

**TOWN OF ASTATULA
MAYOR AND TOWN
SUMMARY MINUTES**



**BUDGET WORKSHOP
THURSDAY JULY 29, 2019
TOWN HALL**

Having been duly advertised as required by law, Mayor Robert Natale called the Budget Workshop meeting to order at 6.28pm. The invocation and pledge of allegiance were given at the Special Council Meeting preceding this workshop.

Members Present:

Robert Natale, Mayor
Mitchell Mack, Vice-Mayor
Kimberley Kobera
Stephen Cross
Gayle Sikkema

Also Present:

Graham Wells, Town Clerk
Jane Whaley, Deputy Clerk

Roll Call was performed, and it was determined that a quorum was present. At the request of Councilman Cross who was absent at the workshop held on July 15, Clerk Wells gave an overview of what was discussed at that meeting. This included the revenues and line by line expenditures from department 511 through to 519. Full details can be seen in the minutes from that meeting. He then gave an update of the changes since that workshop and focused on the almost \$13,000 savings made on the insurance from FMIT. \$2,000 was added for the supplements for Municode and \$2,000 in case either Councilors Kobera or Sikkema are opposed and we have an election.

The Mayor had requested that Code Red and membership to the Tavares Chamber of Commerce be put back into the budget. The Special Magistrate (514) was increased by \$3,000. There was a small addition to telecommunications in the Police Department (521). In Total the changes amounted to a saving of \$2,976 which took the surplus to \$4,581.

The plan tonight was to cover the Police Department (521); Fire Control (522); Protective Inspections (524); Solid Waste; Stormwater Management (538); Cemetery (539) and Parks & Recreation in the General Fund and also the Transportation and Infrastructure funds. Clerk Wells said that it was a lot to get through but would rather schedule another meeting if necessary, than rush it.

He went over the format of the budget document and proceeded with (521). Councilman Cross had an issue with the department being over their current year and previous years budgets. Clerk Wells stated that the figures were prepared in May and they were now only \$5,226 over at the end of June taking out the special purchase of AED's. He anticipated that they would be under budget by the end of the year. The subject was discussed at length and Mr. Cross stated that his issue was that Council was not being informed or consulted when any department was well over their budget.

He had previously advocated that the police department budget be cut by ten percent and the Mayor asked other council members for their opinions. Councilwoman Kobera was not in agreement to cut the budget. Clerk Wells reminded Council that the budget in Howey was \$200,000 more than Astatula with a similar number of officers and vehicles.

Their budget for the upcoming year was \$691,000. Their officers are paid more than ours, as they are in Umatilla and are receiving a six percent increase this year. Clerk Wells added that he had been through the budget line by line with the Chief and was adamant that there was not ten percent of fat to cut. The only way to reduce the cost of the department by \$50,000 was to reduce the number of officers. Mr. Cross said that it was not the only way, but he would have to go over all the purchases to come up with the savings.

The Mayor opened comment from the floor and had a response from a young man who talked about the response time from the Sheriffs department as opposed to having a local force. The Mayor stated that he wanted to change the focus of the department from speed enforcement to community policing and having more interaction with the citizens, particularly with the youth of the town. He said that we should fund the parks and recreation department to achieve the new goals.

The Mayor asked the Chief to give an overview of his budget and the replacement of two patrol cars was discussed. He stated that there was a five percent pay increase in the budget for all officers. Councilwoman Sikkema had requested the amount from the Clerk between a three percent raise and a five percent raise which was \$8,315. The Mayor said that he saw a moral problem if the raise was reduced and praised the Chief for the performance of his officers which was echoed by Council members and the citizens present. Following more discussion, it was agreed to keep the police budget as presented.

Councilman Mack went over the Fire Protection budget which covers the cost for the fire hydrants and ultimately potable water. He outlined where we were in the permitting process to have potable water available for the residents and said that we should complete by the end of the year. Following some discussion, it was agreed to keep the fire protection budget as presented.

The Protective Inspections (Permit) budget (524) was agreed as was the Solid Waste (534) which has a corresponding revenue source (343). The tax collector takes a two percent fee to collect the revenue on the trim. The \$1,000 for Stormwater Management budget (538) was also accepted as was the budget for Cemetery (539) which included utility service, repairs and maintenance and operating supplies.

The Mayor asked about the cost of the fence around the Swaffar Park playground which Councilman Mack said would be completed from the current year budget. The Mayor wanted \$2,500 put into the budget for the purchase of soccer nets and balls to encourage the kids to use the field. The Clerk would add a new line item for Joe Swaffar Park Promotional, 572.482. A corresponding amount would be taken out of Repairs and Maintenance (572.461). This concluded the review and discussion for the General Fund.

The Clerk stated that the revenues in the Transportation Fund were all received from the State and the carry forward figure of \$33,000 from prior year is required to cover all the budget expenditures totaling \$112,500. He went over the individual line items and stated that a cursory figure of \$82,500 had been put in for road paving.

\$186,000 was the best estimate for revenues from discretionary surtax in the Infrastructure Fund and a carry forward figure from prior years of \$203,750 was necessary to fund the proposed expenditures which include \$300,000 for the construction of the new community center. This concluded the budget for the Infrastructure Fund.

Clerk Wells then went over the spreadsheet prepared based on the proposal from United Southern Bank for the funds needed for the completion of the community center and how the repayment would be made over the five-year term.

Current Funding Source to start of construction November 1, 2019

Grant	700,000
Existing Funds	300,000
USB Loan	<u>400,000</u>
Total	1,400,000

Other Funds

Existing Funds	45,000
Repayment of Loan from GF	35,000
Surtax Revenues - July to October (4 Months)	<u>55,000</u>
Total	135,000

Current Expenses

Fred Fox Enterprises - Grant Administrator	40,000
Engineering	20,000
Police Vehicles	25,000
Other Capital	15,000
Loan Origination	<u>2,000</u>
Total	102,000

Current Surplus 33,000

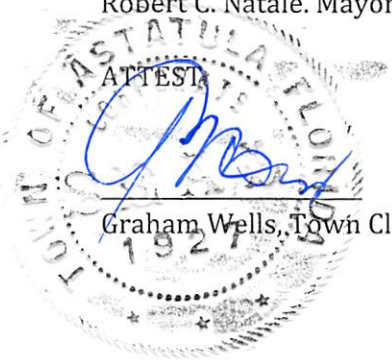
Repayment - Based on bank approved first two years - interest only

Surtax Revenue - November, 19 to September, 20 (11 Mths)	165,000
First Year Interest	-20,000
Surplus after year 1	178,000
Surtax Revenue - October, 20 to September, 21 (12 Months)	180,000
Other Commitments 2020-2021	-40,000
Second Year Interest	-15,000
Repayment of Loan 2020-2021	-100,000
Surplus after year 2	203,000

This concluded all discussion on the budget. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert C. Natale, Mayor



Graham Wells, Town Clerk