

Milton Town Council Meeting September 21, 2015 Preliminary / Summary Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order in the Milton Public Library at 6:30 PM on September 21, 2015 by Mayor Jones. A moment of silence was then observed, followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Roll Call:

Theodore Kanakos, present
Emory West, absent
Esthelda Parker-Selby, present
Michael Cote, present
Sam Garde, present
Marion Jones, present

These Preliminary Minutes:

These preliminary minutes cover only the high points of the meeting. The discussions were recorded, and will be transcribed at a later date. The transcription will serve as the final minutes of the meeting. Documents included in the Council Package are not included as attachments to these preliminary minutes.

Public Participation:

Al Cicere, 108 Pond Drive, made several comments, including:

- He moved from Maryland to Delaware a little over a year ago. One of his main motivations was the lower property taxes.
- Opined that there was no need to raise taxes.

Lorraine Wasserman, Wagamon's West Shore, made several comments, including:

- Was the seller of the house at 112 Federal Street exempt from Transfer tax?
 - Response: Yes. The exemption for the particular sale to the Town of Milton is provided for in the Delaware State Code.
- Opined that Captain Cornwell is doing an excellent job and should be promoted to Chief of Police.
- Opined, based on one individual, that morale in the Town Hall is very low.
- Opined that the Town's payroll is too high.
- Opined that the Town is in desperate need of a Town Manager.

Betty McGrath, West Shore Drive, made several comments, including:

- She indicate respect for the amount of time & effort put in by the Mayor & Town Council to deliver a budget.
- Opined that lines of communication among department heads and others in the Town Administration is confused if not broken, as demonstrated by the fact that the first number disclosed to the public required a whopping 26% increase in property taxes.

- Opined that minutes should not be reviewed at Town Council meetings, as it takes time and focus away from other agenda items.
- Opined that the process for buying the property at 112 federal Street was poor.

Additions or Corrections to the Agenda:

There were no additions or corrections to the Agenda brought forward.

Agenda Approval:

A motion was made by Councilman Garde, seconded by Councilman Kanakos to approve the Agenda as submitted. The motion was unanimously approved.

Old Business: Discussion and Possible Vote on the Following Items:

a. Fiscal Year 2016 Budget and Fee Schedule

- Raise expected property tax revenue (line item 01-03-200-4600) to account for new houses planned in other line items from \$989,000 to \$994,000.
- Decrease annual salary for the Town Manager from \$96,000 to \$85,000. This is to be split 80/20 between the Admin and Water Departments respectively, and allow the position to be filled for 9 months, not 12.
- Decrease the line items in both the Admin & Water departments for payroll taxes, medicare, and other benefits associated with the Town Manager on a proportional basis.
- Reduce the Accounting Clerk from 12 months to 6 months, treating salary and benefits appropriately. Split the revised salary & benefits equally between the Admin & Water departments.
- Allow for a temporary Accounting Clerk for 4 months, splitting the cost 50/50 between the Admin & Water departments.
- Decrease annual salary for the Police chief from \$88,700 to \$75,000. Allow the position to be filled for 10 months, not 12.
- Decrease the line items in Police Department budget for payroll taxes, medicare, and other benefits associated with the Police Chief on a proportional basis.
- Decrease Police Dep't Training & Seminars (line item 01-300-5180) from \$13,126 to \$11,591.
- Increase Police Dep't Supplies (line item 01-300-5280) from \$3,000 to \$ 4,000.
- Decrease Police Dep't Night Out Supplies (line item 01-300-5285) from \$2,500 to \$2,000.
- Decrease Police Dep't Dues & Subscriptions (line item 01-300-5340) from \$3,000 to \$2,800.
- Decrease Police Dep't Gasoline Usage (line item 01-300-5390) from \$32,000 to \$20,000.
- Decrease Police Dep't Meal for Prisoners/Police Cleaning (line item 01-300-5370) from \$150 to \$50.
- Increase Police Dep't Misc. Operating (line item 01-300-5420) from \$500 to \$800.
- Decrease Police Dep't Printing & Postage (line item 01-300-5430) from \$555 to \$535.
- \$2,800.
- Decrease Police Dep't Repairs & Maint - Bldg (line item 01-300-5460) from \$7,040 to \$6,600.

- Decrease Police Dep't Utilities (line item 01-300-5500) from \$10,900 to \$9,000.
- Decrease Police Dep't Police K-9 (line item 01-300-5535) from \$1,500 to \$1,200.
- Increase Police Dep't Travel/Lodging - Training (line item 01-300-5540) from \$0 to \$800.
- Decrease Police Dep't Occupational Health/Fitness Training (line item 01-300-5700) from \$7,625 to \$5,325.
- Increase Purchase new patrol vehicles by \$5,000 to \$30,000. This should be offset by all but the \$5,000 increase by grants from USDA & the State of Delaware.
- Decrease Water Dep't hydrants capital exp (line item 20-450-5802) from \$10,000 to 0.
- Councilman Kanakos commented that the Police Dep't accounts for more than 50% of the Town's non-proprietary budget.
- Councilman Cote and Captain Cornwell both opined that if you count the Town's total budget, i.e., proprietary & non-proprietary, the percentage is a lot lower, approximately 1/3.
- When discussing the Police Officer Retention amount, Capt. Cornwell indicated that we have had between 32 and 36 officers leave the department in the past 14 years, mostly to take other Police jobs at a higher salary.

New Business - Discussion and Possible Vote on the Following

No items.

Adjournment

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to adjourn.

Approval

These minutes were approved at the Town Council meeting held on November 16, 2015.

Very Respectfully submitted,
James C. ("Sam") Garde,
Secretary of the Town Council

