

MINUTES OF THE HOWEY IN THE HILLS TOWN COUNCIL  
BUDGET WORK SESSION HELD JULY 8, 2020.

Mayor MacFarlane called the July 08, 2020 Howey in the Hills Budget Work Session to order at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor MacFarlane, Mayor Pro-Tem Conroy, Councilor Nebel. Absent: Councilor McGill, unexcused.

Also Present: Chief Thomas, Library Director Hall, Chairman Cook (Parks & Recreation Board), Member Maffia (History Board).

**Preliminary Budget for FY 2020-2021**

- A. Mayor MacFarlane Balanced Budget
- B. Department Directors Submittal
  - 4:00 Parks & Recreation Board, History, Cemetery
  - 4:20 Library
  - 4:40 Legislative, Finance/Administrative and Other General Government
  - 5:00 Public Services, Transportation and Utility
  - 5:30 Police Department

**Mayor MacFarlane** gave detail background on the balanced budget and effort to reduce the millage rate. There are no salaries increases but the Town is going to pay for the increase cost for the health insurance.

**Chairman Cook** reviewed the Park and Recreation request. Mayor MacFarlane explained that the funding request for the electronic message board was cut because the Police Department is applying for a grant for the same and if the grant is not received it is an appropriate use for P&R impact fees.

**Mayor MacFarlane** also mentioned that the Christmas Festival is budgeted but that it may not happen depending on the impact of COVID. The town would have the street decorations put up.

**Charlotte Maffia** requested clarification on the funding for the History board, was it the \$1,000 requested or an increase to \$2,000. Mayor MacFarlane confirmed it was the original \$1,000 only.

**Library Director Hall** submitted the same funding request as FY 2020. The Impact Fees given by the Park & Recreation Board in 2018 will be used to furnish the new Education building. The meeting participants were reminded that the Telephone & Communications expense for the broadband internet connection (required by all County Library members) is 80% reimbursed by the County.

**Mayor MacFarlane** reviewed the Legislative, Finance/Administrative and Other General Government cost centers.

**Councilor Conroy** asked about the compensation for the new Town Clerk. Mayor MacFarlane explained that the compensation would be lower than the previous year but commensurate with the experience of the new employee.

**Councilor Conroy** commented on the decrease in some salary amounts. Mayor MacFarlane reviewed the salaries, stating that the Utility Billing Clerk would be 100% covered under the Utility cost center as would 10% of the Administrative Assistant II and Town Clerk. This is a change because of the amount of effort these positions put into the Utility Billing support. The cost of the Black Mountain Software and Smartware service contracts/software/hardware and reflect the cost to replace equipment that has reached end of life e.g. computers, printers, firewalls.

**Mayor MacFarlane** also pointed out the increase in the budget for legal fees due to the threatened and pending litigation against the town.

**Mayor MacFarlane** reviewed the Public Services, Transportation and Utility cost centers. She identified the funds the connection of the Town buildings to sewer/CDD.

**Sal Gallelli, 1104 N. Tangerine** commented on the need for road repairs throughout the town.

**Councilor Conroy** identified the increase in the Public Works Capital Outlay line. Mayor MacFarlane said that the number included the two truck leases.

**Mayor MacFarlane** walked through the Impact Fees. There were no comments.

**Chief Thomas** walked through the Law Enforcement cost center.

#### **Citizen's Comment**

**Sal Gallelli, 1104 N. Tangerine** stated that he appreciated the effort to lower the millage rate.

**The Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.**

ATTEST:

  
Mayor MacFarlane



Chief Thomas