



Town of Loxahatchee Groves
Town Council Meeting – BUDGET WORKSHOP
Tuesday, July 2, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.
Loxahatchee Groves Water Control District, 101 West “D” Road

Mayor David Browning (Seat 4)
Vice Mayor Ronald D. Jarriel (Seat 1)
Councilman Tom Goltzené (Seat 5)
Councilman Ryan Liang (Seat 3)
Councilman Jim Rockett (Seat 2)

Town Manager Mark Kutney
Town Clerk Susan A. Eichhorn
Town Attorney Michael D. Cirullo, Jr.

MINUTES
BUDGET WORKSHOP

1. OPENING

- a. Call to Order & Roll Call

Mayor Browning called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Present were Mayor David Browning, Vice Mayor Ronald D. Jarriel, and Councilmen Tom Goltzené and Jim Rockett. Councilman Liang arrived at the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also present were Bill Underwood, Managing Partner Underwood Management Services Group (UMSG), Town Manager Mark Kutney, Town Clerk Susan Eichhorn, Town Attorney Michael D. Cirullo, Jr., and Town Planning Technician Braeden Garrett.

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b. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Councilman Rockett made a motion to approve the Agenda. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Jarriel. The motion passed 4/0.

2. DISCUSSION OF FY2013-14 BUDGET AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Town Manager Kutney reviewed the highlights of the proposed budget for FY 2013-14: The millage rate is proposed to increase from 1.2 to 1.5. The big issue for discussion is the 3 mill equivalency requirement of the State, which equates to \$1,140,752.31. There are a number of revenue sources that make up the 3 mill equivalency. It is important that we meet it every year, or there are ramifications. Mr. Kutney then deferred to Mr. Underwood, who provided a power point presentation regarding the FY2014 proposed budget.

Mr. Underwood indicated that there were basically four funds that make up the total budget: Capital Improvement Fund, Solid Waste Fund, General Fund, and Transportation Fund. He explained that property values are down and the assessed taxable value dropped. Property taxes were about 22% of total general fund revenue. The recommended millage rate is 1.5000 mills; estimated revenue \$246,621. Additionally, a savings in solid waste was incorporated into this preliminary budget is a savings of solid waste. The Town must produce \$1,140,752.31 in revenue through specific sources to produce the 3 mill ad valorem tax equivalent. The sources that could be used to meet that number were: Ad Valorem Taxes, Palm Beach County Fire Municipal Services Taxing Unit, Utility Taxes, and Business Tax Receipts.

Discussion took place regarding the 3 mill equivalency requirement.

Town Attorney Cirullo advised that the issue would take some work with the Florida Department of Revenue (FDOR), who were the ultimate opinion makers. Some millage rate was going to have to be set, and he recommended setting a higher amount, because it could always be lowered when going through the budget process. The correct answer would be determined by the FDOR, and would be received before September.

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Mr. Underwood stated that the 3 mill equivalency could be met by adding solid waste under the tax bill.

Town Attorney Cirullo responded that if the Town Council wanted to consider doing that, the millage would have to be set at the rate to pay for that. The Town Council would have to give direction for the 16th that would include that in the millage so that it can be determined if that is something the Town Council can consider.

Public Comment:

Bill Louda, 1300 E Rd.: Commented that he had turned in a memo to the Town Council regarding traffic control and a traffic light at D and Southern. Suggested that a short section of D road be paved from Collecting Canal to Southern, so that a light can be obtained. He also brought up lack of funds for trails.

John Ryan, 3508 A Rd.: Commented regarding the 3 mill equivalency, and explained the process that the Town went through for incorporation. He referred to the Incorporation Bill, and the staff analysis with the FDOR comments, and suggested that those things should be the focus in any discussion with the FDOR. He maintained that the Bill was the law, not the Statute.

Town Attorney Cirullo stated that he would like to have the opportunity to review the staff analysis and that any discussion with the FDOR would include all of that information.

Discussion took place regarding a traffic signal at Okeechobee and “D” Road and having a cable design rather than a mast arm.

Further discussion took place regarding the following items:

- Adding the assessment from LGWCD to lower the millage rate
- Capital Improvements
- “D” Road improvements
- Funds allocated for Town Hall being used for other projects, such as trails
- Collecting Canal paving
- Funds for a traffic signal at Okeechobee and “D” Road included in this fiscal year
- \$28,893 subsidy to LGWCD
- Consensus was to carry over \$80,000 for trails and linear parks to FY2014 and include funds for trails and linear parks in upcoming years.

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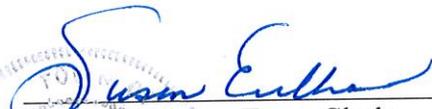
Public Comment:

John Ryan, 3508 A Rd.: Commented that the LGWCD will have its preliminary budget meeting and the District Administrator had sent a letter to the Town requesting a contribution of \$28,893 toward OGEM road improvement project debt assessments. He requested that the Town Council determine if it would be included in the Town's budget.

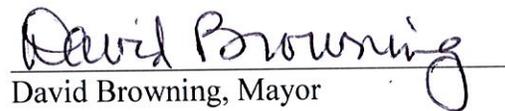
Town Attorney Cirullo advised that a motion could not be made during a workshop meeting. The Town Council could adopt a motion at its regular meeting this evening, under New Business, to give formal direction

3. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Budget Workshop Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.



Susan Eichhorn, Town Clerk



David Browning, Mayor

(SEAL)

These minutes were approved by the Town Council on July 16, 2013