

PUBLIC HEARING
Milton Library 121 Union Street
Tuesday, August 20, 2013, 6:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order ó Mayor Jones
2. Moment of Silence
3. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
4. Roll Call ó Mayor Jones
5. Additions or Corrections to the Agenda
6. Agenda Approval
7. Mayor's Report
8. Public Hearing re:
 - a. Budget for FY 2014

THE TAPE RECORDING OF THIS MEETING WAS NOT DECIPHERABLE. THIS WAS FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 22, 2013.

Win Abbott: These were some questions posed and I have some answers for Council. I thought it might help to start your discussion by providing this information. The first question was where are we with PTA DeVal, our assessor, in terms of getting more up-to-date information? Last year, after we had less than satisfactory performance with our assessor, I had a meeting with him and we established a schedule whereby we would have regular quarterly updates to our assessment listing; whether picking up permits and changing things on a pretty regular basis, we wanted to make sure that we updated it quarterly. The last update was around the first of May, so this update is due now and we spoke to Mr. Hickey. He'll be in our office on Wednesday of next week, so we should have that data. The information that is used for the current draft budget for property tax assessment is based upon an assessed value of \$376,985,300 at our current tax rate that comes to \$814,288, very close to what we have here. The next item was with regard to the possibility of increasing what is the basis for the rate that we charge Tidewater Utilities for the data that we sell to them and also can we increase the rate? It is a flat fee. It is \$1,245 per quarter and there was a contract signed in July of 2011 that is good for five years. So our opportunity to change that probably will not occur until the year 2016. The next item that was requested, is that we identify the currently unused police cars and determine is there a value for ones that we may not be using? In the back of that new spreadsheet that I provided you, is a few extra forms and one of them shows the vehicle listing with vehicles that are currently not used and the lower end of the online available NADA value for the resale of vehicles; just making the supposition that there's probably high mileage or some other issues, because it gets used very heavily, so that's the low end value for the vehicles that are unused on that list. The next question that was posed, is what is the net difference for gas expense, for the Police Department vehicles during this July-August period, as compared to last year, so that we can use that as a basis for finding out whether or not our projections for gasoline expense in the next year may be close? So if you look back and recall the prices this year, as last year, have varied between about \$3.73 and \$3.59 a gallon; not much has changed even though the prices change, they just seem to keep bouncing back to the same median and within that packet, you'll see a one page, very simply typed up in Microsoft Word, it explains what our cost was last July. We just paid the credit card bill this week. So that was the bill for

July. We compare last July to this July and find out the net difference. That represents four more officers. If we were bringing the force back up by two recruits, then you see that there's an additional cost; if you consider that the recruits will be in the Academy for six months, plus another month in field officer training, we might have seven months of use, with the lower number of Police Officers and then another five months with the higher number; that comes out to \$28,000 and change, I think you'll see and we put \$32,000 in the budget. So this was another question that was posed. A little bit of homework was done, so you have something to go with, with regard to projections. Another question that was asked was about increasing current year revenues for those persons who have home businesses, have a license with the State of Delaware, but have not taken out a license with the Town of Milton for operating a business in the Town. Indeed, that list was developed, but it's not as easy as going after our renters who are not paying a renter license and the reason why, is because these are all home occupations and before we issue them a license, we have to validate that, indeed, they can operate that business in that location, even though they've been doing it under the radar the whole time. So this is probably going to involve an extra step with the Planning and Zoning Commission, or some other kind of review. It's not going to be just like it was when we did rental licenses, mailed them out and said you've got to pay this, and pay it; because we accept their check and we issue a license, now we're saying they really are good to go, where they are. So there's going to be an extra level of review. I don't know how quickly it's going to end up and increasing revenue for that particular category during this current year. During the next year, it will be very helpful, but nonetheless, that's a question that was posed and that's where we are with that. The next question that was asked is what is Miscellaneous Income in the Administrative Department, in particular. I believe it was line 650-4608. I brought with me this evening the whole Budget Transaction Audit Trail so I can look up answers to anything; but it comes down to this. The Miscellaneous Income category has what people have paid for site plan reviews, variances and we'll be at a place where we capture costs for the newly created Administrative Fee, when we are doing engineering and legal work for some of our developer's and we bill them back, we'll be tacking on that extra administrative fee and that's where it will be captured. So this is what that represents in the coming year. Now along those lines, another question was posed about the administrative fees or fines associated with the lawn cutting code violation. The way that it reads now is the Town bills at \$200 per hour and \$200 per hour is supposed to capture all of those related costs. Depending upon the job, we might be paying \$65-\$70 an hour. So there won't be extra administrative fees tacked onto that, because they're all wrapped into that one per hour fee that we have. And that was it, excepting of course, the major thing, which was putting the budget back in the hands of each one of the department managers and asking them to identify 10% additional cuts in operating expenses, that are not related to salaries and benefits. So the spreadsheet that you have on the table in front of you, has a column added to the right, where it says reduction amounts, where department managers have identified a certain dollar value of reductions. The column called Fiscal Year 2014 Proposed, has been reduced and I've also added in some extra places where there were sub-totals, to make it easier for the Council to view. I changed nothing with regard to Capital Expenses or anything else. This is just what the department managers gave back to me.

9. Adjournment