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MALABAR TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING
August 18, 2009 7:30 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 5 Council Member Patricia Dezman.

B. ROLL CALL:

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

C. WORKSHOP ACTION:

1. Consider recommendations from Taxpayer Budget Review Board

Mayor thanked members of Taxpayer Budget Review Board for their efforts. Council is also grateful for your efforts. Some of their recommendations are worthy of their attention. This is the second Budget workshop. Normally, at workshop, the public doesn't speak, but Chair said they can speak now before Council considers the budget line items.

Bud Ryan, Howell Lane, particular interest to him, is the annual cost of millings and the condition of roads. His street has millings. Famous one is Eva Lane which is a washboard. Millings have to be laid down properly or they just wash away. Best solutions, sub-contracting this part of the maintenance. This would free up PW to do mowing. The need for replacement millings would go down. For that reason, please consider outsourcing that work. Just looking to allocate funds in a better way. Doesn't want this to cause anyone to lose any jobs.

Mayor said he met with BWF and Franklin today and then went home and finalized his own budget. He handed it out. Bonnie and Debby have to share one. Bud Ryan added he thought we could sell the grader. No, it is still used for other roads.

John Seybold, nominated as speaker for Taxpayer Budget Review Board. He got the recommendations on paper. It is not necessarily all clear. If Council had any questions, this might be an opportunity to clear it up. There was a unanimous feeling of committee to back off the ad valorem and trim the budget. Even within the TBRB meeting room, people had different priorities. Seybold asked for questions. Most of the items were self-explanatory. Seybold emphasized that these were recommendations for the Council consideration.

McKnight suggested Seybold summarize the recommendations and then Council could ask questions. Council agreed. Seybold said the TBRB commended staff for their efforts to reduce budget.

First – not raise ad valorem this year and then fund contingency. They wanted to go back to the base line.

Mayor stated that many years ago there was a referendum to set millage at 1.5. When was that? Franklin said that the past millage rates from 1999 – 2003 ranged from 1.4184 to 1.7642; the referendum setting the millage at 1.5 was done in the 1980's to build the fire dept building. No referendum since then regarding millage.

Seybold said they discussed combining the total lease payments or stretching out the payback period. Seybold said town has good rates now. Something like trucks, that have long life, perhaps we could stretch out the pay off period for a lower annual payment.

Bob Rowan said they mean that if they save 10K then that would go to reduce the ad valorem tax rate.

Franklin said that she asked Riverside NB to provide an estimate to combine the total leased amount and they came back that our current rates are better than what they could only offer - between 7-8%. Our current rates are better. The FLC also offers the loan program if we get in the pool. Franklin said that she offered this to Council last year to combine all debt and purchase the property next door and participate in the FLC bond loan. BWF said it is offered in April. It required a minimum of 1 mil in debt to finance. Council directed we contact them for an updated offer. Refinance all the debt the Town has and contact FLC to get into the pooled loan. Staff will pursue next time it is opened. FLC offers this to all municipalities and then the rate is determined based on the total bond.

Dezman said we should go by bullet by bullet through the TBRB recommendations:

#1 to be determined at end of review

#2 look into in April -

#3 explore outsourcing –

a. particularly the IT services, seemed a little steep. Maybe there are some competitors that would like to offer lower rates. Or perhaps netDirective would consider lowering. BWF stated they also host our email, not just repair the computers, they understand the government requirement, and the archiving aspect. Mayor said does it make sense to go out for bid and check prices. Dezman said it is not a good idea. netDirective understands government requirements. Vail said that he looks at the bills; a lot has been repair and replacement. A lot of billing is backup replacement. There has been a lot of moving of equipment.

BWF stated she will set up a RFQ for IT services, but if someone comes in a low balls and then it could cost us more when it is said in done.

Rivet said that we should tell them that we want this year to get another 10% discount.

Bob Rowan said the company also donated a lot throughout the county. Dezman said they were there in .5 hour. Rowan said they put in a complete phone system at the fire department. Mayor asked if there was someone capable of doing a RFP. If it goes out, maybe netDirective will reduce by 10%. BWF said it will be hard to get it done and

Dezman said be careful – we don't want to loose what we have with all the new changes and staff's ability to go back and find stuff. Vail said they won't put anyone in jeopardy.

b. where do we get fuel – we get it from the county without fuel taxes.

c. cut costs of outsourced services. Is it time to look at them for competitive rates – Mayor asked Dan or Joe for an example. The radios – there is only one vendor and there is no competition. Bill said the physicals, but that was aggressively bid. BWF said maybe for the repairs and maintenance. Do they want an RFP for that? Mayor said the FD will answer that and see if they can change outsource. Dan said they have recently changed to a local repair guy for some of the vehicles instead of getting the guy from Lakeland.

