



**Town of Surfside  
Town Special Commission Meeting  
Proposed Budget  
MINUTES  
July 16, 2014  
5 p.m.**

Town Hall Commission Chambers - 9293 Harding Ave, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Surfside, FL 33154

**1. Opening**

**A. Call to Order**

Mayor Dietch called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

**B. Roll Call of Members**

Town Clerk Sandra Novoa called the roll with the following members present: Mayor Dietch, Vice Mayor Tourgeman, Commissioner Karukin and Commissioner Olchyk. Commissioner Cohen was absent

**C. Pledge of Allegiance**

Lieutenant Richard Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**D. Presentation/Overview of FY 14/15 Budget – Michael P. Crotty, Town Manager and Donald Nelson, Finance Director**

Finance Director Nelson gave a power point presentation to the Town Commission.

Mayor Dietch asked if all home and commercial improvements that occurred over the past year have been transmitted to the County. Director Nelson said they do not receive a report from the Property Appraisers Office as to how they determine the property value. Building Official Prieto said all permits are sent monthly to that office. The Mayor requested that between now and the next meeting Official Prieto check to see that all is verified and reflected.

Director Nelson continued with his presentation and indicated that there has been an increase in property values which indicates a strong growth. However, he explained that setting the millage rate at 5.2 would mean the budget would have to be cut \$40,000 and if the millage rate were set at 5.108 the budget would have to be cut by \$156,000. He further explained millage rates and the increase in property taxes it would produce as well as revenues that would be received.

Director Nelson informed the Commission that in order to keep the same millage rate of 5.2 or neutral rate all five members of the Commission must be present and vote affirmatively. A conference call can be set if a member is out of town. A roll back rate would need 3 out of 5 affirmative votes but Director Nelson cautioned the Commission that lowering the rate would mean significant cuts to the budget. The next meeting is set for Tuesday, September 9, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. where the millage

rate will be voted on. There will also be a meeting Tuesday, September 23, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

Commissioner Olchyk expressed her views and said she cannot understand why the millage rate cannot be cut as we have much more revenues coming in this year especially from all the construction done. The Mayor responded to Commissioner Olchyk's concerns and over the past years the millage rate had been lowered. The Mayor suggested we go through the entire budget and view if any items can be cut.

Vice Mayor Tourgeman said as presented he feels the millage rate would have a minimum impact on residents.

Commissioner Karukin said he was pleased with the budget and congratulated the staff for their work.

Mayor Dietch had some issues with capital projects coming in such as improvements to Town Hall, the Community Center and Point Lake not in the budget. He also mentioned the partnership with Bal Harbour not in the budget. The Mayor indicated that the budget presented was very well done but suggested we now move up to the next level and make changes in how the budget is done and use the criteria from the GFOA.

The Mayor then called on public speaker Eliana Salzhauer. Ms. Salzhauer said in regards to the millage rate, she has been speaking with other residents and they were not so much interested in saving a few dollars at the expense of the community. They feel the town has to be run well have good services and have a good reserve. Ms. Salzhauer also praised the Park and Recreations Dept. and doesn't think their budget should be cut as they provide a wonderful service to the community. Perhaps the money spent on fireworks could be used elsewhere.

The budget was then reviewed item by item. Under building permit revenues regarding the Chateau, the Mayor asked who was watching this to assure all revenues were coming in this fiscal year. Both Manager Crotty responded and Building Official Prieto said they were monitoring the issue and feel revenues will be in before the end of the fiscal year.

The Mayor also said we need a budget for the expansion of the Community Center before we move forward on that item.

The Mayor asked about the Seawall project and Town Manger Crotty explained the budget for this item and more information on this will be forthcoming in September.

The Mayor asked if the FL Inland Agreement with Miami Beach will be resolved before the end of the fiscal year. Manager Crotty said they are working on it and haven't heard back from Miami as yet.

The Mayor talked briefly about the challenges in water and sewer and there are upcoming workshops scheduled to review the issue. Manager Crotty gave a more detailed account on the subject.

