

MAYOR  
THOMAS F. SLATER

VICE MAYOR  
MICHAEL B. OCHSNER

COUNCIL:  
ROBERT F. AUWAERTER  
RICHARD M. HAVERLAND  
DEBORAH H. PENISTON



TOWN MANAGER  
ROBERT H. STABE, JR.

TOWN CLERK  
LAURA ALDRICH

TOWN ATTORNEY  
CHESTER CLEM

## MINUTES BUDGET MEETING

Thursday, July 26, 2018

*Immediately following the 9:00 a.m. Council Meeting*  
6001 N. SR A1A, Indian River Shores, FL 32963

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### 1. Call to Order

- a. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance were foregone as they were recited at the Regular Town Council meeting immediately preceding this.
- b. Roll Call. The meeting was called to order at 11:01 a.m. Those present are listed as **TOWN COUNCIL** Mayor Slater, Vice Mayor Ochsner, and Councilmembers Auwaerter, Peniston and Haverland; **STAFF** Town Manager Stabe, Town Attorney Clem, Town Clerk Aldrich, Town Treasurer Christmas, PSD Chief Rosell, Capt. Shaw, Officer Iovino, and Building Official Perry; **RESIDENTS** Joanne Sardella (**Finance Committee**), Nancy Auwaerter (**MPO CAC**), **GUESTS** Tim Day and Ben Newhouse with wife Barbie (Town Manager Candidates); there were no **REPORTERS** present.

### 2. Council Follow-Up Discussion Items

The Mayor opened the meeting by stating that this is to approve a tentative budget and go through the follow-up discussion. Councilman Haverland discussed the reserves containing nearly \$7 million after the sale of the 5-acre parcel. Several years ago Council had agreed that the right amount was roughly \$2 million, as they also have a \$1 million credit line available. He recalled the discussion last year about how to get this back to the residents, with no tax increase meaning no tax increase, rather than no millage increase.

Councilman Auwaerter asked what the **millage rate** would be with no tax increase, which Mrs. Christmas said would be 1.2890. The constitutional amendment one that is proposed could also have an impact to the Town of about \$90,000 less in ad valorem, Councilman Auwaerter noted. The net operating loss is \$466,975 from the general reserves.

At the last meeting, we set the tentative rate at 1.4200 mils. Mr. Stabe said we will come to a point of time that if we keep it too artificially low, there is a limit we can raise it without a unanimous vote or referendum. This year the maximum we could raise the millage would be to 1.5709. Last year it was 1.677. The longer it is artificially low with an operating loss, this number will keep dropping and the less we can raise the limit.

Mayor Slater asked for other Council input regarding Councilman Haverland's suggestion, and the Vice Mayor said he would rather keep the millage rate the same. Councilman Auwaerter said he was okay with this, since leaving the millage rate the same is a tax increase. The Vice Mayor recalled that the millage rate was 1.4731 for many years.

Mayor Slater suggested that reserves should be at \$3 million, and Councilman Haverland and the Vice Mayor said that FEMA reimbursements cover most of the Town's expenses. Councilman Auwaerter cautioned them about not putting too faith in FEMA reimbursements if there is storm damage and we could have to wait an extended time for reimbursement. The Mayor agreed with Councilman Haverland, with reevaluation each year.

Councilman Haverland said the general funds really belong to the past residents, not the future residents. We would only get 2% on investments. Holding taxes is one thing, and shortfalls will be made up from the General Fund. Councilman Haverland also thought they could save by removing the contingency for Public Safety salaries. If no changes are made to the contract, the 3% to the step plan saves \$90,000. Councilmembers Auwaerter and Peniston both said to leave it in for now. After the contract is negotiated, we can do a budget amendment could be made at the end of the year.

**Public Safety Staffing.** Councilman Haverland said he had a discussion with Chief Rosell, and now agrees that one per diem detective is needed but not the additional lieutenant or half of a per diem. He viewed them as management issues.

The software costs were discussed for licenses from the Sheriff's Department, with resolution to **reduce the budget by that \$50,000 amount.** That was the only major expense the Mayor saw that could be removed.

