



**Town of Surfside  
Town Special Commission Meeting  
Proposed Budget  
MINUTES  
July 22, 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 5:08 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 Olchyk and Commissioner Cohen. Commissioner Karukin was present but absent from the Chambers at the time of the roll call.

**C. Pledge of Allegiance**

Barbara Cohen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**D. Presentation/Overview of FY 14/15 Budget – Michael P. Crotty, Town Manager  
Chief David Allen presented the Police Department Budget.**

Mayor Dietch questioned the red light camera revenues and Director Nelson said in general the cameras have been paying for themselves with the revenue coming into the general fund but it is slowing down which means people are being more careful. We may want to discontinue this program but must give the County thirty days notice before doing so. Mayor Dietch asks that we review this and asked the Town Manager to provide a trend analysis for discussion in September regarding the cameras. Commissioner Karukin and Vice Mayor Tourgeman feel the cameras should be discontinued as it may no longer be cost effective. Commissioner Olchyk disagrees and feels they serve a good purpose and asked if our neighboring towns have the cameras and if any are considering discontinuing the cameras. Commissioner Cohen feels drivers are more careful when they know there are red light cameras. It was suggested by the Mayor that the legalities be looked into if the cameras are removed but the signs are kept that indicate red light camera ahead.

Chief Allen said in trying to reorganize the Police Dept and move forward he is in need of a new position which would be Police Captain of Commander. He feels it is critical to have someone second in command and he has tried to do this in house with no success.

Commissioner Olchyk is not in favor of new hires but doesn't disagree with Chief Allen that there is a need for a second in command. She spoke highly of the Chief but feels a lot of money is spent on public safety and sometimes is not spent well and this request may be handled in a different way.

Vice Mayor Tourgeman agrees with Commissioner Olchyk and he also spoke highly of the Police Dept and the Chief but is not in favor of spending more money for a new position and feels further reorganization of the Dept. may help. He said it is not only salary but benefits and feels further review of the budget is needed on this item.

Commissioner Karukin disagrees with Commissioner Olchyk in regards to the spending of money in the Dept. and said he feels the Chief runs a very tight ship and handles the monies very well. The Commissioner asked if the Chief has taken into consideration the Traffic Mitigation Plan and the Chief said yes. He also said that percentage wise, we are very much the same with what other municipalities spend on public safety and is in supportive of the Chief's request.

Commissioner Olchyk said she did not mean to imply that the Chief was mispending monies and further stated that she admires Chief Allen and the job he is doing. What she meant was perhaps reorganizing some of the police duties and getting personnel that are not police officers to handle some of the construction duties.

Town Manager Crotty said the Police Chief has a 24hr, 7 day a week job and needs someone as a second to help with the workload. He urged the Commission to look over the Chief's request for a second in command as he feels it is a needed position to operate efficiently.

Commissioner Cohen completely supports Chief Allen's request.

Mayor Dietch asked if police overtime will be reduced this year and Chief Allen said he could not determine that. The Mayor also asked if the unstable condition with dispatchers has been stabilized. The Chief said if a dispatcher is out he has to put a police officer to man that job as there must be a dispatcher 24/7 to answer any calls that may come in.

Chief Allen also requested an increase for the Executive Assistant to the Chief who in comparison to other municipalities is underpaid. Commissioner Karukin said her service is invaluable and supports the Chief's request.

Vice Mayor Tourgeman supports upgrading the salaries of parking enforcement personnel and said this should be looked at because they are out there all day in all types of weather and feels they are underpaid.

Vehicles were also discussed and the Chief was asked to look into battery operated vehicles as well.

Chief Allen discussed getting automatic vehicle locators for police cars and paying for it out of the forfeiture fund. The Chief also explained the Regional Crime Analysis which would be a shared cost with a neighboring town.

Mayor Dietch said some residents suggested to increase the cost of parking on weekends and asked that they do some research on the item.

Vice Mayor Tourgeman suggested the part-time administrative aide position requested be put on hold until some more rescheduling of duties and reorganization

is done. Director Nelson informed the Chief the part time position could be put on hold till later in the year and perhaps reviewed again in January. Vice Mayor Tourgeman was agreeable to that. Chief Allen said his top priorities are the hiring of a Police Captain, increasing the salary of his executive assistant as well as increasing the salary of parking enforcers. Commissioner Karukin said he was supportive of the Chief's budget as it stands. The Mayor asked Town Manager Crotty to come back in September with some data regarding increasing the salary for parking enforcers.

The Chief was thanked for his work on the budget and the Commission moved on to other items.

Duncan Tavares presented the Tourist Board Budget. Finance Director Nelson clarified some of the items as requested by Commissioner Karukin.

Commissioner Karukin asked if there were any plans on getting a handle on IT. He mentioned at the last meeting that it is fragmented over several departments. Town Manager Crotty said they are working on that issue especially the website and getting assistance from CGA.

