

Special Council Meeting  
 Wednesday, July 17, 2013  
 5:00 P.M. Town Hall

Edinburgh Town Council met in a special session on Wednesday, July 17, 2013 at 5:00 P.M. at the Town Hall, 107 South Holland Street, Edinburgh, Indiana.

President Hoffman called the meeting to order and said the agenda was a budget workshop and PSAP discussion. Members answering roll call were: Councilman John Drybread, Councilman Jeff Simpson, Vice President Curtis Rooks, Councilwoman Kami Ervin, and President Ron Hoffman. Also present were Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston and Clerk Treasurer Scott Finley.

President Hoffman said first on the budget workshop schedule was Glenn Giles and the sanitation budget.

Mr. Giles said the only thing that increased was the 3% yearly increase in the trash pick-up service. He also said he had two containers that need replaced for a total of \$17,705. They have not been replaced in 10 years so they have a long life expectancy. He said the department has 4 containers total.

Councilwoman Ervin asked if there were any employees eligible for merit raises.

Mr. Giles said as of now there are no employees being paid out of the sanitation budget but he is requesting they pay someone from it because there is an employee there at all times.

President Hoffman asked if that would be ok with the state board of accounts.

Mary Patterson said it would be ok it was just taken out of the budget last year because cuts had to be made.

President Hoffman said next on the budget schedule was the John Hoskinson with the cemetery budget.

Mr. Hoskinson said his budget was actually decreased slightly from last year. Personal Services decreased due to his pay being moved from the cemetery budget to the Badger fund. Therefore all of his benefits were also moved to the Badger fund.

Councilwoman Ervin asked if he had hired anyone full time since Terry Kellams passed away.

Mr. Hoskinson said he had not and he had not added any money in the budget to hire anyone.

Councilman Rooks asked if he was getting by without another full time employee.

Mr. Hoskinson said he has just tried to increase his part time help.

Clerk Treasurer Finley said the council will notice the telephone budget has been increased in most of the budgets. This is because there was not a line item for internet so the departments have been paying for internet from the telephone line item and have depleted most of that budget money.

Councilman Rooks asked if the town used one company for cell phones, land lines, and internet.

Mr. Finley said no they are all different.

Councilman Rooks asked if we could possibly combine and save money there.

Mary Patterson said the office phones have to go through AT&T due to the phone provider. The cell phones are a yearly contract and the internet was recently switched so there has not been a chance to look into that yet.

President Hoffman said next on the budget schedule is Chief David Mann with the Police budget.

Mr. Finley said he would like to point out before Chief Mann presented his budget that on the budget report given to the council it appears the full time employee line item has been completely expended. However, with the new system conversion a few of the numbers were combined into one line item. Therefore the budget money just needs to be moved to the other line item to make up that difference.

Chief Mann said this has been quite an exercise because of the potential for the dispatch to be put under county control. If and when that happens it will change the budget for the police department. The budget presented to the council would be used if there was no change is the dispatch in 2014. He said essentially the personnel stayed the same except for the recommend raises and increases in retirement. There was a slight increase in the supplies line item used around the department. One big increase was in the auto

repair line item. He said this year the department has spent a lot of money repairing cars and that line item was depleted in 6 months.

Councilwoman Ervin asked how often the department replaced squad cars.

Chief Mann said to his knowledge no new cars have been purchased for two years and the constant town driving is rough on the cars.

Councilman Rooks asked if he knew about how many miles a year they were putting on the cars.

Chief Mann said it depends on the officer. The department has a 2004 with 83,000 miles on it, a 2007 with 67,000 miles, all the way down to the newest 2011 with 19,000 miles.

Councilwoman Ervin asked if he believed the damage was normal wear and tear or if officers may have been abusing their vehicles.

Chief Mann said he did not believe anyone was abusing their vehicles. The department has not had any accidents recently. One week they had three out of eleven cars out of service from needing repairs. He also stated most of what they have is out of warranty.

