

MALABAR TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING
August 31, 2010 7:00 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 7:30 pm by Chair Thomas Eschenberg. The prayer and pledge were led by District 1 Council Member Nancy Borton.

B. ROLL CALL:

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| MAYOR/CHAIR | TOM ESCHENBERG |
| VICE-CHAIR: | JEFF MCKNIGHT |
| COUNCIL MEMBERS: | NANCY BORTON |
| | BRIAN VAIL |
| | STEVE RIVET |
| | MARISA ACQUAVIVA |
| TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: | BONILYN WILBANKS |
| TOWN CLERK/TREASURER: | DEBBY FRANKLIN |

Clerk noted for record that Council Member Rivet called and will be a little late.

Chair recessed the meeting at 7:30 to recognize Chief Joe Gianantonio's resignation from the Fire Department. Council Member Borton had bought a sheet cake decorated with a fire truck and wishing him well. Group enjoyed cake and coffee.

Chair called the meeting back into session at 7:40PM.

C. WORKSHOP ACTION:

1. Review 2010/2011 Fiscal Year (FY) Proposed Budget – 3rd Workshop

Mayor stated he also submitted a memo and his version of the budget with no tax increase.

He would like the TA to go through her budget first and then he will go thru his.

Revenues:

TA made only the changes per previous workshop.

Expenditures:

The main changes in each department are in the health and life. They are significant – 50% reduction in short/long/life insurance and 19% reduction in health. Town will be going to Cigna thru FMIT. Next year we will have to shop prices again because of the way the rates are done. This year we are rated as a small employer. Next year the rates will be based on age.

511 – Legislative

Moved money around so that four employees can go to SCLC annual dinner that we host.

512 – Executive,

Life and health only changes

513 – Finance and Administration,

Recalculated the WC and did adjusted Life and Health. Also clearer definitions throughout budget with dollar amounts bolded and clearer definitions to help the AP Clerk and Dept heads.

514 – Legal –

Left at 35K

We have money in Code Enf and labor dept and we can move them if we need to.

We have good luck with code compliance.

515 – Comp Plan

Comp plan amendments and ordinance dealing with those amendments.

519 – General Government

Computer IT company has reduced their price by 10%

Also included 3K for bonuses to those hourly mentioned before plus Tom and Blanca.

522 – FD

Adjusted for going to four part-timers.

Pricing for dental and life: we need 10 employees to get this rate and currently provide it to Chief Joe and will also offer it to the new Chief. Reduced the amount in physicals. Contrary to recent emails, Town is not removing the requirement for physicals; they will be putting the requirement on each volunteer. If they can't pay, it will be looked at on a case by case basis. Lowered IT costs to reflect 10% discount.

The FD budget was reduced because Asst Chief Welton removed 10,000.00 of non-essential items that they will try to pay for with donations. TA Wilbanks asked Dan Welton to provide her the list of items to be purchased by Friends of FD funding raising efforts.

524 – BD

Life and Health

Memo from Roger – Mayor wanted it in a different format and wanted the breakdown on each project. The 6K is a wash but the amounts for site plans should have a breakdown. The site plan fees for each new project is based on acreage of site. TA will get more detail.

539 – Public Works (PW)

Life and Health and FICA

541 – Streets and Roads (PW)

She took out the money for ditch spraying.

She left in the amount in for the Gradall – 60K and also requested formal quotes and until we have them both in, it is not proper to release the information. While she was out on vacation she had Franklin request from both vendors a uniform quote and only one company came in today. The other company will submit tomorrow. The direction TA got from Council – get price on rebuilding it and get a warranty. Now she understands that they are going to go through the quotes and take out items they don't think are needed. If that is done, you will not get the warranty.

Until we get quotes in from both vendors they won't be released. We don't want to tip one or the other vendors on the quotes.

We have rented the Gradall and we are cleaning ditches.

Great Southern understood the politics of this issue and said if after this is settled and if we go with the five year lease then he will honor his original deal and not charge us for the interim rental.

Adjusted the road millings.

572 – Parks

Changed the Dev Rec fees to 15K in case there is a project Park Board wants to recommend.

574 – Special Events

No changes.

Council had no questions.

Mayor referenced his memo and said he wrote a budget and had 21K left over and doesn't raise taxes. All you would have to do is take 28K out of expenses in order to not raise taxes. On revenues his and TA budgets are within 6K of each other.

He referenced the last page of his budget – it shows TA budget decreases the FD budget even with the new persons. He increases the FD budget because he feels they are under budgeted. He would like Council to add something back into the Fire Department.

Street and Roads – He is convinced that the Gradall can be rebuilt for less than the amount budgeted for the lease – he upped repair and maintenance to 52K to cover the rebuilding.

The other item is 541.6400 – he agrees that PW has been under funded over the years but the 70K for 001-541.6400 Dept is too much in these economic times. He thinks they should budget annually 25K for equipment replacement.

Mayor does not think there is not problem reducing the 28K.

TA said if the mower is taken off then they don't need the mower head. They can take it out and put difference into contingency. That would resolve the reduction request. She is offering that.

Borton said the money that is budgeted is because we have not taken care of our equipment and vehicles in the past. We will need more for repair if some is not replaced.

Rivet said he agreed with Mayor that 72K is too much in these economic times.

Borton said when the rains come; it would be easier to justify the expenses because people will want the drainage working. Then we end up paying more for repairs. McKnight said the drainage now is in the best shape it has ever been.

Mayor said please consider – the budget is tight. In his budget he every dept has contingency money allotted.

