



**MINUTES**  
**THE TOWN OF INDIAN RIVER SHORES**  
**6001 North Highway A1A, Indian River Shores, FL 32963**  
**BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING**  
**Thursday, June 29, 2017**  
**9:00 a.m.**

**PRESENT:** **Brian M. Barefoot, Mayor**  
**Michael B. Ochsner, Vice Mayor**  
**Robert F. Auwaerter, Councilman**  
**Richard M. Haverland, Councilman**  
**Deborah H. Peniston, Councilmember**

**STAFF PRESENT:** **Robert Stabe, Town Manager** **Laura Aldrich, Town Clerk**  
**Chester Clem, Town Attorney** **Jose Guanch, Building Official**  
**Lt. Mark Shaw, Public Safety** **Heather Christmas, Finance**  
**Darlene Wiltzius, Finance**

**OTHERS PRESENT:** **RESIDENTS Bill Cull, Joanne Sardella & Andy Sowers Finance Committee;**  
**Nancy Auwaerter, Ocean Colony; Barbara Palumbo, Vista Del Mar; Patty Gundy,**  
**Pebble Bay; Frantz Bertin, Bermuda Bay; GUESTS Melanie Stegall, Brown &**  
**Brown Agency; Janet Begley, Press Journal**

1. **Call to Order**

- a. Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation
- b. Roll Call

Mayor Barefoot called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance, invocation and roll call accomplished as reflected above.

2. **Town Manager's Discussion**

Mayor Barefoot noted that the budget was built from the ground up, zero based, and considered no increase in millage or property values. The proceeds from the sale of the 5-acre property were briefly discussed. One question was asked if it could be used to provide a one-time tax relief for each resident, which is not allowable. A councilman had provided a spreadsheet with potential uses for the funds. It was noted that the budget had been reviewed twice by the Finance Committee prior to today.

This budget includes a 1.6390 millage rate, which is a 4.6% reduction based on the June 1 preliminary assessment from the Property Appraiser. The Town just received notification that the preliminary tax proceeds increased 5.36%, different than the 5.8% rate published in the newspaper because that number included the adjustments made by the Value Adjustment Board. The impact from the additional homestead exemption as recently passed by legislature is only \$50,000 - \$75,000 to the Town's portion of the tax receipt.

3. **Finance Committee's Discussion**

Three members from the Committee were present at this meeting, who had no comment.

4. **Council Discussion**

**Revenues** were discussed (Communication Sales Tax, ambulance fee, cell tower, surplus equipment sale), and the minor increase to operational costs for the **Postal Center** (staff overhead).

The **Public Safety Department (PSD) budget** for overtime and staffing was discussed at length, and was determined to *change the overtime from 8% to 4%*. The Council also recommended to *eliminate the weekend/holiday part-time position*.

Discussion about the expenses associated with the **electric utility litigation** resulted in a *reduction from the \$30,000 proposed to \$15,000*.

*Please Note: The Town of Indian River Shores does not routinely keep verbatim minutes. Any party interested in such an appeal relating to any decision made by the Council with respect to any matter considered at this meeting is responsible to record the meeting and include the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.*

An extended discussion about the management staffing requests for the **Building Department part-time inspector** and for both a **full time and a part time person in the Town Manager/Town Clerk's office** was not resolved, as this matter was *carried forward to another Budget Workshop in July* in order to move on with other issues.

A **request for more data from Public Safety** with an analysis of how **the training requirements** compare from last year to this year, to what is projected for next year and the year after to be provided,

Also requested was **more detailed information from the Building Department** using *quantifiable data on productivity, on-time services, and projection of inspections*. The Building Official cited 4 years of inspection data that showed a progression from 2400, 3043, 4049, to 4641 inspections. With new regulations plan reviews average 30% increase annually, new permits 18% annual increase, and a 5% reconstruction increase annually. The Council question remained how to rationalize that the work was done on time with no significant issues. Mr. Guanch explained that this is more than a one-person job; he is juggling 21 stops between 1 and 6 when he finishes, and lost 2 weeks of vacation each of the past two years. He explained all of the upcoming projects, and that 80% of the department's activity relates to existing homes. The funds generated by the Building Department were also discussed.

**Capital expenses** were carried forward to the next Budget Workshop for discussion.

5. **Audience Discussion**

Mayor Barefoot asked if there were any comments, and there were none.

6. **Recommendation**

The Mayor asked the Treasurer to recap the recommendations: 1) in **PSD's budget, reduce overtime from 6 to 4 days and eliminate the part time receptionist position** on the weekend, and 2) eliminate line item details and reduce the **electric litigation expenses from \$30,000 to \$15,000**, which reduce the budget in total by \$130,000. **The staffing issues remain open.**

The recommended tentative millage rate ceiling is 1.6786. Mrs. Christmas said the budget now does not include using the proceeds from the land sale, and is 1.5790 mils with the changes as recommended at this point, or .1396 (8.1%) less than current. **A motion to recommend setting the tentative millage rate ceiling at 1.7186** was made by Councilman Auwaerter and seconded by Vice Mayor Ochsner, which **passed 5-0**.

Also recommended was to have the next Budget Workshop meeting immediately prior to the next Council meeting on July 27.

7. **Adjournment**

Hearing no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s \_\_\_\_\_

Laura Aldrich, Town Clerk

(Approved by the Town Council at the July 27, 2017 meeting)