

COSM
Commissioners
COSM Special Budget Workshop - Two
Friday, March 19, 2021, 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Virtual Remote Meeting

- I.

Call to Order for Working Session - Pledge of Allegiance

- President Harrod called to order the special remote budget session of the Commissioners of St. Michaels at 3:00 p.m. in St. Michaels, Maryland and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Also present at the meeting were Commissioners Michael Bibb, David Breimhurst, Jaime Windon and Tad duPont, Town Manager Jean Weisman, Police Chief Anthony Smith, Captain Jeffrey Oswald, Legislative Clerk Suzanna Warnick, Communications Manager Kimberly Weller, and members of the public.

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II. Public Working Session on Fiscal Year 2022 Budget

- Fiscal Year 2022 Budget

- Administration

Police Department

- President Harrod opened the session on the FY 2021-2022 budget. The Commissioners briefly discussed recusal from discussion and/or votes and Mrs. Weisman said that the Town Attorney would speak to the Commissioners at their April 14th meeting regarding this matter.

Mrs. Weisman opened the discussion of the budget beginning with any changes to the revenue section, noting that the Highway User revenue had come in at \$71,000 instead of \$76,000 and she had made the budget adjustment for that. Mrs. Weisman answered the Commissioners' line item questions on expenses. Mrs. Weisman said she was continuing the conversion to Commissioner Breimhurst's budget format and she expected to have a completed document for the next meeting.

Mrs. Weisman said she and Kathy Eglseder had met with Shore United Bank regarding shifting to their ICS investment program for the Town's checking accounts. The change would maintain the Town's active accounts on the Eastern Shore since PNC bank was leaving the area. Mrs. Weisman said she had checked with other towns on the Eastern Shore, many of which use the ICS program. At the request of Commissioner duPont, Mrs. Weisman said she would

invite Abby Graves of Shore United to the Commissioners' next budget meeting to explain the ICS plan and its investment options.

Chief Anthony Smith reviewed the Police Department's budget and budget requests. The Chief said the department was requesting a new vehicle which would amount to about \$45,000 including the necessary police add-ons. Chief Smith said the department had looked into leasing vehicles and Captain Oswald said vendors are not interested in leasing to communities with less than 20 vehicles. Commissioner duPont said he did want to look further into leasing as a way to preserve capital. Chief Smith said he would obtain further information by the next meeting. The Chief also said the department needed to replace body armor, which was a safety requirement for each officer every five years, updated communications software to participate in the County's RMS system, an upgrade of tazers, and ammunition. The Commissioners' had a number of questions for the Chief. The Commissioners also talked generally about salary, bonuses, overtime and benefits for the department. Mrs. Weisman said she would summarize the discussion of the police requests for the Commissioners to review and would schedule a closed session to discuss individual salaries and benefits.

Mrs. Weisman then outlined the details of the proposed administration budget, noting that it was about the same as last year. Mrs. Weisman said this year she would like to use some of the Cares Act money to upgrade the Town's website and move meetings and agendas to a digital format using the I-Compass technology, as well as update the Town's personnel manual. Mrs. Weisman said she would also like to move ahead with town office plans. Commissioner Breimhurst suggested an amount (\$35-40,000 for Phase I) for the Town Planner to assist with that project.

Commissioner Windon joined the remote meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Commissioner duPont said he wanted to create a specific fund for the Climate Change/sea level rise project. Mrs. Weisman said any reclassification or creation of funds would require a Charter Amendment. The Commissioners directed Mrs. Weisman to designate \$25,000 from the Emergency (contingency) fund for sea level project engineering in this year's budget. The Commissioners agreed to discuss the creation of another fund at one of their upcoming meetings in April.

The Commissioner duPont questioned whether the Town is charging enough for the purchase of parking spaces by restaurants wanting to convert them for outside dining and asked Mrs. Weisman to provide the average cost of a parking space. Mrs. Weisman said she had not received any requests from outside agencies this year, other than the Talbot Arts Council. She had accounted for the outside groups that were established line items in the budget. Commissioner Windon asked about the Town's contribution to the County pool in 2020 and whether that money could be re-couped since the pool

did not open because of Covid-19. Mrs. Weisman said she would check into the availability of that money.

Mrs. Weisman concluded that next week's meeting would feature the Public Works budget and there would be a closed session to discuss personnel.

III. Comments from the Public

- Mr. Myers of E. Chestnut Street thanked the Commissioners for their attention to the sea level project. Mr. Myers also said he did have concerns about parking if the restaurants convert their parking spaces to outdoor dining areas.

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IV. Comments from the Commissioners

- Commissioner Harrod asked about the applicants for the Town Planner. Mrs. Weisman said the Town could move forward to interview the planners that had submitted bids.

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V. Announcement of Future Budget Meetings

March 26 2021 - 3:00 pm - Budget Session 3

April 9 2021 - 3:00 pm - Budget Session 4

April 14 2021 - 6:00 - Public Hearing on FY22 Budget and COSM Regular Working Session

VI. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.