



Town of Southern Shores

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Town of Southern Shores
Special Meeting-FY 2007-08 Budget
November 14, 2006
8:00 a.m.-Pitts Center

MINUTES

The Southern Shores Town Council met on November 14, 2006, at the Pitts Center.

The following Council Members were present: Mayor Don Smith, Dan Shields, Jodi Hess, David Sanders, and Brian McDonald.

Also present were: Webb Fuller, town manager; Carrie Gordin, town clerk; and Bonnie Swain, Finance Technician.

Mayor Smith called the FY2007-08 budget workshop to order at 8:30 a.m. Council Member McDonald apologized for the delay in the start of the meeting.

The town manager stated that the purpose of this meeting is to allow council time to discuss their issues of importance for the upcoming budget and provide direction to him on preparing the FY2007-08 proposed budget.

He stated that currently the undesignated fund balance is at 68% of the operating cost but that council adopted a resolution that requires 75%. He asked is council satisfied with 68% or does council want to hold the line at 75%.

He reviewed some of the current capital improvement expenses: canal dredging project, street repair, (Red Bay Lane) and storm water issues. He also stated that the town hall building complex needs to be studied for effective use of the buildings as well as operating expenses needed for maintenance.

He asked council what level of service they want for their citizens. He asked do you want service levels the same or higher, or do they want the tax rate to remain the same and set the budget accordingly.

Mayor pro tem Shields commented that money will be needed to fix storm water issues following the storm water study report and if the town does not maintain the roads it will cost more money in the future.

Mayor Smith stated that council needs to take a hard look at some of the services that the town provides. He suggested that the budget could be reduced by cutting back the chipping program and the life guard service. He stated that he will not vote for a budget that raises taxes.

Other areas of discussion were focused on the administration, building inspections, police, and public works departments.

The town manager stated that the departments other than public works do not need additional money or personnel. He stated that the police department needs some reclassification of positions and once a new

chief is hired other recommendations may be in order. He stated that the sergeant positions would involve investigative and patrol duties.

He stated that the public works department does not need additional money or personnel but council needs to direct him on where they see the public works heading. He asked is the department actually public works or is it a building and grounds department.

Discussion was held regarding the public works department such as if additional contracting services are needed, the lack of town owned property for future growth, the need to maintain and repair the streets and at what cost, charging property owners a street assessment to fix streets, the cost effectiveness of financing money to complete projects, and what services could be cut or reduced, such as the chipping and lifeguard services.

Council Member Sanders stated that he is concerned that the town is not acting like a town government but more like a civic association. He stated we need to take action that is for the better benefit for the whole town.

Council Member Hess stated that no money has been put aside for roads over the past 25 years. She stated that in the last two years council has implemented a capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and the plan needs to move forward.

Mayor Smith stated that the town should be run more like a business. He stated if you take a hard line on spending, the budget could be reduced. He stated that he could reduce the budget by \$300,000-400,000.

Council Member McDonald stated that he supports some level of safety for the ocean goes not eliminating the life guard service.

Some discussion was held on the difference between a life guard service and an ocean rescue service.

The town manager stated the CIP currently addresses the canal dredging project and Red Bay Lane improvements. He stated the storm water study will be presented in January and certain improvements will need to be considered. There will be a need for a one to two year plan to improve storm water in certain areas.

Consensus is to have staff prepare for review the cost effectiveness of the public works department to contracting services out, set up the CIP and see what money is needed over a period of time to include street improvements and maintenance, canal dredging, improvements to town buildings, and storm water improvements.

Council directed the town manager to move ahead on the selection process for a new police chief and the sergeant positions.

Mayor Smith adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

ATTEST:


Mayor Don Smith

Respectfully submitted:



Carrie Gordin, Town Clerk