

**TOWN OF COLMAR MANOR
BUDGET HEARING
TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2012
7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Michael E. Hale called the Public Hearing Meeting into order at 7:33p.m.

PRESENT AT THIS MEETING:

Michael E. Hale, Mayor
Lois Ann Blue, Council Member – Ward 1
Cynthia Bowden, Council Member – Ward 2
Vivian Jackson, Council Member – Ward 3
Doreatha Epps, Council Member – Ward 4
Daniel Baden, Clerk-Treasurer
Brian Gibson, Chief of Police
John Barr, Town Attorney
Tracy Stone, Media Coordinator

OVERVIEW OF BUDGET – ORDINANCE O-1-2012

Daniel Baden, Clerk-Treasurer gave overview of the highlights of the projected budget submitted via Ordinance 0-1-2012. This sets the Tax Levy for the town for the year 2013. The fiscal year begins on July 1, 2012 and ends on June 30, 2013.

Mr. Baden stated that line item “Highway User” has decreased from \$14,000 to \$9,000. This was due to the state taking away some of the Highway User funds from the municipalities in order to balance the state budget.

Line item “Rentals” has been increased to \$34,000. There has been a lot of interest in the rental of the building including church rentals every Sunday.

Mr. Baden stated that property values in the town have decreased 20% for Residential Property and 34% for Commercial Property. Mr. Baden stated that town will set the rate at the Constant Yield rates of \$1.27 for Residential Property and \$1.87 for Commercial Real Property. These rates may appear to be higher than last year’s rates but will yield the same income because of the decrease in property values.

Mr. Baden stated that it was brought to his attention right before the meeting that the Commercial Property rate, which is certified to the town by the state, may not be accurate. He suggested that the Council not adopt the Budget or the rates at this meeting. The meeting would be considered a Budget Hearing only.

Mr. Baden will investigate the Commercial Property tax rate. He believed the Residential

rates were correct. Another meeting would be held as quickly as possible based on his investigation because the town is required to certify the tax rates and submit them to the State by a certain date.

Mr. Baden stated that line item "Port Towns" has been budgeted at \$5,000. This will cover Port Towns Day - \$3,000, MML Main Street Booth \$1,000 and Port Towns Legislative Dinner - \$1,000.

Line item "Port Towns Jobs for Youth" is maintained at \$2,000 for three students in the town that will be hired to work part-time during the summer with Public Works and the Police Department.

Line item Port Town CDC has been budgeted at \$5,000.

Line item "Salaries Mayor & Council" has been budgeted at \$33,000. Two years ago a Resolution was adopted to increase the compensation of the Mayor and Council. This increase was not effective until the next Council term.

Line item "Maintenance" has been budgeted at \$77,500 a decrease of \$26,000 from the current year due to more efficient operations in the building.

Waste Collection has been increased by \$2,500 due to a 3% cost of living increase by the provider.

Debt service for police vehicles has been decreased to \$15,000 because of loans being paid off for vehicles purchased in 2008.

COMMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

-Mr. Lusk said appreciated the town looking further into the Commercial Tax rate.

-Mr. Mutchler questioned the projected cost of the MML Convention and how it was calculated. Mr. Baden reported that it was an estimated cost of the lodging, cost of registration to the convention and a per diem for meals for each attendee. Mr. Baden gave a detailed explanation of all of the costs that the amount includes. Mr. Mutchler has asked for copies of expenditures for the Council during the MML Ocean City convention stating that it was public information. Mr. Baden informed him that the motel fees were paid directly by the town and there is no obligation to account for amounts spent via per diem charges.

-Mr. Mutchler questioned the amount of compensation the Mayor and Council with the increase. Mr. Baden stated that the Mayor receives \$9,000 and the Council receives \$6,000 per year.

-Sadara Barrow questioned if budget and other public information could be available ahead of time for residents.

-Ms. Barrow stated that she doesn't feel that the town should be sitting on a 50% surplus. She said the funds represent monies due the residents from overtaxing and there should be a way of investing this money so that it is more profitable to the town.

-Ms. Barrow stated that the town should consider thinking of ways to procure income to cover cost of Community Center and Police buildings. She suggested increasing the hall rental income by publicizing the rental of the building to businesses and charging them a higher rate.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Michael E. Hale called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion made by Council Member Jackson to adjourn the Budget Hearing. Seconded by Council Member Blue. Motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

**TOWN OF COLMAR MANOR
PUBLIC HEARING MEETING
RESOLUTION R-2-2012
QUALIFICATIONS OF OFFICE OF MAYOR
TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 2010
7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER:

Council Member Hale called the Public Hearing Session to order.

PRESENT AT THIS MEETING:

Michael E. Hale, Mayor
Lois Ann Blue, Council Member – Ward 1
Frances Smith, Council Member – Ward 2
Sadara Barrow, Council Member – Ward 4
Brian Gibson, Chief of Police
John Barr, Town Attorney
Tracy Stone, Media Coordinator

OVERVIEW OF RESOLUTION R-2-2012

John Barr, Town Attorney gave overview of Charter Amendment R-2-2012 Qualifications of the Office of Mayor. The Council is recommending that the section in the Charter Amendment which states that an individual must have served as an elected official before being able to run for Mayor be removed.

An individual must be 30 years of age, lived in the town for one year prior to the election and be a registered voter to run for the position of Mayor.

Council Member Blue asked if the age requirement for Councilmember could change to thirty years of age. Mr. Barr said that this would have to be reviewed at a new Hearing.

COMMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Rogers stated that she agreed that twenty one years is too young to hold a Council Member position. She felt that by the age of thirty a person would have more life experience.

Sadara Barrow suggested that a Council Member age should be set at 24 -25 years old. Sadara Barrow gave more background on the previous change to the Charter Amendment regarding the Office of Mayor.

ADJOURMENT

Council Member Hale declared the Public Hearing held and called for the meeting to be adjourned.