



Town of Loxahatchee Groves
Finance Advisory & Audit Committee Meeting
Wednesday, January 9, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.
Palms West Chamber of Commerce, 13901 Southern Boulevard

Chair Lung Chiu
Vice Chair Elise Ryan
Committee Member Cheryl Miller
Committee Member Virginia Standish
Vacancy

Town Council Liaison Ryan Liang
Town Manager Mark Kutney
Town Clerk Susan Eichhorn

MINUTES

1. OPENING

a. Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Lung Chiu called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were Chair Lung Chiu, Vice Chair Elise Ryan and Committee Members Cheryl Miller and Virginia Standish. Also present were Town Manager Mark Kutney, Bill Underwood, Managing Partner of Underwood Management Services Group, LLC (UMSG), and Town Clerk Susan Eichhorn.

b. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved as printed.

Chair Chiu declared a conflict of interest in regard to the matter under the Agenda related to Town Council Compensation, because of his business relationship with Council Member Liang. He was provided Form 8b to fill out and return to the Town Clerk.

2. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion Relative to Town Council Compensation Options

Mr. Kutney expressed appreciation to the members of the Committee for taking the time to attend this special meeting. He explained that the Town Council had expressed interest in some form of compensation for their duties as members of the Town Council. There was a Charter provision that did allow for that. He stated that he would take the recommendation of the FAAC, resulting from the meeting tonight, to the Town Council on the 15th of January, 2013. He indicated that the back-up provided this evening included a study that had been conducted regarding compensation of surrounding communities, and also included annual compensation options that the Management Company had developed.

Bill Underwood stated that all of the municipalities included both health insurance and some kind of allowance in the Council compensation. The study indicated that the average compensation was \$5,700.00 annually.

Discussion took place regarding whether there should be compensation or not, and it was the consensus of the FAAC that compensation was desirable.

Public Comment:

Philomenia Liu commented regarding the need for compensation, and distributed information from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regarding government compensation.

After discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee to agree on providing some form of compensation to the Town Council members.

Motion: Committee Member Miller made a motion to recommend Option 2, with an allowance of \$500 per month per council member. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Ryan. The motion carried 3/0, as Chair Chui was not participating in the vote.

Town Manager Kutney advised that he would provide an agenda report at the upcoming Town Council meeting, and Vice Chair Ryan would provide a report of the FAAC meeting.

Comments from Committee Members:

Committee Member Standish: Appreciates patience of committee in hearing her remarks, and noted that the Committee had done things in the correct way – this was not compensation, and would not be wages. Calling it an allowance was the correct language. Elise: we have come to a good resolution and everyone was unanimous on it.

Committee Member Miller: I am very satisfied with how it went. I am glad that we agreed that the council needs something, because they work very hard.

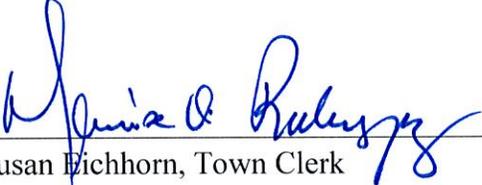
Public Comment:

Philomena Liu: This is serving your own community. Committee members also work very hard.

Town Manager Kutney thanked everyone for coming, and appreciated the very good discussion that had taken place.

3. ADJOURNMENT

Committee Member Miller made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Standish, and carried unanimously. There being no further business, the Finance Advisory and Audit Committee meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.


Susan Eichhorn, Town Clerk


Lung Chiu, Chairman

(SEAL)