

TOWN OF LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA

TOWN COMMISSION

BUDGET WORKSHOP

MINUTES

Jarvis Hall

4505 Ocean Drive

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

5:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER, MAYOR ROSEANN MINNET

Mayor Roseann Minnet called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Also present were Vice Mayor Stuart Dodd, Commissioner Birute Ann Clotney, Commissioner Scot Sasser, Commissioner Chris Vincent, Town Attorney Susan L. Trevarthen, Interim Town Manager Connie Hoffmann, Town Clerk June White, and Deputy Clerk Nekisha Smith.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

3. ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:

a. Fire Assessment Fee Discussion

Interim Town Manager Hoffmann outlined the history of the fire assessment fee and stated that a resident questioned the methodology on how the fee was developed. She explained that the fee was assessed on the number of calls for resident versus non-resident properties. Interim Town Manager Hoffmann added that residents were assessed based on square footage.

Interim Town Manager Hoffmann said the Town would receive about \$1 million in revenues if the fee stayed the same. She said the projected revenue would cover the fire expenditure for the VFD.

Interim Town Manager Hoffmann pointed out that the VFD to allocate over \$100,000 for new fire trucks. She said an assessment was needed on the current trucks that were in use as the trucks were very costly and she also needed to determine who owned the vehicles. Interim Town Manager Hoffmann said she wanted to explore everything in more detail before making any decisions.

Mayor Minnet favored giving staff more time to review everything. She suggested staff give additional information and their recommendations at the budget meeting in July.

Commissioner Clotley believed the Commission was under the impression that the VFD was going to set aside about \$100,000 a year for vehicle replacement. She recommended that the money be put in a joint account with the Town to make sure that money was only spent on vehicles.

Commissioner Vincent asked what the determination was regarding the money for the sinking boat. Interim Town Manager Hoffmann said the money would come back to the Town. She advised that the insurance adjuster deemed it a total loss.

Vice Mayor Dodd said he was not happy that the VFD had not cut back on responding to medical calls. He agreed with Interim Town Manager Hoffmann regarding funds for the replacement of vehicles. Vice Mayor Dodd said there should be some type of overhead for the VFD to answer to regarding purchasing items over a certain amount of money.

Commissioner Sasser requested staff to determine who would have proper oversight and asked why the Town paid for the VFD audit. He was concerned with the purchase of a new apparatus without a recommendation from Town staff and proper oversight.

Commissioner Clotley stated that according to their By-Laws, the VFD had to vote before purchasing a vehicle.

b. Millage Discussion

Interim Town Manager Hoffmann said the estimated tax roll was received from the property appraiser and the taxable value decreased by 8.4%. She explained there was almost \$19 million in new construction which brought the total valuation decline to 7.4% from the prior year or \$1.8 million.

Interim Town Manager Hoffmann explained that she was not seeking direction at this time as more work needed to be done on the budget. She believed the Commission had questions and said she would have answers at the next budget meeting.

Interim Town Manager Hoffmann said there was a misunderstanding on the part of the residents concerning the millage rate and the amount of taxes people pay. She explained that as property values go down, the millage had to go up to produce the same tax revenue. Interim Town Manager Hoffmann further explained that the "roll back rate" was the rate required to generate the same amount of tax income to the Town as last year, the Town's roll back millage rate for the next fiscal year would be 4.3650%.

Commissioner Clotey explained that those homesteaded would see a 3% increase in their property valuation and the Town needed to consider that.

Vice Mayor Dodd explained that once the millage rate was advertised, the Commission could not go above that number; they could only go below it.

Commissioner Sasser asked what the dollar difference would be if the millage rate stayed at 3.9990. Interim Town Manager Hoffmann said it would be approximately \$600,000 less than what the Town collected this fiscal year.

Mayor Minnet asked whether each Commissioner could call the Interim Town Manager individually. Interim Town Manager Hoffmann advised that at the next meeting more information would be given to the Commission, and then she would want individual feedback to follow quickly.

c. BSO Budget

Interim Town Manager Hoffmann said the figure received was about \$3.158 million and represented only a 4.3% increase in the budget. She added that was \$137,000 increase over the current year.

Interim Town Manager Hoffmann said she attended a meeting with the Broward County Sheriff and believed the Town was lucky that negotiations for a new contract would not take place until next year as the Town had a favorable contract. She suggested the Town watch as other cities negotiate come new contracts with the Sheriff and how the County Commission reacts over the course of the summer.

Interim Town Manager Hoffmann said the Sheriff wanted standardized contracts with the cities but that may not happen. She said the City of Pompano Beach, the City of Oakland Park and the City of Lauderdale Lakes were currently in negotiations with BSO. Interim Town Manager Hoffmann advised that the County is advising cities they will no longer fund their dispatch operations in the future. She said that every municipality needed to get together and let Broward County know that was not acceptable.

Interim Town Manager Hoffmann asked whether the Commission wanted her to discuss anything specific with the Chief regarding the BSO budget. Commissioner Vincent wanted to know whether the services provided by BSO to the surrounding cities affected Lauderdale-By-The-Sea financially. He was concerned that the Town paid for a service that was not utilized. Interim Town Manager Hoffmann believed that under the current contract the Town did not.

Vice Mayor Dodd said the Town had the lowest cost per officer and he was sure the price would go up significantly when the contract came up for renewal. Commissioner Clotey stated that the Town had the option to renew the contract and asked whether the cost would remain the same should the Town chose to renew the contract or would it be a new contract. Interim Town Manager Hoffmann said only the City of Cooper City currently had that clause in their contract. She added that other cities with the same clause in their contract as the Town were facing increases.

Mayor Minnet explained that only 24% of the money collected from the tax bill came to the Town. She said the rest went to Broward County and the School Board. Mayor Minnet encouraged everyone to contact Broward County with their concerns as well. Interim Town Manager Hoffmann urged the Commission to discuss their concerns with other elected officials when they go to the Broward League Conference.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Mayor Dodd made a motion to adjourn. With no further business before the Commission, Mayor Minnet adjourned the meeting at 5:44 p.m.

Mayor Roseann Minnet

ATTEST:

Town Clerk, June White

Date