Councilman Rooks ask if there was any kind of schedule set up to automatically replace cars after a certain number of years.

Chief Mann said at one time the department was on a vehicle rotation plan with the idea of 2 vehicles per year. The newest cars the department has are 2011 so they are a little beyond that rotation.

President Hoffman said he believed that was because a few years ago the town had to cut over one million dollars from the budget and the rotation was done away with. He asked if there were any still under lease.

Chief Mann said yes, the two Chargers are under lease for one more year.

Councilwoman Ervin said she did not believe they necessarily needed to do a two car per year rotation. She said if there are cars that are not safe to drive or worth fixing they should be replaced. She did not want to get in the habit of automatically ordering car but she does realize that some of the cars may need replacing soon.

Councilman Simpson asked if they could do a one vehicle per year rotation.

Chief Mann said he spoke with the Marshall in Bartersville and he recently had to ask for five cars because the department had gone away from the rotation and had five breakdown at once.

Councilwoman Ervin asked Councilman Drybread how it works when there have been other leases in the past. They do not come before council so if it is in the budget they can purchase it?

Councilman Drybread said yes for the most part. The history of the rotation plan was the department got into a similar situation as Bartersville where they needed several cars. If you do not do the two cars a year you may run into trouble every third or fourth year.

Councilman Rooks said he believed the department needed to get the rotation back to avoid that situation.

Councilwoman Ervin wanted to clarify that the department was wanting to add additional leases to the two existing leases.

Chief Mann said yes.

Councilwoman Ervin said if the department needs new cars they should get them but asked if they had sat down and made a list of what each car needs.

Chief Mann said they have looked at that and the replacement is not just based on the year of the car. They have a 2004 that is on the street everyday while the 2005 is the reserve car that gets used less.

President Hoffman said the thing nobody thinks about that is more important than the expense is if an older car has something fail during a chase and someone gets seriously injured or killed. That then comes back on the town.

Chief Mann continued and said building maintenance has also increased. He would like to make some improvements to the facility such as new paint and replacement of torn carpet. He said if those were things that did get cut the department would still be open for business but he feels it is important enough

to ask. Also he would like reserve uniforms to be increased by \$1,500. The department provides uniforms and tries to use uniforms they have in stock. He said he has been attempting to standardize the uniforms within the department. There are officers wearing different uniforms and even different color uniforms. That would not happen all at once but as officers replace their uniforms they would begin replacing with the same uniforms. He would like each officer to have at least one class A in their closet for any type of special occasion. He also stated that he increased the training line item by \$5,000. The department is trying to make up some ground in the training category. Ultimately he would like to get all the officers on the same level for the different skills. Firearm training has become more expensive because of the cost of ammunition. It has almost tripled in cost over the last few years and has become harder and harder to find.

President Hoffman asked how far the department was behind in training.

Chief Mann said they were pretty far behind.

Assistant Town Marshall David Lutz said there were some officers who had never had any formal training outside of watching videos at the station. This year they have done quite a bit of training to catch up.

Chief Mann said there has been no money for professional conferences so he added \$1,500 to that line item. He said that is not necessarily just for himself it could be for any of the officers. Again that being cut would not shut the department down but it would be helpful. Printing increased slightly. He has been looking to get the officers business cards with a place to put the case number and other info on the back. He also said electricity needs to be increased slightly as well and at the same time decrease natural gas. There was no change in the gasoline line item. Equipment increased \$7,000 which was based on the addition of two new cars. When new cars are purchased light bars and other police equipment need to be added. Chief Mann said he does not like having to ask to increase every line item and he tries to be as fiscally responsible as possible.

Councilwoman Ervin said the increases do not look as bad when you see the total budget was only increased 7.7%.

President Hoffman said there were things Chief Mann has not had since he came on that were not in the budget before and shorted the department. It is becoming a matter of getting the department back to where it should be if it is approved by the council and then by the state.

