

TOWN OF GRANT-VALKARIA, FLORIDA  
TOWN COUNCIL WORKSHOP  
MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 15, 2009  
GRANT COMMUNITY CENTER, 4580 1<sup>ST</sup> STREET, GRANT VALKARIA, FL 32949

The Workshop Meeting of the Town of Grant-Valkaria, Florida, Town Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Del Yonts followed by the Pledge led by Council Member Faden, and roll call to the Council Members, with the following present:

Mayor – Del Yonts  
Seat No. 1 – Joe Hackford  
Seat No. 2 – Lisette Kolar  
Seat No. 5 – Dan Faden  
Seat No. 6 – Cathy DeMott

Town Administrator Richard Hood  
Town Clerk Susanne Krueger

EXCUSE COUNCIL MEMBER BRYAN

Mayor Yonts stated for the record that Council Member Bryan is sick and will not be at the meeting, and Vice Mayor Mahaney will be arriving late. Motions by Council Member Kolar, second by Council Member Hackford, and vote unanimous to excuse Council Member Bryan.

WORKSHOP ITEM

1) Discussion of Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Budget

Town Administrator Hood stated that the proposed budget has several options and it will vary the unencumbered funds for certain accounts. He proceeded to briefly review the revenue section of the current fiscal year budget with the following comments:

TAXES:

- He stated that in 2007 the assessed value of all property in town was \$506,038,851.00, in 2008 it was \$476,600,000.00 and this year it is \$398 669,127.00 creating a loss of over \$100,000,000.00 of assessed value. He stated that the Town is at 75% of the fiscal year budget with revenues at 87.37% received and expenditures at 53%.

LICENSES & PERMITS:

- This section increased this current fiscal year due to the town reviewing three site plans, and receiving a large amount of money for subdivision inspection fees from the county that we previously paid and now the permits are expired.

STATE SHARED REVENUES:

- No changes from this current fiscal year.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE:

- Decreased due to projections by the state have decreased

SERVICE CHARGES:

- Code Enforcement Fees - all code violators have complied with codes this current fiscal year.
- Administrative Fees and copying, maps, publications - this increased 287.92% of budgeted amount for this current fiscal year due to the Town charging for reviewing permits and business tax receipts for zoning compliance.

FINES AND FORFEITURES:

- This is where the Town receives a percentage of revenues for tickets issued.

Town Administrator Hood stated that the Town has received 87% of the revenues at 75% of the fiscal year; however, keep in mind that by January or February the Town has received most of the tax dollars. He stated that he anticipates carrying forward about \$100,000.00.

Town Administrator Hood continued to briefly review the revenue section of the proposed fiscal year 2009/2010 budget - Option 1 - using the same millage with the following comments:

TAXES:

- Ad valorem tax - figures reflect 95% of proposed ad valorem as per state statute
- FPL franchise fee - decrease of 1.32% from 2008/2009 budget, anticipating residents to cut back on usage
- Local option gas tax - decrease of 11.82% from 2008/2009 budget due to projections by the state have decreased - anticipating carrying forward prior years local option gas tax to this section.
- Communication services tax - increased slightly for new fiscal year, due to this past year gave a more true picture of revenues in this account

LICENSES & PERMITS:

- May not receive as much as this year; does not anticipate any extra revenues; this section includes permits such as fences, driveways, culvert pipes, etc.

STATE SHARED REVENUES:

- No changes from this current fiscal year.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE:

- Decreased due to projections by the state have decreased; total decrease is 12%

SERVICE CHARGES:

- Administrative fees, maps

FINES AND FORFEITURES:

- Decrease in code enforcement fines due to people complying with codes when notified by Code Enforcement Officer of a violation

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT:

- Garbage/solid waste - staff is working hard to get on tax bill as non ad-valorem
- Stormwater - carrying forward \$73,000.00 from fiscal year 2008/2009 budget; project on books going slower than expected and will be carrying forward amount

TOTAL REVENUES:

- Reflects 108% increase due to adding garbage/solid waste; note that the garbage/solid waste will be the same amount as an expense

Town Administrator Hood stated that fiscal year 2008-2009 approved budget was \$975,278 and the approved budget without stormwater figures, which are earmarked specifically for stormwater, was \$874,678. He continued to explain that Council has four 2009-2010 proposed budget options before them without stormwater and solid waste figures as follows:

- Option 1 = \$2,028,890 which is .32% difference from fiscal year 2008-2009 budget
- Option 2 = \$2,065,729 which is 3.38% difference from fiscal year 2008-2009 budget
- Option 3 = \$2,058,090 which is 3.02% difference from fiscal year 2008-2009 budget
- Option 4 = \$2,088,238 which is 6.47% difference from fiscal year 2008-2009 budget

Mr. Hood stated that there is a carry forward from each year because we do not have enough for entire stormwater project. Jim Tonti inquired about obtaining grants. Mr. Hood responded that there are no grants available for the town's use; however, the Town Manager of Titusville offered the assistance of his staff in obtaining grants. Mayor Yonts responded that both he and Mr. Hood will be obtaining a grant book from the Florida League of Cities.

