



**Town of Port Deposit
Town Council Meeting Minutes
Work Session Meeting
April 18, 2017**

PRESENT: Mayor Tome, Deputy Mayor Leeds, Councilman Brown, Councilman Knight, Councilman Kuhs, Town Administrator Rinkerman and Legal Counsel Herring.

ABSENT: Councilman Haines and Councilwoman Rodgers

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Tome called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING - Resolution 17-2017 – Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2018 Budget

- Finance Manager Sookiasian presented a comparison of property tax rate and the constant yield rate. He is recommending that the constant yield rate of .5460. The impact on property owners is minimal, impact on bottom line is \$3,000.
- Finance Manager Sookiasian used the .546 rate in the compilation of the budget.
- Councilman Knight would like to see a little lower rate next year.

Motion by Councilman Knight to approve the property tax rate of .536. (\$9,000 impact) Second by Councilman Brown. Motion was withdrawn after discussion.

DISCUSSION:

- Finance Manager Sookiasian would rather see the Town eat away at the cushion in the budget instead of having a surplus.
- Finance Manager Sookiasian mentioned that the Assessment office may lower our property values during their 3-year review.
- Town Administrator Rinkerman noted that most of the properties that have sold this year were foreclosures, only a few have sold at market value.

Motion by Councilman Kuhs to approve the property tax rate of .546. Second by Deputy Mayor Leeds. Roll call vote: Councilman Brown – Aye, Deputy Mayor Leeds – Aye, Councilman Kuhs – Aye, Councilman Knight – Aye. All in favor, motion carried.

Finance Manager Sookiasian is recommending a rate 2.2 percent for the utility tax increase and 0 for the personal tax rate.

Councilman Knight asked if the railroad paid a property tax. Finance Manager Sookiasian replied that they do, but they do not pay the utility tax.

Motion by Councilman Knight to approve the utility rate of 2.2 and personal tax rate of 0. Second by Councilman Kuhs. Roll call vote: Councilman Brown – Aye, Deputy Mayor Leeds – Aye, Councilman Kuhs – Aye, Councilman Knight – Aye. All in favor, motion carried.

INTRODUCTION - Ordinance 2017-01 Fiscal Year 2018 Budget – Mayor Tome and Finance Manager Sookiasian

- Finance Manager Sookiasian is recommending a 4% increase (\$10.26) in trash rates.
- Exelon donation for Parks and Rec was lower because they made a donation that was used in our capital account.
- MML dinner is reflected in the budget but no other special events.
- 17.5% increase in health insurance.
 - Finance Manager Sookiasian is recommending entire deductible be covered by the HRA.
- CCSO will not be increasing their rate for this year.
- \$5,000 item in budget to clean up properties in town.
- Recommendation to increase hours for Code Enforcement Officer Mann.

PRESENTATIONS

Tome Visitor Center Update – Town Administrator Rinkerman

- 120 Invitations were sent by mail. It's believed that about 100 will attend. Fifty people have responded positively so far.

PUBLIC COMMENT – There was no public comment.

NEW BUSINESS

- **VLT Grant - Town Administrator Rinkerman**
 - Due May 12.
 - Maximum is \$25,0000.
 - Town Administrator Rinkerman recommended that it be spent on the engineering for the flood study but asked Council for direction on project prioritization.
 - Councilman Knight asked if she had went to FEMA about the getting money for the study; Town Administrator Rinkerman said she did and it is not a big enough project for them.
 - Council reached a consensus that the money should be put toward the engineering.
- **Sustainable Community Grant – Town Administrator Rinkerman**
 - Strategic acquisition and demolition piece requests a plan. Code Enforcement Officer Mann has set up a meeting with Port Deposit Heritage Corp.

OLD BUSINESS

Pump Station – Town Administrator Rinkerman

- Town Administrator Rinkerman attended a meeting with the County and Bainbridge Development Corporation today. A summary is:
 - County timeline is aggressive with an opening date of 2018
 - Council has put \$5 million in their CIP,
 - There is funding through MDE and the BDC/Developer (\$2.5 million)
 - If this project doesn't make it through, they will just repair the old one because the tank is rusting through,
 - The new building is about the same height as our public works building,
 - They have to install a grinder pump for the comfort station,
 - County is willing to relocate 50 feet north of proposed site to open up the view,
 - They are agreeable with the redesign to make the building fit better with the Town,
 - Town Administrator Rinkerman spoke with members of the Clam Group about the 2.5 acres.

- The Mayor noted that he is not happy that he did not know about the meeting as he has been trying to get one with Al Wein and Scott Flannigan.
- There was also a question and discussion about landlocked land.
- Councilman Kuhs suggested maybe we could "sweeten the pot" by donating a piece of land, and backing off on the beautification of the building.
- The site plan is going before the Planning Commission in May.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL - There were no reports.

COUNCIL REPORTS - There were no reports.

PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comment.


ANNOUNCEMENTS –

- Riversweep on April 23.
- Firemen's Convention:
 - History presentation at 1:00 on bank steps.
 - Parade kicks off at 2:00 P.M.
 - There will be an arch in the center of Town (across Main).
- Newly formed Economic Development Committee will meet at Town Hall on April 19.
- Rockfish Tournament on June 3.
- Lee's Landing event on June 17.

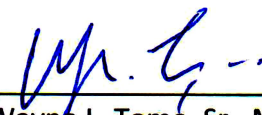
EXECUTIVE SESSION – No Executive Session scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT – Meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Attest:


 Vicky Rinkerman, Town Administrator

Approved:


 Wayne L. Tome, Sr., Mayor