

TOWN OF LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA
TOWN COMMISSION
BUDGET WORKSHOP
MINUTES

Town Commission Meeting Room
4501 Ocean Drive
Tuesday, June 9, 2009
5:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER, MAYOR ROSEANN MINNET

Mayor Minnet called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Also present were Vice Mayor Jerry McIntee, Commissioner Jim Silverstone, Commissioner Stuart Dodd, Commissioner Birute Ann Clotey, Town Susan L. Trevarthen, Assistant Town Manager John Olinzock, Town Clerk June White, and Senior Office Specialist Nekisha Smith.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Fire Assessment (Burton & Associates)

Manager Colon explained two scenarios recommended by Burton & Associates; Scenario #1: A five year scale with a fixed rate for the first two years; the remaining years would increase to by approximately 3% , \$133.90, to allow future cost of the fire department to be met. Scenario #2: A variable rate for the next five years. Manager Colon recommended scenario #1 as the better choice as everyone would know what their paying and the Town would know what funding was available.

Commissioner Dodd suggested the Towns' public safety subcontractors forgo their annual increases. He questioned whether the VFD Pension Plan auditors were employees of the Town or the VFD. Manager Colon explained that funds received from the insurance companies go directly to the VFD. Commissioner Dodd asked whether the Town used fire assessment funds to pay for EMS services. Manager Colon said no.

Commissioner Silverstone explained that the VFD was categorized as a Fire/Rescue department and only provided basic first aid when necessary. Vice Mayor McIntee questioned how VFD Pension Plan Board of Trustees (the overseers) was funded. Manager Colon explained that they were funded by the insurance companies.

The consensus of the Commission was to stay with a fixed rate.

b. Millage

Manager Colon explained that the Town's assessed values decreased approximately 9% or \$700,000. She explained two options: Option #1 - Raise the millage to continue with additional capital improvement projects and Option #2 - Move forward with the El Mar Drive, Reef Habitat, and the Scenic Highway projects only. She advised that if the Commission decided to do only those projects the Town would have enough money to cover the legal expenses for the Bert J. Harris claims recently received.

Commissioner Silverstone questioned whether the projects listed in the back up were the only ones that could go forward if the Commission kept the current millage rate. Manager Colon said they were. Vice Mayor McIntee questioned why taxes were not going up even though assessed values went down; Manager Colon explained that steps were taken to stay on track, including a cut back in employee hours. Commissioner Dodd asked for an estimate of what the general fund balance would be at the end of the fiscal year. Manager Colon said she was not sure but would recommend that whatever was left over be put aside to assist in retiring debt. Commissioner Dodd asked for clarification on what the \$1 million dollars, geared for the El Mar Drive Project, was supposed to be used for. Manager Colon explained there were no restrictions on what could be done to that section of El Mar Drive.

Manager Colon recommended setting the rate higher in the result of a catastrophic event. Mayor Minnet thought the Commission should look in to not always decreasing fees.

It was the consensus of the Commission to keep the tentative millage rate at 3.9990. Mayor Minnet said the maximum levied millage rate to be posted was 4.5795 which could be reduced.

c. Capital Improvement

This item was discussed with item 3B.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Mayor McIntee made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Silverstone seconded the motion.

