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TOWN OF EASTON, MARYLAND
Easton Town Hall
14 S. Harrison Street
Budget Workshop

April 8, 2019

PRESENT AT CONVENING

Mayor Robert C. Willey
Councilmember Alan I. Silverstein
Councilmember Ron E. Engle
Councilmember Megan M. Cook

IN ATTENDANCE

Also, in attendance were the Town Manager Mr. Richardson, Finance Director Mrs. Carol Callahan and Town Clerk Mrs. Ruf.

CONVENING

Acting President Engle called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor's Comments.

Mayor Willey stated that they started narrowing some things and have given the department heads an opportunity to ask for their "wish list."

Mayor Willey stated that the town is flying blind now and the state will be losing money. He stated that they need to get as much on the table as possible in the upcoming budget then make adjustments.

Code Enforcement.

request \$189,688 proposed \$180,838

Mr. Richardson stated that this department is one of the lean departments in the Town of Easton. Ms. Naylor stated the lawyer's fees are reduced as well as Easton Club's mowing. Ms. Naylor departed the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

Engineering.

request \$883,767 proposed \$844,067

Mr. Rick VanEmburch, Town Engineer was present to discuss their budget.

Mr. VanEmburch asked that Professional services GIS technical services remain intact.

Mrs. Cook asked for clarification regarding line items that were cut.

Mr. VanEmburch discussed capital requests. He stated that they are trying to come up with a five-year plan. Mr. VanEmburch stated that he is comfortable with the \$350,000 left in the budget for mill and overlay. Mr. VanEmburch discussed getting out in front of problems before they happen. He asked for replacement for a 2003 truck for inspector.

He stated that the dog park is not in the current budget.

Public Works.

request \$4,877,436 proposed \$4,745,618

Mr. Michael Dickerson, Superintendent of Public Works was present to discuss his requests. He stated that their department did have 18 accounts and have been reduced to 4 which makes everything easier.

Mr. Dickerson stated they are requesting another bulk truck due to the size of the town. He discussed the upgrade of the colonial streetlights to LED and stated they are almost complete.

Mr. Abbatiello discussed putting a sidewalk on Elliott Road.

Mr. VanEmburch discussed talking with SHA for grant for a sidewalk on Matthewstown Road and Elliott Road.

Mayor Willey discussed conversations with State Highway Administration for upgrades in numerous parts of town.

Mr. VanEmburch discussed sidewalks in the budget at Idlewild Park.

Mr. VanEmburch stated that SHA is still working on the median project.

65 Mr. Richardson discussed the Schedule of Fees regarding recycling and solid waste fees.
66 He stated it is costing the town \$6,300 per month to dispose of recycling; \$26,000 per month to
67 collect the recycling waste.
68 Mr. Dickerson stated he had asked for three employees; two were cut but the one for the bulk
69 collection remained in the budget.
70 Mr. Dickerson departed the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

71
72 **Parks & Recreation .**
73 request \$428,007 proposed \$470,656

74
75 Mrs. Lorraine Gould, Director of Parks and Recreation was present to discuss the Parks and
76 Recreation budget.
77 The operating side is intact.
78 Ms. Gould stated that the bulldozer is for the additional work that has to be done on rails-to-
79 trails.
80 On the capital side, they are asking for an aerator and mower as they are working to repair grass
81 at the North Easton Sports Complex.

82
83 Mr. VanEmburch stated that there is a lot of activity and progress around town. He discussed the
84 paving and sidewalk on Harrison Street. He stated that the colonial street lights and conduit have
85 been installed at Harrison Street.

86
87 Mr. Richardson discussed the 7000 – 9000 accounts.

88
89 **Economic Development.**
90 request \$476,000 proposed \$400,750

91
92 Mr. Richardson stated that this is for funding Easton Business Alliance and Easton Economic
93 Development Commission. He stated that the difference is the amount of increase they have asked for
94 as Mayor Willey has increased a few line items but \$80,000 represents maintaining the current year
95 budget and keeping it intact.

96 Mr. Silverstein asked for a detailed budget from each organization.

97 Mr. Benincasa stated that they would like to bring Kansas City BBQ Festival to the Town this year. He
98 stated that they do not plan to make staffing or administrative cuts but they realize times are different
99 than when they submitted the budget.

100
101 Mr. Silverstein stated that he knows this budget was challenging.

102
103 Mayor Willey stated that there may be a short-term loan. He stated that they do not anticipate a tax
104 increase.

105
106 **ADJOURNMENT**

107
108 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, Acting President
109 Engle adjourned the workshop meeting at 3:53 p.m.

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113 _____
Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk