

MALABAR TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING
August 5, 2013 8:00 PM

This meeting of the Malabar Town Council was held at Town Hall at 2725 Malabar Road.

A. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 pm by Chair Steve Rivet, immediately following the RTCM. P&P were dispensed with and the attendees were the same:

B. COUNCIL:

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|-----------------------|------------------------|
| CHAIR: | STEVE RIVET |
| MAYOR/VICE-CHAIR: | CARL BEATTY |
| COUNCIL MEMBERS: | JIM MILUCKY |
| | WAYNE ABARE |
| | JEFF MCKNIGHT, excused |
| | MARISA ACQUAVIVA |
| TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: | BONILYN WILBANKS |
| TOWN CLERK/TREASURER: | DEBBY FRANKLIN |
| TOWN ATTORNEY | KARL BOHNE, excused |

Also present: Tom Miliore, PW Director and Dan Welton, acting Fire Chief.

C. WORKSHOP ACTION:

Chair asked Franklin to start at top level. Franklin said 1.7305 will give us the staffing and dump truck. It is a responsible budget and everything in it is needed. CM Wayne said they need some relief. He doesn't think it is unreasonable and he supports the budget as proposed fully.

TA said she did not include the 3% they have provided employees in the past. She was directed last year to not include it in the next budget. TA said she also did not provide for any raises. TA said they got 2% last year and the 3% for the FRS. Chair said they didn't have a raise for 4 years before last year.

Mayor said we should flat out buy dump truck from reserves rather than paying interest on a lease. He is for paying up front and then paying reserves back.

CM Jim said unless the Town of Malabar is trying to float a bond issue, having a comment like that in the audit report should not be a big deal. As long as the report is free from other issues like fraud. If that is not the case then it isn't necessarily a problem and we are in fact disclosing the reasoning behind the decision so we are more transparent. Cities use their own resources regularly if it benefits the citizens. Jim said top level – 1.7305 and there is a body in the budget you are not seeing. Jim said there are 4 persons. Didn't want us to do what the county does and reduce employment by a position that is not even currently filled.

Franklin explained that the accounting clerk position only did accounting and was intended for 10 hours a week max. The person we hired worked evenings and weekends and even took a laptop and worked from home. But she couldn't make the time commitment so she hasn't worked out and we need to search for another person. That position was never intended to be a regular daytime employee like a receptionist or to help with the phones or take citizen comments. This is a position that is budgeted and needs to be filled so we can get GL back in house.

CM Marisa said she has concerns and does not want to consider additional staff until the personnel issues are resolved.

CM Wayne said why put it in the bank. CM Wayne said he has talked to all the staff and they are under strain. They have some people they don't want to lose. These proposed positions are PT with no benefits.

He suggested they make a list on an easel of their top ten items. Franklin got easel out and CM Wayne asked TA what her top item:

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|-----|--|-------------|
| 1) | FT PW Lt Equip Operator | \$25,212.00 |
| 2) | PT Front Ofc (no benefits) | 15,000.00 |
| 3) | Increase Fire Chief Stipend by 6K | 14,000.00 |
| 4) | New Dump Truck (budget 5 yrs) | 14,000.00 |
| 5) | Pave Eva Lane from Malabar to Hall (1/2mi) | |
| 6) | Additional Lt FF w/ paid stipend | 14,000.00 |
| 7) | Contingency Fund in Departments | |
| 8) | Brk Hollow Bridge Repair (SW) | 120,000.00 |
| 9) | Tree Removal & Sidewalk Repair Brk Hollow | 10,000.00 |
| 10) | Town Hall Windows & Insul (Bldg Hardening) | 10,000.00 |
| 11) | PW Mezzanine (loft for storage to free flr area) | 15,000.00 |

CM Jim said he looked at his TRIM notice. He is not insensitive to staffing needs. CM Marisa says she feels the stress is also some personnel. People get paid thru lunches. There is some emotional aspect. She also feels there are some not pulling their weight and some that are over worked. Before we say we need more help, they should determine how the help is being used now.

