

**MALABAR TOWN COUNCIL  
TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES  
August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, 7:30 PM**

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Council Chair Mayor Patrick T. Reilly called meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Mayor Reilly led P&P.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

CHAIR:

MAYOR PATRICK T. REILLY

VICE CHAIR:

STEVE RIVET

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

MARISA ACQUAVIVA

BRIAN VAIL

DAVID SCARDINO

MARY HOFMEISTER

TOWN MANAGER:

MATT STINNETT

DEPUTY CLERK/TREASURER:

RICHARD KOHLER

**3. WORKSHOP ACTION:**

**a. Draft Budget Presentation**

TM Stinnett began by discussing the significant changes since the last budget. We have raised the millage rate to 4.5. We have increased 513 to include a new government accounting system, additional funds in 514, 541 to add 2 Million with a loan, but a longer loan can increase the payout. \$200k in 522 to pay off Engine 99 in the next Fiscal Year. There will be a need to replace the tender in a few years as well. The FD employees have received a 10% raise to match the rest of town staff. That leaves over \$200k to be allotted, he recommends streets and roads and stormwater. With the loan and ARPA funds, we can spend around \$2 million this coming year.

Mayor referenced that we have spent \$180k in this year, and now were going to 2 million. If we drop our millage, would we lose that money? TM states that is mostly from debt services. Mayor states we will use it on infrastructure projects.

CM Vail states that at the last meeting we discussed the surplus allotted from a 4.5 millage rate. We need shovel ready projects for grants, and we can accomplish some by cash. We are not in a hurry to close on a loan, but the additional \$600k would go towards repairing paved roads.

CM Acquaviva states she may support an increase, but only if it is used to get a roads assessment to improve our roads. CM Vail agrees.

CM Scardino asks how many years it will take to complete the repaving? CM Vail states it is unknown. Once we get the assessment, it will clear up the picture. The residents he has discussed this with have all supported putting the money into roads. CM Scardino asks if there is a cost per liner foot number?

CM Acquaviva states she discussed using ARPA funds to pay for the roads assessment. The plan is in the works. TM Stinnett states the biggest costs will be tonnage and mobilization. Grant Valkaria is planning to repave the southern portion of Corey Rd, but they have not received the estimate. CM Vail states the cost of asphalt is directly related to the cost of oil. CM Scardino asks when we could see an estimate? TM Stinnett states he has been told it was expected 2 weeks ago. He will update Council when it comes in. CM Rivet states it is likely to be a shockingly high number.

CM Scardino states we are years behind where we need to be. CM Acquaviva states the paving assessment SPM Morrell is working on will help. She is very please with the

progress she has seen. We won't raise the taxes to a point that we can pave all these roads today.

TM Stinnett states the amount in the budget is not enough to get it all done. This is a good kick start. Once we get the funds, we can have a workshop to plan the spending and implementation. This is a good start.

CM Rivet states when we get the assessment, we will likely learn we are 15 years from completion. We are so far behind, we need to raise the millage to the max.

Mayor states we have asked the people what they think with a referendum question.

CM Acquaviva states she has never been a part of a Council that is doubling peoples' taxes, but if we do this right, she believes the residents will support it.

CM Vail states everyone he has talked to has been in support of raising the millage. He estimates he has spoke to 15 people, and all supported it.

CM Acquaviva states she wishes to speak about personnel costs. We will negotiate a Clerk salary, a Treasurer salary, and a front desk person. She feels the TM position should be increased.

CM Scardino stated that many Town Halls he has been to don't have a front desk person.

Deputy Clerk Kohler stated that a Deputy Clerk can be a front desk person. He has acted in that role since the Administrative Assistant position was vacated several months ago.

CM Rivet states he agrees. He would like to shift the conversation to the TM salary.

CM Acquaviva states her appreciation for TM Stinnett, and all his dedication to our Nation and our Town.

CM Vail states employee retention is an important aspect, and we should pay accordingly.

CM Hofmeister asks why we don't do performance reviews?

Mayor stated Council voted in 2018 to stop reviews.

CM Hofmeister states she has an issue with the lack of reviews and feels the Clerk position should be readvertised.

