



The Town of Fenwick Island

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BUDGET COMMITTEE JUNE 12, 2019 AT 10:00 AM

MINUTES

In Attendance

Gardner Bunting, Richard Benn, Vicki Carmean, Tim Collins, Dean Gary, Charlie Hastings, Gene Langan, Julie Lee, Richard Mais, Bernie Merritt, Terry Tieman, Mark Tingle, Ben Waide, Bill Weistling, Roy Williams

Absent

Charlie Hastings, Scott Mumford

Gardner called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Bill, seconded by Tim, to accept the minutes from the May 22, 2019 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion

Terry noted the changes to the fee schedule, to include the addition of the Temporary Dumpster/POD fee, Junior Lifeguard application fees, and the real estate property tax fee was changed to the rollback rate of \$.174015 per \$100 assessed value.

Julie noted that she would like to have the additional decal for the contractors parking permit to be increased to be in line with other communities.

On the subject of parking, Terry commented that with Town Council's approval, Town Hall parking lot will be "parking by permit only" on weekends and holidays. 19 spaces are available, and signs will be displayed in the parking lot noting that a permit is needed.

As for the changes made to the previous version of the budget, Terry noted that she added \$7,500 to interest income, increased the rental receipt tax and bonfire permit revenue amounts, and added \$3,555 in EIDE Grant that was previously omitted.

For expenses, the Police Department went down by \$3,411, Lifeguards went down by \$11,668, Admin went down by \$3,400, and General Government went down by \$30,750, with a total savings of \$49,229.

The cash receipts is now balanced with additional revenue from the transfer tax. And, as requested at the previous meeting, the street program has been pushed back two years to the 2022 Capital Plan.

Bill questioned how dredging is being handled. Terry responded that with no definite cost for the project, although it is not budgeted money could be taken out of reserves.

Ben asked about the line under revenue, "Salary OT Reimbursement – Highway Safety". Terry responded that it is a grant for reimbursement of Police overtime for highway safety projects.

Tim reviewed the last meeting minutes and wanted to know the decision on the lights and banners. Terry responded that they are still listed in the Capital Plan for this upcoming fiscal year.

Richard Benn questioned where the Town came up with the tax value based on 50% of the market value. Terry replied that it is standard practice and has been that way since 1974. She also checked with the Town Solicitor who confirmed that basing taxes on 50% of the market value is practiced throughout the country.

Tim commented that if the Town raises taxes that there would probably be push back from the business community. Richard Benn disagreed, commenting that most commercial property taxes went down. Tim added that he received a call from one of the commercial property owners who thought his property value was too high and he could not sell the property at the price that it was appraised at.

Julie questioned if the Town's investment options are still planned to be discussed. Terry commented that they will be discussed at a Finance Committee Meeting.

A motion was made by Ben, seconded by Bernie, to approve the budget as presented today. The motion passed unanimously.

Richard Mais commented that a lack of revenue is a concern. Terry responded that the Town is still unsure how much rental tax will be received from the new hotel. Richard Benn added that the Committee can look at other revenue sources as well.

Bill would like the Town Council to let people know that there will possibly be a tax increase in the future so they are prepared. Julie agreed, stating that there has to be an awareness.

Due to the budget being approved at today's meeting, the meeting scheduled for this Friday, June 14th was cancelled.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 AM.