

WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
Southwest Ranches, Florida

Thursday 7:00 PM

August 12, 2014

13400 Griffin Road

Present:

Mayor Jeff Nelson

Andrew Berns, Town Administrator

Vice Mayor Gary Jablonski

Martin Sherwood, Town Financial Administrator

Council Member Doug McKay

Russell Muñiz, Town Clerk

Council Member Freddy Fisikelli

Council Member Steve Breitzkreuz

A workshop meeting of the Town Council of Southwest Ranches was held at 13400 Griffin Road in the Southwest Ranches Council Chambers. The meeting, having been properly noticed, was called to order by Mayor Nelson at 7:11 PM. Attendance was noted by roll call and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was observed in honor of Town Attorney Emeritus Gary Poliakoff who recently passed away.

Town Administrator Berns spoke of the format for the meeting and spoke of the genesis of the additional millage rate which was intended to fund the Transportation Surface Drainage Ongoing Rehabilitation (TSDOR) plan. He also spoke of the recommendations being developed by the Fire Advisory Board relative to the future of the Volunteer Fire Department and the fiscal impact of these two prominent issues.

Town Financial Administrator Sherwood, gave a detailed summary of the proposed Fiscal Year 2015 budget through the use of a PowerPoint presentation.

The following members of the public addressed the Town Council: Newell Hollingsworth, Tammy Farthing, Bob Busch, John Eastman, and Barry Neunzig.

Council Member Breitzkreuz indicated his appreciation of the public input and addressed some of the issues raised. He spoke of the complexity of the methodology used to develop the fire assessment. He indicated his support of the seed money for the School Education Advisory Board scholarship. He spoke of the Town's reserves and felt that the Town needed to be more conservative because the Town does not have the "deep pockets" that larger municipalities have. He felt that the additional millage assigned for TSDOR would be much lower than that projected because the timeline would be 20 years not 12 years. In addition, the first year would mainly be used to plan the project. He felt that all of the information regarding the Volunteer Fire Department had been gathered and indicated his eagerness for the recommendations to come from the Fire Advisory Board and for the decision making process to move along.

Vice Mayor Jablonski recognized staff for their hard work on the budget. He asked that funds be budgeted for possible unanticipated items for the Rolling Oaks Barn. He also asked that funds be

budgeted for further traffic enhancements on Stirling Road between Flamingo Road and Volunteer Road. He also objected to the funding increase requested by the Area Agency on Aging and asked that their funding be consistent with last year's request.

Council Member Fisikelli asked about the program modification for the automated agenda system. Town Administrator Berns indicated the item was not funded at this time. Council Member Fisikelli questioned the increase in parks ground maintenance. He felt the Town was losing a lot of money because of false agricultural exemptions claimed by property owners and asked that the Town contact the Property Appraiser's office. He asked about proposed staff increases. Town Administrator Berns indicated the increases were primarily due to the retirement plan established for employees. Council Member Fisikelli spoke about the Town's reserves and indicated it is not as liquid as some might perceive.

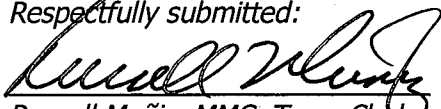
Council Member McKay thanked staff for their effort with the budget.

Town Financial Administrator Sherwood addressed some of the concerns raised by Council Member Fisikelli regarding the reserves. He indicated that the Town's reserves could fund Town operations for 4 months. He felt that even with the utilization proposed in Fiscal Year 2015 the Town's reserves were sufficient. He also indicated that the Town also had unrestricted net assets in the Solid Waste Enterprise fund which could be utilized in the event of a hurricane emergency for debris removal.

Mayor Nelson was pleased that even with the proposed additional millage rate for TSDOR the Town still had one of the lowest millage rates in Broward County. He looked forward to the proposed special meeting regarding the recommendations for the Volunteer Fire Department.

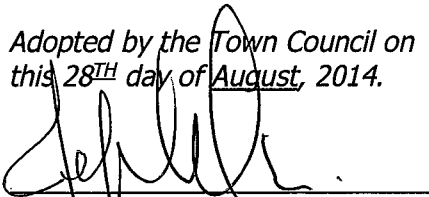
Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Russell Muñiz, MMC, Town Clerk

*Adopted by the Town Council on
this 28TH day of August, 2014.*



Jeff Nelson, Mayor

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