CM Acquaviva states the fact that we don't review people is ridiculous. We don't know employee's attendance records and such. CM Rivet suggests it be brought forward as an agenda item.

CM Scardino asks what we should pay the TM. CM Vail suggests \$80k. CM Acquaviva suggests \$100k. Mayor states the pay is dedicated to experience. We can't judge our pay based on non-equal peer cities.

CM Acquaviva states we just hired a Clerk with no experience. Matt is the longest tenured employee behind Ms. Franklin and Ms. Sherear, having served since 2018. She doesn't understand it. We have given out high salaries to outside people coming in, and we should hold it true for our tenured employees.

CM Scardino suggests \$85k. CM Vail and Rivet agree.

CM Hofmeister suggests \$86k, and CM Acquaviva supports it. CM Hofmeister states depending on the Clerk and Treasurer salary maybe more. Consensus is reached at \$86k.

CM Scardino reminds Council that the review process happens every week, as these positions serve at Council's pleasure.

Mayor asks for more information on the 10% raise for FD. CM Scardino states it is realistic if they don't go higher. CM Vail states we gave everyone else 10%, its only fair. TM Stinnett states he has spoken to the FD, and we are on the same page. CM Vail states we have many dedicated Fire Fighters. They have been dedicated employees, often starting as volunteers. CM Rivet states he is pleased that the unionization has been a good change. CM Vail states it helped with training, supplies and comradery. CM Acquaviva states she remembers when we were a training ground, and its good to have long term dedicated employees. CM Vail states that 3 area big department chiefs started as volunteers here in Malabar.

CM Vail states this year we have \$600k set aside for paving projects, and he wants to see that continue year after year. CM Scardino agrees. CM Vail states we need shovel ready projects. We can earmark the increased ad valorem funds to build a bigger pot to pay for projects. Mayor noted that the CIP road paving line is 2.4 million, and without a loan, only 400k is left. That's not 600k. CM Vail states we can pay cash to do small projects while we get our projects and materials together. CM Scardino states there are shortages of materials which effect production. CM Acquaviva states she has told residents the millage increase will show an improvement in roads. CM Vail asks how well it was received? CM Acquaviva states once she explains it, it is well received. She doesn't want to see a switch and bait.

TM Stinnett asks if we should take the 2 million out?

CM Scardino and Vail state to take it out when we have shovel ready projects.

CM Acquaviva asks what having it would do? TM States it is a beginning. We are going to do a study, a financial plan, and other projects. We can have money from a loan in under 6 months, so we can certainly get the projects together first.

Mayor requests clarification of the \$2 Million dollar line item of the income. CM Rivet states we should leave it in and amend it out if we can't get it this year. TM Stinnett reiterated that the additional funds be allotted to streets and roads.

Mayor asks if Council has any requests for changes to the CIP.

CM Scardino asks about lighting in the park.

CM Acquaviva asks about the Slope Mower. TM Stinnett states the PW is eyeing a mowing head for the mini excavator, if we can fund it this year it will assist us in maintaining the ditches when the slope mower goes down. CM Acquaviva asks if Council wants to budget for this? Consensus is yes.

CM Scardino asks if we have a skid loader? CM Vail states we have a new loader, Gradall, and a bed on a dump truck. TM Stinnett states we are well ahead of where we

were in PW equipment. We have some equipment we would like, and a new employee starting Wednesday.

TM Stinnett asks Council if they are satisfied with the FD Budget? CM Vail states as long as it doesn't affect the \$600k going to streets and roads, he is fine with it. In the future we will need a new tender, so we should plan to put aside money for that.

CM Scardino asks how long 3500 gallons would flow? CM Vail explains that the tender would act as a hydrant and supply the pumper truck.

Mayor requests more information on the funds in Streets and Roads. TM Stinnett explained that we purchase product for the dirt roads out of line item 541.4610.

4. **ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to discuss and without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 P.M.

BY: Patrick T. Reilly  
Mayor Patrick T. Reilly, Council Chair

ATTEST:

Richard Kohler  
Richard Kohler, Deputy  
Town Clerk/Treasurer

Date Approved: 09/12/2022