



**ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS  
VILLAGE COUNCIL  
BUDGET WORKSHOP**

**Founders Park Community Center  
87000 Overseas Hwy  
Islamorada, FL 33036  
July 23, 2014  
3:00 PM**

**I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Mayor Ted Blackburn called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM. On roll call, the following people were in attendance: Mayor Ted Blackburn, Vice Mayor Deb Gillis, Councilman Mike Forster, Councilman Ken Philipson, Councilman Dave Purdo, Village Manager Maria Aguilar, Village Attorney Roget Bryan, Village Clerk Kelly Toth, Monroe County Sheriff's Office Captain Corey Bryan, Fire Chief Terry Abel and other appropriate personnel.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Bruce Williams led the pledge of allegiance.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Ted Blackburn opened public comment; seeing none, public comment was closed.

**IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

**A. Proposed FY 2014-2015 General Fund Budget (continued)**

**B. Proposed FY 2014-2015 Transportation Fund Budget**

Village Manager Maria Aguilar explained the Street Paving & Overlay Activity line item of the Transportation Fund. She stated local option gas taxes have been pledged for revenue for the \$6 million repaving loan and that the Village will begin paying back principal and interest on this loan.

Mayor Ted Blackburn asked if it was allowable to use Mayfield money for paving. Village Manager Maria Aguilar said no and stated the Village could seek reimbursement from SRF loan funds for paving related to the wastewater project, but only the trenched portion of the roads would be reimbursed. Discussion ensued regarding paying down the paving loan and freeing up gas tax revenues.

Councilman Ken Philipson stated that the 3% increase on transportation employee wages equates to approximately \$17.30 a week. Councilman Philipson inquired about possible employee bonuses. Village Manager Maria Aguilar stated that Florida Statute requires the employer to have a bonus program that outlines the criteria for receiving a bonus. Councilman Philipson spoke in support of providing bonuses in lieu of a 3 percent increase. Discussion ensued regarding a bonus vs. a biweekly increase.

**C. Proposed FY 2014-2015 Capital Project Fund Budget**

Village Manager Maria Aguilar stated that the Capital Project Fund reflects revenue sources that can only be used for capital outlay and provided an explanation of the various expenditures within this fund.

Ms. Aguilar explained that the Fire Rescue Department budgeted for improvements to the Mosquito Control property and for the installation of new hydrants in Venetian Shores and Port Antigua. Ms. Aguilar stated impact fees will be used to fund the purchase of hydrants and that the use of these fees is permissible under the ordinance because the installation is a response to growth.

Village Manager Maria Aguilar stated that grant opportunities and impact fees would be used to fund the new playground equipment. Mayor Ted Blackburn inquired about the difference in costs associated with the playground equipment for Founders Park and Library Beach Park. John Sutter Director of Parks & Recreation and Public Works explained Founders Park has original equipment and that there are two playground areas at Founders Park. Mr. Sutter explained the equipment at Founders Park is used significantly more due to the number of visitors to the park. He stated that Library beach has a few pieces of small equipment. Mr. Sutter spoke about the quality of the equipment that would be purchased.

Village Manager Maria Aguilar explained the Transfers Out line item and stated the \$399,000 transfer to the General Fund was to cover capital outlay. She stated the projected use of fund balance in the Capital Project Fund is \$412,080.

Councilman Ken Philipson suggested looking for opportunities to increase interest income. Village Manager Maria Aguilar explained that she has taken a conservative investment approach to maintain the cash flow and access to those funds due to the wastewater project.

Councilman Ken Philipson asked if the lighting emitted from each solar fixture in Founders Park could be increased. John Sutter, Director of Parks and Recreation and Public Works stated they are dim by design. Mr. Sutter explained the solar fixtures were paid for with a federal grant and the Village had to abide by the restrictions that were a condition of the grant. Councilman Philipson expressed concern for adequate lighting at Village Hall. Discussion ensued regarding potential lighting solutions. Mr. Sutter stated amber bulbs are currently used but white lights could be requested.

Mayor Ted Blackburn suggested pursuing grants for heating the Founders Park pool. Discussion ensued regarding the pool filters and pool pumps. John Sutter, Director of Parks and Recreation and Public Works stated the filters are the original filters and need to be replaced.

Councilman Dave Purdo stated Joe Roth extended his thanks to everyone for adding the fireworks funding to the budget.

#### **D. Proposed FY 2014-2015 Solid Waste Fund Budget**

Village Manager Maria Aguilar stated this budget was initially addressed during the July 10<sup>th</sup> Village Council discussion regarding the Preliminary Rate Resolution for Solid Waste. She explained that a 3% CPI increase is reflected in the Operating Expenditures and the solid waste assessment is approximately \$366 per residential unit. Ms. Aguilar stated that the projected non-ad valorem tax revenue for this fund is \$1,526,430 and \$59,020 of fund balance would be used to keep the non-ad valorem assessment the same as FY 13-14.

Councilman Ken Philipson inquired about the compliance rate for recycling. Advanced Disposal General Manager Bruce Williams stated that the amount of recyclables has nearly doubled since this time last year. Mr. Williams stated that about 62% of garbage is recyclable. He stated he meets weekly with two to three customers and that commercial properties are moving ahead.

#### **E. Proposed FY 2014-2015 Affordable Housing Fund Budget**

Village Manager Maria Aguilar explained the proposed \$90,000 in expenditures is for assistance with sewer connections for deed restricted affordable housing properties. Ms. Aguilar stated she is researching whether impact fees in the Affordable Housing Fund can be used for a loan program to assist with sewer lateral connections.

Councilman Mike Forster asked if the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) could be used. Village Manager Maria Aguilar stated homeowners had to meet certain criteria to use CDBG funds for sewer connections. Councilman Forster asked how it would be communicated to the public. Ms. Aguilar stated the Finance department will work with Government Services Group (GSG) to draft an application for homeowners. She stated there are approximately 30 people waiting to apply.

Vice Mayor Deb Gillis stated there was an Affordable Housing assistance program in place for deed restricted, qualified homeowners that provides up to \$3,000 in assistance for sewer lateral connections.

Village Manager Maria Aguilar stated that Village Code Enforcement researched the North Plantation Key homes not yet hooked up and only one property is a deed restricted affordable home eligible for the assistance program. Ms. Aguilar stated information was sent to the home owner.

Mayor Ted Blackburn spoke about affordable housing being in Florida City and Homestead. He suggested the Village conduct a transportation study to determine a solution for bringing the workforce to Islamorada. Mayor Blackburn suggested that perhaps the affordable housing funds could be used for this type of study. Discussion ensued regarding affordable housing in the Upper and Middle Keys and ways to attract the workforce. Councilman Mike Forster suggested a round table discussion with the Affordable Housing Committee.

**F. Proposed FY 2014-2015 Debt Service Fund Budget**

Village Manager Maria Aguilar presented a brief overview of the Debt Service Fund, explained the fund is used for the payment of loan principal and interest and the paving loan is reflected in the Debt Service Fund this year.


Mayor Ted Blackburn opened public comment; seeing none public comment was closed.

**V. COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

No discussion was offered.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Councilman Dave Purdo made a Motion to Adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ken Philipson. The meeting adjourned at 4:20PM.

  
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Kelly S. Toth  
Village Clerk

Approved by the Village Council this 11th day of September, 2014.