Borton said the Streets and Roads Department can't do fund raising. Mayor said they are up 21% and FD is reduced by 18%.

TA reminded Council that Asst Chief Welton cut 10K from their budget of non-essentials and hoped to get that stuff with donations from the Friends of the FD.

McKnight said the FD did not take a cut last year and that staff took a big cut.

Acquaviva asked Mayor if both his and TA budgeted provided for 4 part timers. Yes

TA reiterated of all the things she is willing to consider removing the tractor and head.

Rivet asked Council if they had consensus to not increase taxes. Yes. Rivet said TA has offered a method to get there. The difference between 42 K and 28K and put it into contingency. As for the FD and fundraising if they don't get money we could consider a mid year adjustment.

Borton stated that she worked with Franklin on FD costs and wants Council to consider asking the voters. McKnight said that with the recent issues with the fire department, people would make an emotional vote and it would not pass. Based on the current bad name with the issues.

Borton said the numbers may not be the deciding factor – she is saying find out which way is the best way to go to the next level – have someone there 24/7 to respond. Take the fire department to the next step and hire more people and fund with a dedicated millage like Cape Canaveral.

McKnight said the TBRB did a vote and it was unanimous vote to get rid of the FD and go with county. TA said the four part timers will provide staffed hours on each shift. They will be told the shift to work. They are not going to pick their own hours or shifts. The 4th person will be a relief person. Need to add a 5th person next year.

Rivet said we here tonight to do this budget – the future direction of the fire department is important but should be discussed at another meeting.

Franklin said for the record that setting the millage at 1.8000 would actually be a reduction of 4.42% of the rolled back rate of 1.8832.

Mayor said Borton's request is a good topic for an agenda item of the future. Acquaviva said it is a large portion of our budget, almost a third.

Borton said keep an open mind. She will work with Franklin and bring it to a future Council meeting.

McKnight said if the volunteers are getting training for free and are able to then go get a paid job elsewhere, they should have to be there on shifts like the paid fire fighters. He said with 40 volunteers, there should be no problem staffing the Fire Department. TA said it is hard to get the volunteers to do that – when Asst Chief Welton tried to move in that direction, there was big resistance.

Acquaviva said once they build up the Friends of FD and improve the image of the fire department and the volunteers will be there.

Mayor said he was told recently that we would not get a new Fire Chief for 9K. He gave history of paying the Fire Chief. He was on Council then. It started with Chief Chuck McClelland and Council approved paying him a \$100/wk to offset his loss from his towing business. He voted against it but it passed. He feels there would be no problem getting a new Fire Chief for no salary. He has no problem with paying the Chief.

TA said the two people she has talked to about the fire chief position told her they were retired and they just wanted to do the job to give back to community and to stay active in fire service. She also said some retirees don't get health insurance and the 9K would help pay for it.

Rivet said it sounded like they were all in agreement to remove 28K from budget and not have to raise the millage rate. The difference would come out of 541.6400: take out the 9K and 34,688K (43,688.00) and minus off the 28K and put the difference 541.4920 contingency.

McKnight said the two major points with him are FD and Streets and Roads. McKnight liked TA's budget for Fire Dept and Mayor's budget for Streets and Roads.

Mayor had one more comment for Council. He said he budgeted 5K for spraying and we could take it out of contingency.

TA said his budget also reduced road grading. TA said we should sell the grader and outsource the grading. Mayor said we should train two employees to grade and use our grader. McKnight said we should not be mowing any ROWs. He wanted this for an agenda item for a Council meeting when the Brook Hollow issue came up. Franklin will put it on next agenda.

Mayor said during their Eagle Patrol he and his partner look at roads and "grade" them. There are many roads that have millings and they need more millings. TA said they were not put down properly originally. When the Town started using the millings, they were supposed to mix and compact using a vibratory roller and that taken off the budget. The millings are laid and then vehicles tires spit them around. They need to get the vibratory roller. McKnight said you don't need to buy it – you need to rent it. TA said one of the roads he upgraded to "B" had just been graded the day before. (Reese Road)

Acquaviva asked Mayor that the amount in his budget provided for the Gradall to be rebuilt. Yes. TA said her direction was to get a warranty on the rebuild. Vail asked about the warranty length and he said it was important and should be for at least five years. TA said she did not think anyone would give us a five year lease.

Acquaviva asked for Council agreement that they all want to rebuild it like new. Yes.

Vail said the slope of our ditches are not conducive to spraying. If you get rid of the root matter, you will have major erosion issues and the Gradall will be busier than ever. TA said we are restoring ditches and doing it in sections. It was not done properly before. Vail said sometimes it was a right of way issue. Rivet said his ditch is twice as wide and three times as deep as it was when he bought his property.

Rivet said maybe we should have road and drainage workshop in the future to discuss these issues.

McKnight asked for a Council show of hands on TA's FD budget – unanimous. He asked for a show of hand on the TA's budget for Streets and Roads – Acquaviva, Borton and Rivet. Acquaviva stated it is difficult to be definitive until they know about the Gradall.

Mayor said his big issue was to hold the millage rate at the current level. Mayor said spraying is important.

Rivet we have a balanced budget – say mission accomplished. McKnight said he is pleased.

D. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, **MOTION:** Borton / Rivet to adjourn this meeting. **VOTE:** All **Ayes.** The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

BY: Thomas M. Eschenberg
Mayor Thomas M. Eschenberg, Chair

ATTEST BY:

Debby K. Franklin
Debby Franklin, Town Clerk

9/7/2010
Date Approved