Town Administrator Hood proceeded reviewing the expense section of the current fiscal year budget with the following comments:

LEGISLATIVE:

- Council has spent about 40% of the budgeted amount

EXECUTIVE:

- Staff has spent about 63% of the budgeted amount
- Administrative Assistant position was cut to part time with no benefits

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT:

- Accounting cost was high due to the fee charged by the previous accounting firm to prepare for the audit
- Town Administrator Hood stated that he will be come before the Council sometime in September for a line item transfer that only Council has authority to do.

LEGAL COUNSEL:

- Spent about 42% of budgeted amount

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING:

- No money has been spent so far this year
- Town Administrator Hood stated that he will come before Council regarding a \$10,000.00 bill received by Miller-Legg in about 30 days

OTHER GENERAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES:

- Spent 57% of budgeted amount

PROTECTIVE INSPECTIONS:

- Spent 63% of budgeted amount

EMERGENCY.DISASTER RELIEF SERVICES:

- Spent 0% of budgeted amount

FLOOD CONTROL/STORMWATER MANAGEMENT:

- Spent about 5% of budgeted amount; Valkaria Lakes project is going slower than expected and will be carrying forward amount to complete

ROAD & STREET FACILITIES:

- Spent 63% of budgeted amount; at Shell Pit Road \$60,000 was for Florida East Coast Railways railway crossing maintenance

RECREATION/BEAUTIFICATION:

- Spent 72% of budgeted amount

TOTAL EXPENDITURES:

- Reflects 53% of budgeted amount

Town Administrator Hood stated that the mower has offered a reduce rate of \$3,500.00 for mowing Grant Road, Valkaria Road, Corey Road, Weber Road, and Berry Road. Mr. Hood stated that he anticipated one or two more full cuts and one or two partial cuts.

Town Administrator Hood continued to briefly review the expense section of the proposed fiscal year 2009/2010 budget - Option 1:

LEGISLATIVE:

- Council expense account will decrease by 1.3%.

EXECUTIVE:

- Includes travel and per diem, miscellaneous travel, toll, meals, League dinners, memberships, annual conference fees, and membership for seven Code Enforcement Board Members - results in a 10.49% decrease

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT:

- Reflects a 5% increase

LEGAL COUNSEL:

- Reflects a 6.25% decrease

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:

- Carrying forward \$50,000.00 for comprehensive plan. Mr. Hood stated that he had a two hour meeting yesterday with Miller Legg and in the next one to two weeks he will hear from them and he will then inform Council about the remaining contract.

OTHER GENERAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES:

- There is a new line item called electricity which is based on \$300 per month for the New Town Hall. Mr. Hood stated that he talked to the new landlord, they will be placing a second air-conditioning unit in the staff area, and he hopes to have plans in to the County next week with the plans. He stated that the town hall rental decreases 7.92%.
- The Town's insurance reflects a 20% anticipated increase by Florida League of Cities
- Codification - the total cost quoted for codification is \$9975 which can be broken down in four payments and with half of the cost for this year's budget. The annual fee is \$200 plus \$25 per ordinance with a three to four day turn around.
- Other expenses reflect 25% increase due to security system, water and Town shirts
- Legal notice reflects 50% decrease
- Office supplies reflects 40% decrease
- Operating supplies reflects 200% increase for consumables based on current fiscal year
- Computer supplies includes upgrades
- Book, etc. reflects 7.14% increase
- Other equipment reflects 9% decrease

Joe Mullins suggested about \$120 to \$150 more for bigger phone equipment for the move to the new place. Town Administrator Hood stated that the money would be taken out of this fiscal year budget. Jim Tonti inquired about a backup service and Mr. Hood responded that he would check with other cities as to what they do.

PROTECTIVE INSPECTIONS:

- Reflects a slight reduction

EMERGENCY.DISASTER RELIEF SERVICES:

- Reflects same amount

WASTE MANAGEMENT:

- Reflects the same amount collected in revenues

FLOOD CONTROL/STORMWATER MANAGEMENT:

- Reflects the inclusion of a Master Stormwater Management Plan Phase 1 for \$50,000 which will be scheduled over several years. This identifies basic drainage areas; culverts identified and inspected, and can point out bottlenecks for the Valkaria and Grant area. Mayor Yonts stated that this would enable grant money possibilities if we have money already earmarked for it.

