

TOWN OF OCEAN VIEW
TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP
TOWN HALL, 32 WEST AVENUE, OCEAN VIEW, DE 19970
February 25, 2020 @ 5:30PM

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro-Tem Tom Maly called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. Council Members Bruce White, Bert Reynolds and Frank Twardzik were present. Town Manager Carol Houck, Finance Director Dawn Parks, Planning, Zoning and Development Director Ken Cimino, Police Chief Ken McLaughlin, Dennis Schrader and Donna Schwartz were also present. Mayor Curran was not present.

2. PUBLIC HEARING – 5:30pm to 6:00pm

No one present from the public spoke about the budget.

3. ADOPTION of AGENDA

A motion was made by Council Member Twardzik, seconded by Council Member Reynolds, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously 4/0.

4. WORKSHOP NEW BUSINESS – 6:00PM

A. Summary of Discussion of FY21 Budget

Town Manager Carol Houck stated draft two budget includes the Council suggestion of a 1% discount for early taxpayers. The budget assumes that everyone will take advantage of this discount. She also said that changes to sick leave accrual in the employee manual are also being acknowledged in this draft. All revenue figures are up to date and represent conservative forecasting. Mrs. Houck said all unassigned funds are accounted for.

Council Member Twardzik stated he supports the 1% discount for early taxpayers. Mrs. Houck said the mortgage companies would most likely take advantage of discounts and would pay early.

Council Member White questioned item #8, \$2,400 for internet for the public safety department. Mrs. Houck said the police department needs faster internet speed which we can only get through Mediacom. Chief McLaughlin stated everything is done with computers, nothing is handwritten anymore. He said that the State of Delaware, who they get their secure internet through, added a “juniper box” but there is still too much data for the system to handle. Videos create the most problem, because they take so long to upload. Chief McLaughlin said the state controls speed and access. The contract is through the state DTI and DELGIS.

Mrs. Houck said as far as the fee schedule was concerned there are strikeouts on pages 8 and 9 under the categories of dogs and bonfires. She also explained the impact note referencing repairs and renovations costs on page 6. Council had suggested that the “no permit” threshold dollar amount be raised. Mrs. Houck said we are required by code to provide fiscal impact info if the changes we make result in a reduction in possible revenue. Council Member Twardzik questioned whether the town checks the work being done. Mr. Cimino replied no. He said the county does only structural inspections. Council Member White questioned the price of business licenses. Mr. Cimino replied \$150 a year and \$30 for a temporary license. The final fee discussed and adjusted was the water inspection fee hook-up being raised to \$125.

Mrs. Houck said additional funding was needed for on-call street related improvements. The line item was missed from the former Public Works budget. The funding will be utilized to address immediate and or planned street related improvements that are not part of the more formal

street repair programs. The \$50,000 line item will be incorporated into the budget per attachment B.

Council Member Maly noted that this was his fourth budget season and he felt this was the most complete budget he's worked.

5. **OPEN DISCUSSION**

No additional discussion took place.

6. **CITIZENS' PRIVILEGE**

No one commented on the draft budget

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Council Member Reynolds, seconded by Council Member Twardzik, to adjourn the meeting at 6:30pm. The motion carried unanimously 4/0.