Manager Crotty in speaking on the Town Attorney Office said they are asking that the part-time legal assistant position be moved to full time. Town Attorney Miller supported the full-time position.

Town Planner Sarah Sinatra gave an overview of program modifications and future development.

The Commission had questions regarding previously purchased equipment that has not been used efficiently, scanning of documents and Manager Crotty and Director Prieto gave more insight on the item.

Mayor Dietch said there is a Special Commission Meeting scheduled at 7:00 and asked that we stop this meeting and reconvene after the Special Meeting is over.

Commissioner Karukin made a motion to defer to the Special Commission Meeting scheduled for 7:00 p.m. and reconvene the Budget Meeting immediately after. The motion received a second from Vice Mayor Tourgeman and all voted in favor with Commissioner Cohen absent.

The meeting reconvened at 8:08 p.m.

Manager Crotty gave an overview regarding Lukes Sawgrass Landscaping identified under Public Works. There were some questions as to who owns some of the property on the hard pack and who should be paying to have it maintained. Commissioner Olchyk expressed her disappointment with the maintenance of the beach walk as she said she never sees people maintaining the property in question. She said there is no supervision or accountability and the money we are spending is excessive. Vice Mayor Tourgeman spoke in support of Lukes Landscaping as they have made major improvements in the town in the past and perhaps we have to revisit this and get other bids. Manager Crotty said it would cost the town more money to provide these services in house as we do not have the staff to do all that may be required. He said we have the option at looking at other landscaping firms and opening up for bids.

After some discussion, the Mayor directed the Town Manager meet with Lukes Landscaping and address the issues we have and the how to trim costs and come back to the Commission with recommendations. He feels this is a better way to handle this before we go out to bid.

Under Public Works, tree canopy, Commissioner Karukin said he is not in favor of any new programs as we are in a maintenance year. Manager Crotty said this was

brought up by the Planning and Zoning Committee. Commissioner Olchyk was not in favor of this item. Manager Crotty said the item will be brought back to the Commission for a final decision.

There is a proposed increase in the Parks and Recreation Department Budget and Director Tim Miliam gave a short power point presentation showing a revenue breakdown of some of the Program costs. Vice Mayor Tourgeman said his presentation has shown only the profits but the budget presented is very large and with personnel expenses as shown he feels the budget is excessive. He also said he would like to see the other programs that may be costing the town money and also they should be looking for sponsors to support some of these programs as some of them are a huge expense. Director Miliam said they were looking into sponsorship. Commissioner Olchyk spoke in support of the Parks and Recreation Dept. and said they provide a wonderful service to the community. Commissioners Karukin and Olchyk said they were happy with the budget.

Under Finance, Commissioner Karukin indicated that in the document there is referral to the IT Dept. and there is no department for Information Technology and that should be reflected so. Also throughout the document reference is made to website responsibilities in various areas and asked for clarification. Duncan Tavares tried to address the issue but Commissioner Karukin indicated he still was a bit confused and at the Mayor's suggestion he can with the Town Manager to get a better understanding.

Commissioner Karukin made a motion to set the millage rate at 5.2. The motion received a second from Vice Mayor Tourgeman. Mayor Dietch, Commissioner Karukin and Vice Mayor Tourgeman voted to accept, Commissioner Olchyk voted in opposition and Commissioner Cohen was absent.

Vice Mayor Tourgeman left the meeting at 9:23 p.m.

Manager Crotty said they will hold the Police Department budget as the Police Chief could not be present this evening.

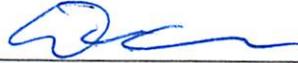
Manager Crotty said they have terminated the contract for part-time janitorial services as they were not satisfied with them but have put in a program modification for 20 hrs per week.

Items not discussed at this meeting will be reviewed at the next Budget Meeting scheduled next week.

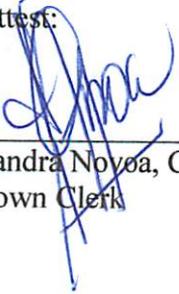
## **2. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

Accepted this 12<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2014

  
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Daniel Dietch, Mayor

Attest:

  
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Sandra Novoa, CMC  
Town Clerk