ROAD & STREET FACILITIES:

- Reflects increase of \$10,000 for additional mowing and \$20,000 for additional mowing
- Reflects increase of additional \$10,000 for ditch cleaning and \$10,000 for grading
- Mr. Hood stated that cleaning all the ditches in the town would cost \$729,000 which would be 450,000 linear feet of ditches times \$1.62 foot; and grade-alls are used for smaller ditches and buckets are used for larger ditches. He stated that the town has cleaned ditches at Berry Road, Brabrook Street east side, Mooney Lane, Grant Road south side, Corey Road and Weber Road.
- Street/Traffic Lights and Equipment Rental have reflected no change
- Road Material & Supplies (Road Crew) reflects 25% decrease
- Street Improvements reflects 900% increase because of the cost of the Florida East Coast Railways crossing at Valkaria Road. Joe Mullins asked about the Old Dixie Highway crossing south of Valkaria Road. Mr. Hood stated he would check into the ownership of that private crossing. Mr. Hood stated that this year Wintergreen, Gradick, and Leghorn received asphalt millings which were cheaper than paving. \$20,000 is for improvements to various roads.
- There is a 19% overall increase in roads and streets with the vast majority for the Valkaria Road crossing.
- The five-year plan was \$100,000 for road resurfacing and \$50,000 for new town hall.
- The cost of road resurfacing is at \$125,000 per mile and with the money received for Local Option Gas Tax it would take 17 years to resurface Grant Road, 16 years for Valkaria Road, 12 years for Old Dixie Highway, and 134 years for all roads in town.

RECREATION/BEAUTIFICATION:

- No changes made

Town Administrator Hood used an example of the tax using an average assessed value of \$200,000 for a home in town, the current tax paid to the town at .4976 mills it would be \$99, if opting for 1 mill it would be \$200, if opting for .81 it would be \$162. Ms. Burr stated that she interviewed several of her neighbors and they stated that they would not mind paying extra as long as they could get things mowed more often. Mr. Hood was asked if the town could make sure that the money was earmarked and spent on specific purposes and he stated that he will check with the Town Attorney to see if we could adopt an ordinance to put the money in a dedicated account for that specific purpose. For information purposes he stated that the current

millages in neighboring towns are: Palm Bay at 5.3, Melbourne at 4.4, Melbourne Village at 5.5656, Indialantic at 4.98, Melbourne Beach at 2.78, Malabar at 1.46 and West Melbourne at 1.59.

Several people in the audience spoke with the following comments:

- Jim Tonti - does not think that \$125,000 will be enough and that we might be falling behind the ball
- Denni Burr - encourages to go 1 mill
- Dean Atkins - does not want to pay for maintenance on paved roads; does not want to see a bloated budget

Council Member Faden stated that he will support an increase of some sort because if the town had one failed bridge or culvert it will wipe out the budget. Council Member Kolar stated that she would support up to 1 mill with a restriction being put on the money. Town Administrator Hood stated that according to the email received from Council Member Bryan, he stated that the Town cannot operate on Option 1 (.4976 mills) or Option 3 (.5949 mills); Option 4 (.6654 mills) is too much of an increase; he supports Option 2 (.5474 mills) but if Council wants Option 4 he will support it. Council Member Hackford stated that we need to have an increase. Mayor Yonts put the question to the audience if they would support .6654 mills, .8 mills, or 1.0 mills and most of the audience responded that they would support up to 1 mill. Council Member DeMott stated that she would like everyone to see what small amount the Town receives. Council Member Kolar asked if Council needs to ask Town Administrator to bring forward a method to ensure the money will be used specifically. Town Administrator Hood stated that historically government is wasteful and overstaffed but this Town is not. Mr. Hood stated that he will research and have an answer for Council but stated that even though an ordinance is adopted it can be repealed by the next council. Vice Mayor Mahaney inquired if the Town Administrator will be amending the budget this year and Mr. Hood responded that he will be bringing a line item transfer back to Council later and that we will not need to change the bottom line. It was Council consensus to have Town Administrator Hood add 1.25 and 1.5 millage to the spreadsheet.

Council Member Hackford stated that tomorrow night at 6:00 p.m. there will be a boat ramp meeting at the County to discuss the status of the boat ramp.

Motions by ~~Vice Mayor~~ Council Member Hackford, second by Vice Mayor Mahaney, and vote unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 10:38 p.m.

(Signature on file)

ATTEST:

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Del Yonts, Mayor

(Signature on file)

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Susanne Krueger, Town Clerk