This is a Public Meeting. The Town of Indian River Shores does not transcribe verbatim minutes. Should any interested party seek to appeal any decision made by the Council with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose he or she may need to ensure that a record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Anyone who needs any type of special accommodation for this meeting may contact the Town Clerk at 231-1771 . . . Date Posted: 7-23-17

The 11-year old ambulance with 46,000 miles keeps breaking down, Chief said, the motor, A/C, brakes, and other parts keep failing. An extended discussion among the Council and Mr. Stabe followed, with a reminder that we bring in revenue that would replace the ambulance every three years, and the County replaces theirs every five years. We have had this vehicle twice as long, and the repairs are more age-related than mileage. Two Council did not agree with justification of replacing it because we have revenue to replace them. Chief Rosell said they will do what the Council wants and will appreciate anything the Council approves. The repair vendor has been less than satisfactory, and Chief said they want to have an interlocal agreement for the County Fire Department to maintain the equipment. Chief asked to **increase the costs of maintenance to \$15,000**, and they **removed revenue from sale of asset**. Monitoring the hours of use was recommended by Councilman Auwaerter.

Councilman Auwaerter recommended letting Chief having 1.5 per diem versus one for investigations, to use as needed. The Chief said he has to have someone to investigate cases, and will still have to use the per diem budget to cover for investigations. Manager Stabe clarified that seasoned officers will be doing investigations, and the per diem officers will fill in for shifts.

Councilman Haverland also spoke to the request for an assistant for the Clerk, which he now understands better. Laura does a lot of things the other clerks don't do, such as recruiting for the Town's manager position. The Clerk does whatever else has to be done ahead of her job duties. He suggested that some tasks be unloaded to Finance or somewhere else. He called 14 similar sized municipalities, and concluded that there is no other town or city in Florida that has four staff members combined in the manager's and clerk's office.

Councilman Auwaerter said there are many records and documents that have to be digitized, which he is aware of as his wife is working with the Town Clerk on a voluntary basis to try to bring some of the stacking piles around her under control. Councilman Haverland said a temporary assistant should be enough to bring this about. The Town Clerk asked to address this, stating the needs are not temporary, but permanent. If the current workload is caught up in a year or two, more records have been created daily. Going to the other departments for help, whether or not they are willing, creates ill will among staff. Not everyone has qualifications necessary to do some of the tasks she does, and no one is available to cover the office if she takes time off without impacting their own workload. Mrs. Auwaerter said that the Town could be missing an opportunity to train an assistant and pass on the historical knowledge with only one person in this office. Councilmember Peniston agreed that the Clerk needs help. Councilman Haverland disagreed. Mayor Slater said that size isn't a determination for workload, with increasing requirements mandated by the State. The Vice Mayor and all but Councilman Haverland **agreed to have a full-time assistant in the Clerk's office**.

Councilman Haverland also **received clarification** from the Chief Building Official **on the Building Department's budget** and functions, as he is new on the job determining what is needed. The part-time inspector went from three days a week to full time in four days a week. An outside plans examiner is used as needed and charged back to the developer. The two clerks have the responsibility to run the office and issue permits. Another vehicle or cell phone is not needed. The budget includes four full-time salaries now, and currently additional staff (a summer intern) is digitizing records. The department total is now \$589,751.

A **motion to add the lieutenant position** was made by Councilman Auwaerter, seconded by Vice Mayor Ochsner. Chief Rosell explained that promoting Lieutenant Shaw to Captain left two lieutenant openings, one from retired Lieutenant Dudley, which used to split duties as one for administration and one was for training. The Chief proposed **one for fire** and one for **law enforcement**, so each lieutenant can take care of the requirements for that segment, which results in a more efficient operation. The **motion passed 4-1**, Councilman Haverland dissenting.

The sergeant is not included in the budget, and Councilman Haverland and Councilmember Peniston agreed it should not be in the budget, believing other agencies should handle this family issue. Mayor Slater said we should look at this for something to possibly be considered in the future, meanwhile keeping statistics on these issues.

### 3. Audience Discussion

### 4. Recommendations

a. Motion to Approve Tentative Budget

A **motion to approve the budget as proposed with 1.289 millage using \$451,975 from reserves** was made by the Vice Mayor and supported by Councilmember Peniston, which **passed 4-1** with Councilman Haverland dissenting.

### 5. Adjournment. 12:03 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,*

/s \_\_\_\_\_  
Laura Aldrich, Town Clerk