

MINUTES

COSM

Commissioners

COSM Budget Working Session 3

Friday, March 18, 2022, 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Edgar M Bosley Jr. Municipal Admin Building

300 Mill Street; PO Box 206

St. Michaels, MD 21663

- I.
Call to Order for Working Session - Pledge of Allegiance
- President Bibb called to order a live and remote working session on the FY 2022-23 budget (3) at 4:00 p.m. in the meeting room of the Edgar M. Bosley Jr. Municipal Building, 300 Mill Street, St. Michaels, Maryland, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Also present were Commissioners David Breimhurst, Joyce Harrod, Aida Khalil and Tad duPont, Police Captain Jeffrey Oswald, Interim Town Manager Jeff Rhodes, Zoning Officer Kymberly Kudla, Finance Clerk Katherine Eglseder and Legislative Clerk Suzanna Warnick.

II. Public Working Session on Fiscal Year 2023 Budget

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Fiscal Year 2023 Budget
- Commissioner duPont opened the discussion of the FY 2022-23 budget, and the Commissioners again reviewed the possibility of having the Police Department manage a portion of their budget. The Commissioners agreed to obtain legal and accounting guidance before moving forward with a change.

The Commissioners also discussed a police request for funding for an upgrade of its firearms as well as having the Town consider changing accounting firms.

The Commissioners agreed to discuss cost of living increases in their next closed session. President Bibb moved the discussion back to budget items beginning with business registrations. Jeff Rhodes agreed to rewrite the business registration ordinance based on President Bibb's explanation of annual Use in Occupancy permits.

Commissioner duPont reviewed income items such as tower leases, permit fees, interest on capital accounts, traffic camera fees, land grant commitments. The Commissioners discussed a suggestion from President Bibb that funds be allocated for improving St. Mary's Square, including removal of diseased or damaged trees and the installation of an irrigation system to help maintain what is Town-owned property.

Commissioner duPont also reviewed town expenditures including legal fees, grant matches, particularly for the climate change/sea level rise project, property insurance, bank service charges, real estate taxes, web site development, and planning and zoning costs, including a re-write of the rest of the Town Code, minus Chapter 340.

Upon request, Police Captain Jeff Oswald explained the expenses in the police budget, including vehicle maintenance, gasoline, and costs for policy writing, dues and fees, and body camera maintenance.

Commissioner duPont then opened a discussion of the Public Works budget and fielded questions and comments from the other Commissioners.

Commissioner duPont said he expected an increase in the accommodations tax revenue.

He also noted that the Town may have an opportunity to pay down additional debt or help with any water project overage.

Commissioner duPont concluded that in his opinion, the five most important projects for the Town to spend money on were the water upgrade, a new police station and town office, the removal of utility lines on main street, and the sea level rise/climate change project.

III. Comments from the Public

- Roy Myers of E. Chestnut Street said he believed that St. Michaels could only handle one or possibly two projects at a time because of the all-consuming effect on the Town and its residents. He suggested the Commissioners prioritize their project list.

IV. Comments from the Commissioners

V. Announcement of Future Budget Meetings

- The Commissioners agreed to have another budget session and a closed session to deal with salaries.

VI. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.