Chief Mann said he would like to say one thing about the salaries of the officers. The two youngest officers with four years experience will be making less than starting dispatchers for the county. He said that seems a little out of kilter to him. He said that is the budget assuming the dispatch does not change in 2014. If it were to change, he has a whole other list of recommendations.

President Hoffman said next on the budget schedule was Chief Allen Smith with the Fire and EMS budgets.

Chief Smith said his budgets are pretty straight forward. The first change in the EMS budget is a slight increase in oxygen due to having to switch providers. Printing also increased slightly for run reports. Workman's Comp could possibly decrease depending on the audit that is to be done in the coming weeks. Maintenance increased as well due to mandatory maintenance on defibrillators. He said the one large increase he is asking for is a battery operated stretcher that keeps EMT's from having to lift stretchers and puts less strain on their backs. That amount is \$12,000. He added \$10,000 because he could use some left over funds to pay the rest.

Councilman Rooks asked if there would be one for both ambulances.

Chief Smith said no, only one ambulance would get the new stretcher. He said the only difference in the Fire budget was an increase in the maintenance line item. He handed out a proposed schedule of fire run fees for the council to consider for 2014. The numbers ranged from \$100 for an auto fire to \$500 for a structure fire.

Councilwoman Ervin asked what similar volunteer fire departments charging.

Chief Smith said it varies but he believes these numbers are reasonable.

President Hoffman said insurance will cover up to \$500 for a house fire so the numbers Chief Smith presented look reasonable.

President said next on the budget schedule was John Drybread presenting the street department budget.

Mr. Drybread said the budget stayed pretty similar to the previous year's budget. The only changes were merit raises and benefits. Supplies increased slightly about \$1,000 and general liability increased \$450. Another thing that may eventually take some strain of the budget is making a storm water utility where customers would pay a user fee on their utility bill instead of coming out of the street budget.

President Hoffman said that is something that will be talked about and the goal would be to have it implemented by the first of the year. Hydrant fees and garbage pick-up would also be looked into for charging user fees.

Mary Patterson said the one thing with the garbage pick-up is it renews this year. So right now the town does not know what it will cost in the coming years for trash removal. It is currently \$7.50 per household per month. If the town were to charge \$10 per month that should be enough to cover all costs for the first few years.

President Hoffman said next on the budget schedule was Mr. Drybread again filling in for Wayne Gibbs with the golf maintenance budget.

Mr. Drybread said again the personal services have been recalculated due to changes in where employees were getting paid from. There was also a 15% increase in supplies. The big addition is the \$50,000 increase in the capital outlay line item. Mr. Drybread said the course has 72 golf carts that are 7 years old. They have had the batteries replaced recently as well. The cost of the new carts includes the trade in value of the old carts. He believed the best thing would be to sit down with Mr. Gibbs and see if that number could somehow be reworked. Also, it is not a flat \$50,000 it is a \$50,000 payment for five years. The course has to have carts but we need to see if there are other options.

Mr. Finley said he had spoke to Wayne and said they may need to see what our options are because that is a large dollar amount for a rather long period of time.

President Hoffman said next on the budget schedule was Daniel Teter with the park and rec., buildings and grounds, and aquatic center budgets.

Mr. Teter thanked Scott and Mary for their help with his budgets since he had not been in the office much lately. He said he would probably need to make a few more changes in the future. For the park and rec. everything zeroed itself out for the most part. There was an increase in general liability but a tractor lease paid off as well to even that out. The other budgets again have not change much.

Mr. Finley said the only budget that looks suspect from the budget reports was the aquatic center and he had spoke to Mr. Teter about that and it was because most of the chemicals and supplies are purchased at the beginning of the year and kept on hand.

Mr. Teter said the pool is getting older and requires more and more maintenance each year.

Councilwoman Ervin asked if any money was budgeted for leagues and the B.A.S.E. program.

Mr. Teter said those are NRO accounts and are self funding.

President Hoffman said next on the budget schedule was Scott Finley with the council and clerk budgets.

