

# MINUTES



**Commissioners of  
St Michaels  
Meeting Minutes - Budget Session 4 and Closed Session  
Monday, April 17, 2023, 5:00 pm - 8:30 pm  
St. Michaels Branch of the Talbot Co. Library  
106 S. Fremont Street  
St. Michaels, MD 21663**

1. Call to Order for Budget Session 4 - Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Breimhurst, President, called to order a live and remote Budget Session 4 of the Commissioners of St. Michaels at 5:00 pm in St. Michaels, Maryland and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Also present at the meeting were Commissioners Joyce Harrod, Tad duPont, Katrina Whittington, and Al Mercier. Other representatives include Town Administrator Rob Straebel, Finance Clerk Kathy Eglseder, Town Clerk Vickie Sharp, and Captain Oswald. Approximately 2 members of the public were present as well as remote attendees on Zoom.

2. Announcement of Closed Session

The Commissioners will vote to hold a Closed Session after the Open Session on Wednesday, April 17, 2023 pursuant to Maryland Code, under the Open Meetings Act, General Provisions Article Section §3-305(b) to discuss the following: (7) To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

3. Public Budget Session 4 for FY24

Line Item 395 "Third Water Well and Pump Station Study to "Third Water Well Water and Pump Station Preliminary Engineering."

Line item 240 "Police Vehicle Maintenance Expense" increased by \$9,000 from \$31,000 to \$40,000.

Line Item 295 "Signs (Historic District)" decreased by \$10,220 from \$17,500 to \$7,280 to account for revised historic district funding request. This is to only include the request of four new aluminum signs, signposts, mounting hardware, concrete and forms.

Line Item 248 "Body Camera Maintenance", struck from the budget - \$10,374. Speed camera revenues will pay for this expense.

Line Item 250 "Tasers", struck from the budget - \$3,200. Speed camera revenues will pay for this expense.

Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) of 3% increase for all employees with an additions 1% increase for merit raises and raises for employee who complete advance water training certification.

Discussion on lowering the Constant Yield Tax Rate that is allowed by the State (\$0.5042). Currently the Town's rate is \$0.49.

Discussion regarding the schedule to approve the budget and tax rate in order to stay on

schedule for the public hearing.

4. Comments from the Public

None

5. Comments from the Commissioners

Commissioners had further discussion on the Budget FY24 regarding the following line items; Line Item 129 "Tourism & Communications", lowering from \$70,000 to \$25,000, Line Item 157 "IT Consultant", lowering from \$36,500 to \$25,000.

Constant Yield Tax Rate was agreed to be reduced from the current \$0.49 to \$0.47.

They all stated how easy these budget sessions were going and how clear the budget was.

6. Announcement of Future Meetings

April 26, 2023 - COSM Legislative Session

May 10, 2023 - COSM Working Session

May 24, 2023 - COSM Legislative Session

7. Adjournment of Open Session

At close of Open Session, COSM will convene into Closed Session

8. Call to Order for Closed Executive Session

The Commissioners voted to hold a Closed Session after the Open Session on Wednesday, April 17, 2023 pursuant to Maryland Code, under the Open Meetings Act, General Provisions Article Section §3-305(b) to discuss the following: (7) To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

Commissioner duPont motioned to go into Closed Session and Commissioner Whittington second, was passed on a roll call vote of 5-0 in favor.

9. Adjournment of Open and Closed Session

Submitted by

Vickie Sharp, Town Clerk

Public Participation: All comments from the public will be taken during the period set aside for "Comments from the Public." The "Comments from the Public" portion of the Commission agenda shall have a limited time period as determined by the Commissioners, and shall be at the beginning and at the end of each agenda. To be recognized, a member of the public should raise his or her hand and wait to be recognized by the President. Comments and questions should be kept brief and to the point, and be directed to the President.