

MINUTES

COSM

Commissioners

COSM Budget Work Session

Wednesday, March 27, 2019, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

Edgar M Bosley Jr. Municipal Admin Building

300 Mill Street; PO Box 206

St. Michaels, Maryland 21663

- I.

Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance

- The special budget session of the Commissioners of St. Michaels began at 8:10 a.m. in the meeting room of the Edgar M. Bosley, Jr. Municipal Building, 300 Mill Street, St. Michaels, Maryland. Present were Commissioners William Boos, Michael Gorman, Jaime Windon, and Michael Bibb, Town Manager Jean Weisman, Finance Clerk Kathy Eglseider, and Legislative Clerk Suzanna Warnick, and one member of the public. Commissioner Joyce Harrod was absent.
- II.

Call to Order for Closed Executive Session

- Personnel will be discussed as part of FY20 Budget Sessions
- At 8:45 a.m., President Boos called for a motion to move into a Closed Session to discuss personnel and salaries, pursuant to the Open Meetings Act. Commissioner Windon made the motion. Commissioner Bibb seconded it, and the motion passed on a vote of 4-0 in favor.

The Commissioners convened into into Closed Session later in the meeting again to discuss personnel and salaries, pursuant to the Open Meetings Act.

- III.

Comments from the Public

- Mike Estrella of E. Chew asked where the police cameras are stored when not in use and could officers share the cameras on a shift basis, rather than purchasing one for every officer.
- IV.

Public Working Session on the Budget

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Fiscal Year 2020 Budget

- Mrs. Weisman presented a re-draft of the budget incorporating changes made at yesterday's budget meeting. There was a discussion of the cost of police body cameras vs. car cameras, and police training for cameras, which was followed by a discussion of what funding in general should come out of the Capital Fund.

Police Chief Anthony Smith rejoined the meeting and provided additional information on car and body cameras, and answered questions from the Commissioners. After some additional discussion, the Commissioners agreed to fund the body cameras in the budget.

Later in the meeting, Chief Smith provided more information on the cost of the LEOPS pension plan, and answered Commissioners' questions. Following discussion, President Boos made a motion to move into Special Legislative Session. Commissioner Bibb seconded it and the motion passed on a roll call vote of 4-0 in favor. President Boos then called for a motion to approve the LEOPS proposal as presented for July 1, 2019. Commissioner Bibb made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Windon, and which then passed on a roll call vote of 4-0 in favor.

Later in the meeting, Mrs. Weisman opened a discussion of a construction loan for the new Town Office building, noting that she had talked with Shore United Bank about an interest only loan at 3.9%. The Commissioners discussed how to budget for a loan, and in what amount. It was decided to budget \$50,000 for the initial interest payment.

President Boos said a discussion of salaries was still outstanding, and made a motion to move into Closed Session, pursuant to the Open Meetings Act. Commissioner Bibb seconded it and the motion passed on a roll call vote of 4-0.

- a.

Outside Agency budget requests

- Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area

Neighborhood Service Center, Inc.

SMASH

Talbot County Arts Council Inc.

- The Commissioners then heard requests from outside agencies, granting \$1,000 each to the Talbot County Arts Council, Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area, and the Neighborhood Service Center, Inc. The Commissioners also allocated \$5,000 to the SMASH after school program, and the St. Michaels Library, \$4,000 to the Community Pool, \$3,000 to the St. Mary's Square Museum and the Community Center, and the Fire Department would be receiving its annual line item support in the amount of \$64,000, which, Mrs. Weisman said was an \$8,000 increase over last year. The Commissioners had a general discussion of different ways to handle funding requests and made changes in how money would be allocated next year.

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- b.

Waterways Advisory Board

- Roy Myers, a member of the Waterways Advisory Board, addressed the Commissioners. Mr. Myers thanked Town Manager Jean Weisman for moving ahead on bids for the improvements to Back Creek Park and the Watermen's Heritage Park, and said that expediting the project could mean that the Town would have additional boat slips by next spring. Mr. Myers also requested signage for the newly created Watermen's Heritage Park. Mr. Myers then presented highlights of the Waterways annual report in which he outlined projects the Town could implement over the next 10-15 years that would help alleviate nuisance flooding and the effects of sea level rise. Mr. Myers requested a letter of support from the Commissioners for a grant to do a study of the harbor. Mr. Myers also recommended that the Town pursue a grant for a bathroom at N. Harbor Road for use by watermen and boaters, and work closely with the Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) on removal of sunken boats. The Commissioners agree to provide a letter of support for the grant, and Mr. Myers said he would draft the grant language.

- c.

Horticulturalist report (Cathy Hower)

- d.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

- The Commissioners increased the landscaping budget by \$400.00.
- V.

Comments from the Commissioners

- The open meeting was reconvened at 1:45 p.m. and Mrs. Weisman led with a proposal to establish a 401(k) for employees that would include a match from the

employer. Mrs. Weisman said she would do some additional research on 401K's for municipalities.

Mrs. Weisman said she had spoken to Mike Gerding of Manns Woodward Design and his group could not make the April 10th meeting with a presentation. The Commissioners discussed an alternate date, settling on Monday, April 22th in a phone conversation with Mr. Gerding. Mrs. Weisman said she would coordinate the meeting on the 22nd at the Museum's Steamboat Building.

President Boos thanked the staff for their good work on the budget.

- VI.

Announcement of Future Meetings

- April 10, 2019 - 6:00 pm - Town Office - COSM Regular Work and Legislative Session

April 19, 2019 - Office closed for Good Friday

April 22, 2019 - 6 pm - Town Office - COSM extra Work and Legislative Session

- VII.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.