Mr. Finley said both the council and clerk budgets are similar to the previous year. The council budget shows a total budget increase of \$38,000 dollars. That is a little misleading since we added \$25,000 back into promotions that has been cut out over the years. That money helps with the fall festival and fireworks. That is money that could be cut if it needed to be. Other than that the only changes were for the merit raises for full time employees and increases in benefit costs. Some money was moved from the legal fee line item to the office supplies line item and the gasoline line items to make up for overages and shortages. As for the Clerk budget, it shows an increase of \$3,100 but \$10,000 was again put back into the promotions line item. The personal services decreased due to less insurance coverage compared to the previous clerk treasurer.

President Hoffman said the council needs to vote on accepting the preliminary budgets for Mr. Finley to take to the DLGF representative on July 29. Councilman Rooks made a motion to accept the budgets as presented. Councilman Simpson seconded. Unanimous.

President Hoffman said next on the agenda was the PS&P Discussion. The town has received an updated inter-local agreement which was forwarded to Town Attorney Huddleston to review and give his opinions on how the town should proceed. He turned it over to Mr. Huddleston to discuss his findings.

Mr. Huddleston said the biggest change in this update is the county has switched tactics on funding and instead of doing a yearly contribution the town's levy will go down and the county's levy will

simultaneously go up the same amount. The agreement reflects that change. He said he has a few problems with the current agreement and he would like to put some conditions in before the agreement goes effective to protect the town. We want some contingencies in the agreement that allows the town some safe guards. Mr. Huddleston said he would like to redraft an agreement and send it to the 911 coordinator Mr. Watkins. Then if he approves those changes he could bring them back to the council to review. Councilman Rooks made a motion to allow Town Attorney Huddleston to draft a new inter-local agreement with the recommended changes and send it to Mr. Watkins. Councilman Simpson seconded. Unanimous.

President Hoffman asked if he had received any pressure from Mr. Watkins to move forward with the agreement.

Mr. Huddleston said yes, he had received an e-mail saying they would like to have the agreement approved by the end of July. He said he knows the town is not the only municipality that still wants to make changes to the agreement.

Councilwoman Ervin asked what the benefits were to the town from the dispatch consolidation.

Chief Mann said the main benefit is conformance with the law. The way he understands it the town could continue as is but would lose their 911 dollars. Another advantage is you should see departments working together more closely as things are handled more regionally. He believes it will be a very professional dispatch center. Some of the disadvantages include loss of ownership by the town and a loss of the police stations 24 hour window. He stated that he is not the most patient man and looks forward to moving along. He understands the council's concerns about the legality and protection of the town.

President Hoffman said the way he understands it there is a lot of disagreement among municipalities in Johnson County and there has been some pressure from Mr. Watkins to move forward. President Hoffman wanted Mr. Huddleston to look over the agreement to make sure the town and the citizens are protected. Once that happens he believes this will move forward rapidly.

Mr. Huddleston said the transfer of the towns levy to the county has made him happy. It is very unique and Johnson County is the only county that has attempted it. He does want something in the agreement that if the consolidation were to fall through for some reason, the town could readjust their levy so the town can provide for funding.

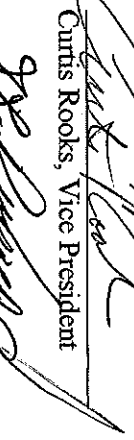
Council Rooks asked if we were going to be able to give them an answer by the end of the month.

Mr. Huddleston said he will work as quickly as possible but he doubts they have answer by then. It will probably August before it is presented again to the council.

Being no further business or comments, Councilman Simpson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Drybread seconded. Unanimous.

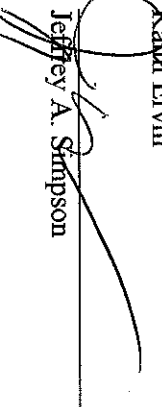
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ATTEST:

  
Scott Finley, Clerk-Treasurer