CM Jim asked about the phone tree. Franklin said in 2005 she got authorization to put one, but we haven't been able to really utilize it. TA said citizens want person answering the phone.

CM Marisa asked about health care; it went up 5%. TA said she is still checking for family coverage. She will present alternatives. She also presented the analysis on the other cities pay.

Chair asked Tom to give overview of what 4 persons do in PW. Tom said there were 5 workers and the park mowing and grading was out sourced. Then last year council cut the mowing and the outside grading. He is back down to 3. CM Jim asked if they do the swales. Yes, and CM Jim said they are also responsible for all ditch maintenance.

CM Wayne asked about the dump truck. The dump truck they use is over 20 years and he would suggest they sell it for a couple grand and get rid of the other. It only gets 4mpg. New truck would be diesel, with AC and auto transmission.

CM Jim asked what else he wants. Tom said by hiring out park mowing he would not have the benefit of having another set of hands when needed for other jobs

Chief pay is 3/hr. TA said it would be nice. It is not a FT position but if you have a fire department you have to have someone in charge. It was never intended to be a salary.

CM Jim asked TA; Last budget was 235K for fire dept. Would the town be better off to play a Valkaria and ask residents to pony up and pay the difference. Can't increase the FD budget to the point it needs to be.

Wayne has been talking to Del Yonts of G-V. They pay .85 mills based on property value for fire service. Assessed based on type of property. However the County built the new fire station on Valkaria, has 24/7 coverage with 3 persons to jump on a fire truck. He is suggesting it may be time for Malabar to do the same.

Dan Welton submitted a speaker card and was called to podium. This is his 2nd stint as acting Fire Chief. Tried to maintain oversight with 2 Lts. But between them they had over 20 years of experience. This time

we have intermediate fire staff. Between the 4 of them they have only 10 years. It is difficult to keep them going. The Fire Chief's job since Chief Chuck has completely morphed and you really need someone there 30-40 hours a week. Dan said he works fulltime at Harris and although they have been very supportive, he can't put in an additional 40 hours at fire station.

Dan said this is a young group of people and without leadership they can easily slip. Wayne said they come in and then leave after training. Dan said that he encourages them to get jobs. Wayne asked how many are Malabar residents. Dan only. Brian is supportive. The citizens in Malabar want everything for nothing.

Dan said 4 out of 45 that are not certified. Over 75% of volunteers have some training .

Dan said if there is an immediate danger to life, FF do what they need to do.

Fire Chief's job, 35-40 hours a week. Doesn't know if 14K would be new number.

Next highest priority would be having a 5th Lt. They try and cover all the time. It is the nature of the business.

So these items on list are not in that number. Jim said if we add list except Eva and Dump Trucks budget is neutral. Mayor has been to many meetings and the retiring City Mgr in Melb. We should look at that.

Look at benefit pkg at regular council mtg.

Carl is suggesting that they have Atz to Jordan paved and use that as an alternative use. Wish list plus CIP identified by TA.

TA said we have a liability issue in Brook Hollow. TA explained the damage cause by tree roots.

Chair stated list is closed. No other additions. Do we intend to keep the same millage rate? Jim said we need to look at line items. Wayne said choice is go to the bank and use money. Jack up millage to 1.8900.

Marisa is proud of the way they cut the budget. That is not who we are in this town. This dream list is not possible. They need to look at their true needs vs. their wants.

Wayne said MSBU – they didn't mind doubling their millage. We get those services. Steve said it is good. Wayne said if they had more govt. more help more staff.

D. ADJOURNMENT

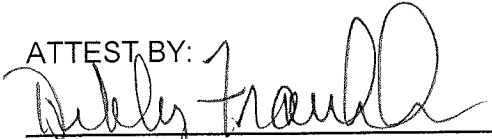
There being no further business to discuss,

MOTION: Beatty / Acquaviva to adjourn this meeting. **VOTE:** All Ayes. The meeting adjourned at 10:40PM.

BY:


Mayor Carl A. Beatty

ATTEST BY:


Debby K. Franklin, Town Clerk/Treasurer

8/19/13 as submitted
Date Approved