

**TOWN OF DAVIE  
BUDGET WORKSHOP  
AUGUST 9, 2007**

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m. and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present at the meeting were Mayor Truex, Vice-Mayor Caletka, and Councilmembers Crowley, Luis (via telephone) and Crowley. Also present were Town Administrator Shimun, Attorney Alexander, and Assistant Town Clerk McDaniel recording the meeting.

Budget & Finance Director Bill Ackerman provided a PowerPoint presentation describing changes made since the last meeting and the effect proposed changes in property taxes would have on homeowners. He described the savings the Town would realize by the changes.

Mr. Ackerman said that Council had also been provided a proposed tuition reimbursement policy to review, which limited reimbursement to \$3,500 or 80% of qualified expenses. He said increasing the total reimbursement to \$5,000 would cost an additional \$29,000.

Mayor Truex opened the floor to public comment.

Judy Paul felt this was a good start regarding the vehicle and tuition reimbursement reductions. She requested additional information on the Shenandoah Fire Station.

Mayor Truex closed public comment.

Vice-Mayor Caletka recognized Commissioner Sims from Cooper City.

Mayor Truex requested an explanation regarding Parks and Recreation adult sports and summer camp items. Assistant Town Administrator Ken Cohen explained that the revenues were zero at the previous presentation and everything had been added back in, plus there were increases to the fees.

Mayor Truex said that Mr. Shimun had mentioned an additional revenue source for school crossing guards and asked how they could pursue this. Mr. Shimun explained that there were additional actions that must be taken to implement this, but since nothing had changed with crossing guards in this year's budget, he was unsure if they should pursue this. He advised that the Town was not obligated to provide crossing guards. Mr. Cohen said they would leave the budget as it stood and they would pursue this additional revenue. Mr. Shimun indicated that the additional funding came from a fee assessed for specific services. Councilmember Starkey stated that there were Safe Passage grants available for this also.

Mayor Truex favored awarding Teen Challenge a not-for-profit request and indicated that a request for \$30,000 had been made. Councilmember Crowley said he would support a \$5,000 request. Councilmember Starkey, Mayor Truex, and Councilmember Luis agreed.

Mayor Truex felt the take-home car policy change was a step in the right direction. He referred to the employees who had take-home vehicles or vehicle allowances and said that any new contract employees should not have a take-home car included in their contract. Councilmember Starkey agreed and stated her concern for cars leaving the County. She suggested management employees living outside the County should not have a take-home car. Police and fire employees in adjacent municipalities could be exempted. Councilmember Starkey said she supported this type of policy, but also wanted to see this policy be approved as a resolution.

Vice-Mayor Caletka said this was a very important way to save taxpayer money. He was pleased with this policy, but did not feel it must be a resolution.

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Councilmember Crowley felt this policy was a bit too severe and wanted to add the following on-call employees to those entitled to a take-home vehicle: chief building inspector; chief electrical inspector; chief mechanical inspector; chief plumbing inspector; chief code inspector; chief engineering inspector; chief landscape inspector; water/wastewater supervisor of operations; water/wastewater maintenance supervisor; park ranger coordinator. Mr. Shimun advised that employees had been removed from the take-home vehicle list because he felt they required a vehicle during working hours, but did not need to take a vehicle home. Councilmember Crowley noted that these employees were on call. Councilmember Starkey wanted to see the number of calls these employees actually responded to, as she felt most of their call-outs did not occur after regular business hours.

Mr. Cohen noted that some of the individuals would drive their own vehicles instead of the provided vehicle and the Town would be reimbursing them for that vehicle use. Mayor Truex agreed with Councilmember Starkey and wanted to see specific figures. Vice-Mayor Caletka wanted to approve the plan presented by Mr. Shimun. Council agreed to leave the policy as it was until they were provided additional information as requested by Councilmember Starkey.

Mr. Cohen explained that the tuition requests had been budgeted, but additional documentation must be presented to the Town Administrator and if this did not come through, many of the requests would not be funded. He remarked that in the past, as much as 50% of the original budgeted amount had not been awarded.

Mayor Truex felt the program was still too generous, and he did not want individuals attending school full time while they were working full-time for the Town. Mr. Cohen said that the maximum reimbursement for two classes per semester could be specified.

Mayor Truex suggested Council's approval be required for any courses requested by the Town Administrator. Council agreed.

Councilmember Starkey asked if this policy would conflict with any existing contracts and if Mr. Shimun had consulted the Town Attorney. Mr. Shimun said that this matter had been included in the ongoing negotiations with the Police Department. He added that the existing policy also limited the reimbursement to the amount of money Council approved in the budget process.

Councilmember Starkey wanted to include language that the employee agreed that by accepting the reimbursement, they promised not to study on Town time or utilize Town equipment during the time of their work schedule. She had heard a number of complaints over the past six years regarding this problem. She recommended if an employee violated this rule, the employee would not be eligible for tuition reimbursement for that period.

Mayor Truex felt there should be an exception for firefighters. Mr. Shimun felt this determination could be left to supervisors and he did not recommend attaching a penalty. Councilmember Crowley asked to see something pursuant to this in writing.

Councilmember Luis wanted to limit employees' fields of study to their particular job field. Mayor Truex said this was covered in the policy.

Mayor Truex asked what the Town's liability would be if an employee were involved in a vehicle accident while on Town business. Ms. Alexander explained that the Town would be liable for injuries to other parties; however, damage to other parties' vehicles was another question. She added that the Town would be responsible for workers compensation claims but was not certain about damage to the employee's vehicle.

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Vice-Mayor Caletka asked if the Town had sufficient coverage if no-fault insurance were no longer required. Mr. Cohen responded that the Town vehicles were sufficiently covered.

Councilmember Crowley thanked Mr. Shimun and his staff for the materials provided to Council.

Councilmember Starkey requested departmental summaries similar to what Council had received in the past. She asked that each narrative indicate how it was consistent with Council's goals. Councilmember Starkey wanted an accounting of which expenditures had not been funded and had been put back into the reserves. Mr. Cohen said that Mr. Ackerman would consult with Councilmember Starkey regarding this.

Councilmember Starkey asked if the Town could bid out pool services at Betty Booth Roberts Park. Mr. Cohen indicated that he would look into this. Vice-Mayor Caletka felt the fees would need to be too high for any program in order to offset the costs. Mr. Cohen felt it unlikely they would find anyone willing to do this, but agreed to open this up.

Councilmember Starkey asked if it would be easier for the Town to supervise summer programs and outsource the staffing. Mr. Cohen responded that it was very difficult to find organizations willing to handle it along those lines, but agreed to discuss this with the Parks and Recreation Department.

Mr. Shimun agreed with Mr. Cohen and Vice-Mayor Caletka that they would probably find no one willing to take over the pool program to make up that amount of money, but he agreed to try. Council agreed that Mr. Shimun should meet with Parks and Recreation Department employees and the existing aquatics contractors and report to Council on this as a first step.

Vice-Mayor Caletka remarked on the improvement this year with the budget presentation. He felt the key was to start early.

There being no further business to discuss and no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

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Mayor/Councilmember

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Town Clerk