

**BUDGET ADVISORY MEETING
AUGUST 1, 2005**

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1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m.

Present at the meeting were Chair, Dr. Bob Preziosi, and Committee members Dan Barr and Secretary Scott Spages.

Present from the Town was Finance Director Bill Underwood.

Dr. Preziosi advised that Dr. Kerry Waldee was on vacation.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3. OLD BUSINESS

3.1 FY 2006 Proposed Budget

Mr. Underwood advised that the Committee go through the budget by doing an overview of each department. Dr. Preziosi suggested that each Committee member make a recommendation based on the department each analyzed.

Mr. Underwood advised that Ms. Bell would arrive late.

Mr. Barr advised he had reviewed line items with Public Works director, Bruce Bernard. He stated that the department was not adding any new positions and would use more contractual services. He felt the department had done well overall and could not see many areas in which the department could make further cuts. He also advised Mr. Bernard felt comfortable about the department's ability to maintain its level of service to the Town.

Mr. Barr recommended that the Public Works department continue to look at utilizing contractual services.

ACTION:

Mr. Barr made a motion, seconded by Mr. Spages, to recommend to the Town Council that the Committee stood behind the Public Works budget and **applauded** the department for working within the parameters outlined by budget constraints.

In a voice vote, all voted in favor. (Motion carried 3-0)

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Mr. Spages advised he had spoken with the Fire Chief, and felt he had a good concept of cost recovery. He also felt the Chief had done a good job of going after the money for the Town. He spoke of the growing personnel budget and felt the Chief was moving the fire rescue service in the right direction.

Stephanie Bell arrived at the meeting.

ACTION:

Mr. Spages made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barr, to recommend to the Town Council that the Committee approved the fire budget as proposed.

In a voice vote, all voted in favor. (Motion carried 4-0)

ACTION:

Mr. Spages made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barr, to recommend that Town administration review the contracts negotiated with police and fire and present a more thorough analysis of those contracts to both the Budget Advisory Committee and the Town Council, for further review.

In a voice vote, all voted in favor. (Motion carried 4-0)

Regarding the I-595 and I-75 issue, Mr. Underwood advised that the Chief had been researching specific legislation that would allow the Town to start charging for costs outside its domain. Mr. Spages felt the Town ended up with most of the burden for those roads.

Chair Preziosi suggested giving the Chief a few months to thoroughly research this issue, and then come before the Committee with an update.

Dr. Preziosi recommended that the Police Department budget be rolled back for personnel costs to the pre-5% cut because positions of street patrol officers had been lost. He felt reducing the number of police officers in light of the growing population of the Town was not a good idea. He wanted to see the 8 positions and associated costs reinstated in the budget.

Mr. Spages stated he found the proposed fire assessment increase unacceptable and did not understand why the Town had trouble making ends meet when the budget had doubled in 7 years. He also thought cost recovery was behind schedule, but felt this might help once the Town got caught up. He felt maintenance costs were a growing problem and also spoke of the exorbitant police and fire contracts.

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Ms. Bell advised that the Parks and Recreation department had reduced its budget by \$0.5 million.

ACTION:

Ms. Bell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Spages, to recommend to the Town Council that the Committee approved the Parks and Recreation budget as proposed.

In a voice vote, all voted in favor. (Motion carried 4-0)

Mr. Spages asked about the proposed tax increase and the proposed fire assessment increase. Mr. Underwood advised the proposed fire rescue fee increase would be \$18. He also advised that the millage rate would remain the same.

Mr. Spages asked if the Committee would revisit its discussion regarding the buildout of the PMG report. Mr. Underwood advised that staff was conducting a Space Study which would be shared with the Committee.

Mr. Spages spoke in favor of expanding the grant writer position. Mr. Underwood explained that most grants provided for infrastructure and acquisitions.

4. NEW BUSINESS

5. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS

6. ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business to discuss and no objections, Mr. Spages made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barr, to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. In a voice vote, all voted in favor. (Motion carried 5-0)

Date approved

Chair/Committee Member