Finance Director Nelson presented the Municipal Transportation Budget. Mayor Dietch indicated a healthy reserve in this account and asked if we could look into expanding the bus shelter program. Director Nelson said we could but we have to submit a capital improvement program to Miami-Dade County Public Transportation Authority as to how we plan on spending the money. The Mayor asked that Director Nelson work with Manager Crotty and work up a plan with locations. Commissioner Karukin said the existing shelter on Harding Avenue needs improvements.

Town Manager Crotty asked that we continue to review the General Fund and bring it to closure. He indicated he would like to have the proposed millage rate before the preliminary tax notices go out to the public.

Commissioner Karukin had questions regarding the ERP projects and asked if there was an estimate as to how much the IT infrastructure is going to cost. Director Nelson said the bid is out and they are in the process of receiving proposals from vendors and should be received by August 28, 2014. Commissioner Karukin said when the 5 year plan is updated it should include ERP. Vice Mayor Tourgeman said in the past years we have been using a bandage approach and feels we have to start moving forward on this project.

The sand project was briefly discussed. Town Manager Crotty gave an overview regarding landscaping as well as the Lukes Landscaping new proposal. Although Lukes has done a good job Vice Mayor Tourgeman feels we should put out to bid for comparison and Commissioner Olchyk agrees. Mayor Dietch, not wanting to give Manager Crotty more items to deal with during the transition period, suggested we wait six months.

Commissioner Cohen presented an idea which would involve the community to meet with the Commission perhaps monthly or quarterly in a friendly manner and called it "a dish with the commiss" much like "coffee with the cops." The concept received some interest from the Mayor and Commissioner Karukin and they asked Commissioner Cohen to work up the logistics and bring it back to the Commission.

Town Manager Crotty then gave an overview of what was discussed at the last meeting regarding the millage rate. The Mayor feels we should keep the same rate, Vice Mayor Tourgeman said a slight increase would be minimal in dollars to the tax payer, Commissioner Olchyk would like to see the millage rate decreased. Clearly the Mayor and Commissioner Olchyk have different point of views.

Vice Mayor Tourgeman agrees with Commissioner Olchyk on some items and believes we have to look at the budget more carefully and find ways in which we can cut or reduce some items. However, he also stressed the need to maintain and upgrade certain areas to preserve a well kept town. He has asked the Town Manager and Finance Director to look at the budget again and help them to make the cuts.

Commissioner Karukin said over the past five years, the Commission has done good things for the town and have a better reserve than the past. He supports the 5.2 millage rate and asks Commissioner Olchyk to take a better look at the whole picture and encourages her to vote in favor of the 5.2 millage rate.

Commissioner Olchyk went on record to say she has nothing against the Mayor and as a person likes him very much as human being not as a Mayor. What she objects to is that when she voices her opinion the Mayor criticizes her personally and he does not do that to any other Commissioner. She further stated that the Mayor has no right to criticize her ideology and point of view as he can say what his own ideology and point of view are. Commissioner Olchyk said if we treat the budget much like our own budget at home perhaps we may do a better job. She feels that although we have not done a bad job in the past she stated we have been very lucky and that is due to the new construction such as Chateau and Surf Club.

Commissioner Cohen asked do we know what the people want, are they happy with the 5.2 millage rate. He believes there will be further development in the town and have to look to the future.

Mayor Dietch apologized to Commissioner Olchyk and said he certainly did not intend to be patronizing toward her and did not want what he said to come out that way. He further said he has a deep respect for her and her comments and although they do not always agree with each other he will reflect on what she said and it will not happen again.

Manager Crotty asked the Commission if they could accept a proposed rate that he could publish in the August edition of the Gazette. Manager Crotty said they have

made some cuts to the budget and asked Director Nelson to give them an overview and cuts needed if the millage rate is reduced to 5.108. Notice will be going out to the public in late August with the proposed rate of 5.2 which was discussed at the last budget meeting. There will be two meetings in September and the public will have a chance to give their input. The Gazette will publish the 5.2 millage rate with the notice that the Commission has reduced the budget and the millage rate may be reduced to 5.108.

It was clarified that any vote on the millage rate (other than 4.9224) has to be unanimous and Commissioner Olchyk said she had no problem with that.

The last item for discussion was the manager recruitment process. Town Manager Crotty gave an update on the item. On August 10<sup>th</sup> the Commission will be provided with the ten finalists for their rankings. The Commission will turn their rankings in to HR by August 6<sup>th</sup> and the list will be narrowed down to the top five finalists. The date of August 13, 2014 was scheduled for interviews. The Commission discussed the community meeting the candidates to give them the opportunity to ask questions. That meeting will be monitored by the Town Manager. This will take place before the Commission meets the candidate's one on one. The Commission agrees that candidates coming from out of town will pay their own expenses.

As a point of privilege the Mayor indicated he was asked by the Sierra Club to sign a letter of support as Mayor of Surfside. The letter was to the President and was about climate change.

## 2. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted

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

Attest

  
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Sandra Novoa, CMC  
Town Clerk

  
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Daniel Dietch, Mayor