

# **The Mayor and Commissioners of the Town of Elkton**

## **MINUTES**

April 14, 2010

A public meeting (workshop) of the Mayor and Commissioners of the Town of Elkton (“the Board”) was held on this date at 4:00 P.M., with the following persons present: Mayor Joseph Fisona, Commissioners Charles H. Givens, Sr.; Mary Jo Jablonski; Earl M. Piner and C. Gary Storke; Town Administrator Lewis H. George, Jr.; Assistant Town Administrator Kim Kamp; Finance Director Steven Repole; Chief of Police William Ryan; Director of Parks & Recreation Mary Magaw; Zoning Administrator J. Craig Trostle; Director of Human Resources Venus Kincaid; Administration Office Secretary L. Michelle Henson; and Town Attorney H. Norman Wilson, Jr.

Mayor Fisona called the Workshop meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

### **Discussion – Parks & Recreation Department Budget**

Ms. Magaw said she restarted the bus trip program on a trial basis. She said the trips included Washington D.C. and New York.

Discussion ensued regarding advertising and various destinations.

Ms. Magaw stated her proposed budget included a request for registration software which would streamline the program registration process.

Commissioner Piner expressed concerns regarding an indoor facility for program enrollees to utilize during summer months.

Mayor Fisona questioned the costs associated with the portable toilets lease fees. Discussion ensued regarding portable toilet providers.

Commissioner Jablonski questioned if dance class participants paid the costs of their costumes. Ms. Magaw answered in the affirmative.

Commissioner Givens questioned if the Skate Park was being utilized. Ms. Magaw said Skate Park fees were suspended to encourage use.

Commissioner Piner requested signage limiting parking at the Skate Park to those using the facility.

Discussion ensued regarding initiation of a Facebook account for the Town. Mayor Fisona queried the Board for a consensus regarding initiation of a Facebook account for the Town. It was the consensus of the Board to initiate a Facebook account for the Town.

**Discussion – Administration Department Budget**

Ms. Kamp stated the only addition to the proposed budget was the cost to include the Websites of the Elkton Police Department (“EPD”) and Department of Public Works (“DPW”) under the Town’s main Website.

Commissioner Jablonski questioned if EPD and DPW would still have their own Websites. Ms. Kamp answered in the affirmative, saying the sites would be accessed by links from the Town’s main Website.

Commissioner Jablonski questioned the cost of the project. Ms. Kamp stated she was unsure of the cost associated with the project, adding it would save about \$800.00 per year.

Ms. Kamp stated the Town received grant funding of \$85,000.00 to redo lighting in the EPD and the Water Treatment Plant, and to upgrade thermostats at Town Hall.

Discussion ensued regarding the copier lease costs.

Discussion continued regarding the scheduled dedication ceremony for the upgraded Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**Discussion – Building & Zoning Department Budget**

Mr. Trostle stated he was able to reduce his budget by 3% as requested by Mayor Fisona.

Discussion ensued regarding updated safety requirements for new houses.

**Discussion – Human Resources Department Budget**

Ms. Kincaid stated she was unable to reduce her budget by 3% due to several areas that were under-funded in previous budgets.

Discussion ensued regarding unemployment insurance costs.

Discussion continued regarding candidates for positions with the Town.

**Discussion – Finance Department Budget**

Mr. Repole said he requested funds for a required actuarial study for employees with more than 25 years of service with the Town.

Discussion ensued regarding copier lease and stool replacements for Finance Clerks.

**Discussion – Municipal Financial Services Group Water/Sewer Rate Study Recommendations**

Mr. George said he sent a draft Ordinance regarding water/sewer rates for the Board's review. He said the rates were based upon one of several rate structure options submitted by Municipal Financial Services Group ("MFSG"). Mr. George stated the Ordinance would be presented for introduction at the Board's June 16, 2010 meeting.

Mr. Repole stated the billing option chosen by the Board lowered the minimum billing base from 9,000 gallons of used per quarter to 3,000 gallons of water per quarter. Commissioner Storke questioned if higher volume users' costs would increase. Mr. Repole answered in the affirmative.

Mayor Fisona queried the Board regarding the Ordinance adopting the rate structure. Commissioner Jablonski suggested tabling a decision until June. It was the consensus of the Board to revisit the MSFG rate study recommendations in June.

Mr. Repole advised the Board of impending increases in trash removal fees and an additional fee of \$70,000 for tipping at the Cecil County Central Landfill.

Commissioner Jablonski stated she received notice from a citizen interested in serving on the Town's Election Board.

Commissioner Storke questioned the status of the Board's decision whether to appeal the arbitrator's decision regarding the Fraternal Order of Police ("FOP") request for the initiation of a defined benefit plan.

Chief Ryan stated he met with Mayor Fisona to discuss options proposed by the FOP in order to alleviate the Board's concerns about the defined benefit plan. Chief Ryan stated the FOP proposed to agree to a 3-year contract with no amendments if the Board agreed to go forward with a defined benefit retirement plan.

Mayor Fisona queried the Board for a consensus regarding the FOP's proposal.

Commissioners Jablonski and Piner said they were agreeable to the FOP's proposal. Commissioner Givens stated the FOP's proposal should be presented in writing. Chief Ryan stated he would obtain the FOP's proposal in writing.

Commissioner Storke stated he supported the Police Officers and expressed concerns regarding increased costs to taxpayers. He said he based his decision on the best interests of citizens and stated he was not in favor of the FOP's proposal.

Commissioner Piner expressed concerns that appealing the arbitrator's decision would incur more legal fees than simply initiating the defined benefit plan.

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Discussion ensued regarding exclusion of disability benefits from the proposed defined benefit plan.

Discussion continued regarding the current retirement plan provided to all employees.

Chief Ryan stated he could not answer for the FOP and that he was bringing the option to the Board's attention.

Mayor Fisona queried the Board for a decision regarding review of the FOP's proposal. It was the consensus of the Board to review the FOP's written proposal.

Hearing no additional business to come before the Board, Mayor Fisona adjourned the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

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L. Michelle Henson  
Administration Office Secretary

A RECORDING OF THIS MEETING RETAINED AT THE ADMINISTRATION  
OFFICE