6 months, including background checks, physical, and psychological tests. Comm Lucibella stated that he felt the 35% increase in the police department budget was too much and he was not in favor of an additional police officer and all of the associated benefits. He added that the Town was adequately served and more stringent enforcement of existing laws would result in less enforcement. In support of the position, Chief Yannuzzi stated that devotion to code enforcement costs the town money and the officer's time. Comm Bonfiglio mentioned that there has been a recent increase in crime and an additional officer would allow for more flexibility for the shift coverage and provide additional patrols.

There was a consensus to remove the Golf Cart (\$3000), remove the 2 police vehicles (\$76,000), however; \$4000 additional funds were added to the repair and maintenance account for repairs to existing vehicles, and to budget only \$20,000 for the Alarm Monitoring System (reducing the budget by \$18,000). Removing the 2 vehicles also resulted in reducing the revenue by \$10,000 anticipated for the trade in of 2 vehicles.

The Tentative Budget Adoption Meeting/Regular Meeting immediately to follow is scheduled for Tuesday, September 9, 2014 at 5:01pm. The Final Budget Adoption is scheduled for September 16, 2014 at 5:01pm.

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Meeting adjourned at 6:07pm.

Attest By:

Town Clerk

Mayor Pugh

Commissioner Aaskov

Commissioner Allison

Commissioner Bonfiglio

Commissioner Lucibella