Dezman asked how many computers the FD has – 7 on server and 2 stand alone. Is there a way to call out two levels of service – the level of service on TH computers than the FD. BWF said the depth of protection is a cost. BWF said the peace of mind that it is monitored. BWF told about the added fire wall they bought for \$695.00 because someone got through the firewall.

#4 Yes – Mayor said he said it was for improvements. The legal opinion states it can be used for maintenance. Vail said the intent was to expand the parks. Much discussion. Vail said it was to enhance recreation. John Seybold said it was either 11 to 1 or unanimous amongst the TBRB. He said the board referenced some shell that was in soccer field. The soccer field was retrofitted. Franklin explained that a FRDAP grant was revised to provide for a complete retro of the soccer field because proper fill wasn't used when it was first installed. The town was also supposed to use the special 404 sod for the soccer field but that was changed and regular grass was purchased. There is a soccer team and a baseball team that use the park seasonally and pay for that. Mayor said bring it to Park Board and report back on their feeling on using developer recreational fees for maintenance. John said using the monies to leverage more money from grants was a good idea.

#5 instead of buying the netting, can they change the layout of the pins? Send to Park Board. McKnight said he may have some netting to use for the park. 25x by 80 feet. He will check into it and let Franklin know.

#6 Look at contracting road work out, like Bud Ryan said. They did not know if that would be better, but in a lean year, you can defer payments. Streets and Roads is the largest department in the budget. This will go on a future Council agenda.

#7 Not sure about the building permit fees.

#8 a.

b. FD training fees,

c. possible vending machine in the park to get revenue. – Have Park Board look at this. Have a contractor handle the machines. They are used a lot in the rest areas.

#9 FD is the second largest item in the budget. How do we compare with other cities of same size. The Fire Dept may be more than we can afford. What is the parody. No one was in favor of not having a FD. Even a 5 or 10% cut would have a tremendous affect.

#10 The fall festival, could the Park and Recreation Board run this so it would not take staff hours. They thought it could be fruitful. Ask the Park Board for feedback.

#11 the car allowance – using Town vehicle instead of car allowance. Town Administrator is per contract but we could consider for the Building Official. Have him use the Isuzu.

#12 cell phone service – gave example of wife's getting a second phone – BWF said with the new government rate and just got it refigured. Vail said the monthly amount is not much.

#13 park mowing - use the people and equipment we have and would it save any money. BWF said the contract was to 28K with no benefits. Vail said the idea was for staff to do the mowing. BWF said it takes PW five hours to mow the Disc Park.

End of review of TBRB comments.

Vail said thanks to all of them. John Seybold said it got people involved.

Cell tower – we get revenue of 1200/month. We would get an additional \$200.00 for each platform.

BWF gave overview of the questions the Mayor had.

BPs is based on MIMA expansion, AAA Storage to add 2 buildings, Ken Adams Storage expansion, and four single family homes.

BWF explained that every quarter they assess where they are. They think that is a solid number. She explained the 10K will be renamed the Fee instead of escrow and there will be an offsetting cost on the other side.

The other area, is the unemployment area in 512 and 541.

Expenditures:

511 – Legislative

No other questions.

512 – Executive

Only unemployment – was verified

No other questions.

513 – Finance and Administration,

We will break this out between the auditor and accountant – we will be adding 3210 for one of them to be tracked.

No other questions.

514 – legal

Should we lower Special Master – we have only spent 125.00 this year. It also covers if we need to use it for the lawsuit.

515 – Comp Plan

No change

519 – General Government

4300 – the electric will be reduced to \$3500.00. The security system is not necessary. Mayor said we should put in smoke alarm system. McKnight said put the 372 back in there for security. Recoup that by zeroing out McKnight's contingency fund.

We had 18,595 in contingency and from the budget summary, take it out now and reduce ad valorem to 1.7004 and take from contingency. There is a consensus to move the millage rate to 1.7004. So start there.

Rivet likes the 397276 that 1.7004 will bring in and he likes the Mayor's number better - 1.6 McKnight also likes the 1.7004 but wants to see more of a cut.

522 – FD

1500 The special pay has been reduced to 11K – the difference of 10K will go into 524.4910

Also added 5110 – fire academy office supplies – they provided estimate of 4455.00 and they put in 5K

Also will have a reduction in the copier cost and will be saving on both the copier at FD and TH.

3480 –the Fire Chief Joe Gianantonio will verify that number – no answer yet.

3470 – price is based on per radio cost. Last budget it was \$110.00 per radio. We were paying for extra radios. Dan said the number has been reduced. Dan contacted Lisa and will get final inventory to her. Dan will copy Franklin with the form that reduced the rates.

McKnight asked if the FD can reduce any more. The training – could they make a profit. 10K for rev and 5K for expenses and also consider the cost of the trainer for these courses.

BWF said you could reduce the doors. No. Borton asked Chief if we can take anything else off. Not really.

Dezman asked if FD could review and see if they could cut more and get back to BWF.

Mayor said using the amended budget is only up 8K from last year. McKnight said that is why he is saying they need to cut more. Town has cut severely. Vail asked how much last year was to bring the FD up to current requirements – and standards had to be met and then those costs would be reduced. The ladder truck needed to be outfitted, certain vehicles had to be brought up to standards and then the costs would be reduced. Dan said we haven't spent any money on ladder truck for next year, no computer for next year. Dan will look where the fire software of 950.00 is coming from. McKnight said he hates picking on FD but the economy is bad and costs need to be reduced. FD is a big department.

Mayor said each Council person should stop by station on a Saturday and see what they do. Mayor has met with Joe and seen the other needs and then they can make their own judgment call. Dezman said how to justify it when there is fire or emergency. The budget is the plan for what you want to spend. McKnight said my kids would be safer in Mercedes Benz and he can't afford it. We also may be approaching the Mercedes Benz of the Fire Department. Borton said make the corporation to pay more of the equipment. Franklin said that IHB and Melb Bch corporations pay for the new vehicles. Dan said they are only a voluntary FD.

5200 – will be broken out to show the fuel. So we will add a 5210.

524 – BD

4910 will be added for 10K

Definition change on 4100

Change car allowance to zero and have him use the Isuzu. Put in 1000.00 into per diem to cover mileage.

Bill said what they were saying is the Town has a vehicle that sits there. Why are you using a private vehicle? Someone said he carries his own ladder. Bill said an inspector is not supposed to get on a roof. He can climb up to a roof. You don't give the allowance. They use of the vehicle could be coordinated with the other people that use it. Franklin said his hours were cut in half this budget year. Rivet said the TBRB said use the Isuzu and give no car allowance. Zero out the car allowance. That is 3200 bucks. Buy the gorilla ladder for \$75.00.

Coordinate the engineer trips to town with all departments to save money as he charges .445 per mile in addition to his hourly rate. BWF will do a letter of interest. BWF said Bill wants to retire and that may be different because of the economy. She will look into it.

539 – Public Works (PW)

No changes

541 – Streets and Roads

Verified unemployment comp

Regarding millings, she can piggy back on G-V and got confirmation from their Mayor that they are holding them to the same prices. We would have to decide how often we would want him to grade the roads. Eva and Duncil and Quarterman – they all need to be reviewed. Vail said if we could it stabilized. If we went to private contractor it would take a while to get them into shape. We aren't buying the good stuff. The stuff we get has no tar left in it. We had CDM look at it and he could provide better product from CDM. Leave it in for now. Vail said there is too much speculation. Add a line item for CDM where would it come out. We may not need 35K of millings if we roll the roads properly. McKnight asked if we go straight to FDOT and have them drop the millings.

We can call FDOT and see if there is a chance.

If we can get the water tank so we can spray the roads with the polymer.

572 – Parks

We added the well inspection

The 4920 the 2000 was for them to work on 17-acre site. Mayor said developer recreation fee is for the improvement of the parks, it was not the intent to use the funds for maintenance. Borton and Franklin said that we did have a legal opinion. Franklin summarized the legal opinion. Franklin said the Park Board did not find a recreational angle for the fence at Cameron Preserve. That is why they asked to have hog issues tracked so they could document the need. Vail said drop the fencing and the netting. Dezman said put it in legal fees. Mayor said the electric fence was a suggestion of a resident. Mayor said we have money in contingency, can you kick in 1500 of your own. Equal cost share. McKnight said what about the other property owners. It is not our responsibility. Dezman said we are going to spend 5000 for netting. Take out the 1000 also.

Use 4930 and put the \$9,000.00 – put it in a contingency for a project to be specified.

Mayor said his budget showed a 13,000 of extra money or go towards contingency. McKnight likes Mayor’s budget and would also like to see Franklin and BWF comments on his budget. Send all comments to Council.

574 – Special Events

D. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, **MOTION: Dezman / Vail to adjourn this meeting. VOTE: All Ayes.** The meeting adjourned at 10:30 PM.

BY: _____
Mayor Thomas M. Eschenberg, Chair

ATTEST BY:

Debby Franklin, Town Clerk

Date Approved