

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Special Meeting, June 30, 2003, 7:00 AM

Present: Mayor William F. Eckman, Councilman Wayne Winkler, Councilman Thomas W. Fritz, Councilman Gene Ambrogio, Councilman Roy G. Hale; Douglas R. Miller, Town Manager, Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk; Joseph W. Norris, Town Treasurer

Guests: (see roster)

Minutes:

Mayor Eckman called the special meeting to order at 7:00 AM.

Unfinished Business (none)

New Business

FY03 Budget Amendments

Joe Norris briefly explained the requested amendments and noted they were needed to assure the Town does not overspend what was authorized. He noted that revenues and expenditures would be equal, and that he expects that minimum actual revenues will be at least \$5,275,000. The requested amendments are as follows:

1. Increase expected revenue in Real Property tax revenue account by \$65,000, increasing the total estimated revenues to \$5,246,352.
2. Give the Town Treasurer authority to reduce expenditures in the general government major category by \$20,000 in appropriate accounts, and to transfer that appropriation to Capital Outlay in Streets and Roads for overlay.
3. Increase authorized expenditures in Capital Outlay for Streets and Roads department by \$65,000, increasing the total estimated expenditures to \$5,246,352.

Councilman Hale made a motion to approve the budget amendments. Councilman Fritz seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Norris advised he was making progress on refinancing the debt for the Town's participation in the State Retirement Program. The payback period would be 15 years. The pay-off amount as of August, 2003 is \$2,202,904. He asked if the Town Council wished to refinance all or most of the debt if the rate is acceptable. It was the consensus of the Town Council that all of the debt be refinanced.

Property Acquisition: Centennial Street

Mr. Miller requested approval to use DBED grant money to purchase three parcels for street right-of-way for the extension of Centennial Street:

1. Gasparovic parcel: \$44,650
2. Kelly and Stuart parcel: \$19,000
3. Scott/Bowling parcel: \$40,000

Following a brief discussion clarifying that the potential State budget cuts are for the FY04 budget rather than FY03, a motion was made by Councilman Winkler to approve the purchase of the three parcels for the amounts stated. Councilman Fritz seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Tornado Expenditures

Parking lot issues

Mr. Miller explained that the bid to construct the lot on the Bales property had been very high and it was assumed that Mr. Bales would not be willing to pay his share. He also explained that time had run out on the Charles County Rescue Squad parking lot project. It was the consensus of the Town Council to proceed with the project on the Bales property, to put \$40,000 of the DBED money in escrow and prepare the necessary legal documents today.

Street lights

Mr. Miller explained that approval was needed to spend \$52,000 of the grant money to have SMECO install street lights on La Grange Avenue, Maple Avenue and Centennial Street. Councilman Winkler made a motion to approve this expenditure. Councilman Hale seconded the motion. In discussion prior to the vote, Councilman Ambrogio asked if it would be possible to ask businesses to donate money to offset the costs of the lights, and put a plaque on the street light pole identifying the donor. While not possible for this project, it was agreed that the Town could look into this for other projects. Vote on the motion: the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Design Review Board funding recommendation

James A. Mudd, 7 Maple Avenue: \$7,000

Councilman Winkler made a motion to approve the funding recommendation. Councilman Hale seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

There being no further business, Councilman Hale made a motion to adjourn at 7:35 AM. Councilman Winkler seconded the motion and it carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk