



**MINUTES  
TOWN OF HILLSBORO BEACH  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COMMISSION  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2012**

**TUESDAY**

**5:01PM**

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**CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 5:12 PM. The Town Clerk called the roll with the Commission members and staff present as listed below, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Town Commission:**

|                            |                                     |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Mayor Dan Dodge            | Commissioner Javier Garcia - Absent |
| Vice Mayor Claire Schubert | Commissioner Dick Maggiore          |
| Commissioner Jim Lambert   |                                     |

**Town Staff:**

|   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Town Clerk Jean-Marie Mark              | Deputy Town Clerk, Irene George |
| Town Attorney D.J. Doody                | Chief Thomas Nagy               |
| Water Plant Superintendent, Mike George |                                 |

Mayor Dodge opened the meeting stating Commissioner Garcia is running late and should be here momentarily. Commissioner Garcia arrived at 5:14 PM.

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2012 1<sup>ST</sup> BUDGET HEARING**

Mayor Dodge asked if there were any additions or deletions to the minutes presented.

Mayor Dodge requested the Town Clerk include his comment about "over the years the Town Officials have been reimbursed for conferences and some travel.

*Vice Mayor Schubert made a motion to approve the September 13, 2012 1<sup>st</sup> Budget Hearing minutes as amended. Commissioner Lambert seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.*

**2. Consideration of Resolution No. 752 - Adopting the Millage for General Operations for FY 2012-2013**

Mr. Stephen Bloom of Severn Trent provided a brief recap from the first budget meeting and reviewed the information provided and answered questions regarding the required votes based on the millage rate.

Mr. Bloom also reported the adjustments from the first budget meeting have all been included in the tentative budget provided to the Commission; items such as the increase revenue areas, keeping the Commission stipend the same and due to the new position in the Police Department the overtime would be offset.

Mayor Dodge opened the meeting for public comments at 5:23 PM

Mr. Rene Males of 1155 Hillsboro Mile commended Chief Nagy and the Officer who had assisted the homeowner, maid and the dog from carbon monoxide poisoning. Mr. Males stated he believed there are other alternatives to consider before the town hires the 15<sup>th</sup> officer and after reviewing the monthly report, he does not see the Detective on the road often and encouraged the Chief and Major to continue with some driving from time to time. Mr. Males strongly suggested the Commission look carefully on how Highland Beach achieves their goal at a lower cost.

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Ms. Gabriel Hodgkin's of 1147 Hillsboro Mile stated she has lived in town for over 40 years certainly appreciates the service provided by the Police Department but suggested the town not hire another officer and handed out a comparison sheet against Highland Beach.

Mrs. Rhea Weiss of 1149 Hillsboro Mile stated she knows there have been numerous emails sent regarding the Police Department not hire the additional officer and inquired if the Commission received any emails in support of this additional officer. Mrs. Weiss also recommended the Commission consider alternative solutions before hiring a new officer.

Mr. John Carlson of 975 Hillsboro Mile stated he does not believe the town is in need of an additional officer but understands having the additional officer would make the Chief of Police's job easier. Hiring an additional officer would cost the town roughly \$100,000 a year and would require due diligence on the Commission's part to obtain a second opinion from an independent law enforcement expert. Mr. Carlson closed by stating the Commission should investigate more before we invest in another officer.

With no one else stepping forward to speak, Mayor Dodge closed the meeting for public comments at 5:39 PM

Mayor Dodge stated the biggest impact the Commission has tonight is the ability not to raise taxes, which means not raise the millage rate at all. Mayor Dodge indicated the town will be receiving approximate \$2 million from FEMA. Over the last 10 years much of the before the town went out for funding for any of the beach renourishment projects, much of it has been taken from the general fund; some from the reserves and some from that year's taxes. We have paid for that from increases and taken from the reserves. Tonight we have the opportunity to have relief from that by not raising taxes or the millage rate or by raising it by a small amount.

Vice Mayor Schubert stated that to keep the millage the same \$140,000 is needed from the FEMA money and since that amount was going to be used for the beach permitting there is logic to using the FEMA money to hold the lines on taxes.

Mr. Bloom confirmed if the millage rate were kept the same taxes on a \$250,000 home would increase by \$10.00. If the town wanted be level on average, the rollback rate would need to be adopted which would be 3.342.

Commissioner Lambert stated the town needs to prepare for the future and for the taxes to go up by \$10 is very reasonable and an additional \$18.00 would give us a little more to put towards a rainy day. Commissioner Lambert further stated the town's biggest issue is the beach and we will need the money sooner or later and before a decision is made on the additional officer, we owe it to the residents to look at it further.

Commissioner Maggiore agreed with Commissioner Lambert on putting aside some monies for the beach but was not completely convinced the town is in need of the additional officer and would need to know how many hours the Detective, Major and the Chief spend on patrol.

Commissioner Garcia stated the number one priority is the sand and the cost of mobilization is the most expensive part of any renourishment and if we keep the millage the same, a slight increase would go a long way.

Mayor Dodge stated from a budgetary point we will be receiving over 2 million from FEMA, and whether we have no tax increase or a moderate one, we will still need another \$100,000

depending on the health insurance.

Mr. Bloom confirmed the amount within the budget is \$26,512 which is the AvMed plan shown on page two. The current carrier is Aetna

Commissioner Maggiore stated the town currently pays for the employee's insurance premium and any employee hired after 2009, the town would only cover the cost of the employee and will not be covering any dependents. Commissioner Maggiore also commented how poorly the Coventry insurance is and would not recommend it.

Mayor Dodge stated the cost for the Fire Services will be going up and had requested an additional \$35,000 be added towards administration as he would like to redefine the role of the lead position.

*Commissioner Lambert made a motion to set the Millage rate at 3.39 and the millage rate to be greater than the computed rolled-back rate of 1.37%. Vice Mayor Schubert seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.*

Town Attorney Doody read into record by title only Resolution No. 752 - Adopting the Millage for General Operations for FY 2012-2013

*Vice Mayor Schubert made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 752 - Adopting the Millage for General Operations for FY 2012-2013. Commissioner Garcia seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.*

**2. Consideration of Resolution No. 753 - Adopting the General Fund Budget for FY 2012-2013**

Mr. Stephen Bloom provided a brief summary for each department covered from page 8 through page 12 of the tentative budget handout. Mr. Bloom also indicated there would be a change with the fire services increase and the additional contingency amount of \$35,000 per Mayor Dodge's request.

Mayor Dodge opened the meeting for public comments at 6:25 PM.

Mrs. Rhea Weiss of 1149 Hillsboro Mile stated in previous years monies received from rebates kept the millage low.

With no one coming forward, Mayor Dodge closed the public comments at 6:28 PM

Mayor Dodge stated it was important the lead position in administration have a stronger finance background and believes the town would benefit if there was more financial knowledge in house.

Town Attorney Doody read into record by title only Resolution No. 753 - Adopting the General Operations for FY 2012-2013

*Commissioner Lambert made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 753 - Adopting the General Fund Budget for FY 2012-2013 of \$5,106,525. Commissioner Maggiore seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.*

Mayor Dodge stated the health insurance still needs to be decided upon and he has asked the department heads for their input.

*Commissioner Lambert made a motion to have Mayor Dodge review and make the required change in the health insurance carrier. Vice Mayor Schubert seconded the motion.*

Town Attorney Doody advised the Commission to make a motion to amend the agenda to include and allow further discussion and a decision to be made by Mayor Dodge on the health insurance carrier.

*Commissioner Lambert made a motion to amend the agenda to include and allow further discussion and a decision to be made by Mayor Dodge on the health insurance carrier. Vice Mayor Schubert seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.*

*Commission Lambert made a motion to have Mayor Dodge make a decision and enter into an agreement with a health insurance*

**3. Consideration of Resolution No. 754 - Adopting the Water Fund Budget for FY 2012-2013**

Mr. Stephen Bloom referenced page 5 the summary of the water fund and stated there is a total of 53.9% decrease from last year's budget.

Mayor Dodge opened the meeting for public comments at 6:35 PM. With no one coming forward, Mayor Dodge closed the public comments at 6:35 PM

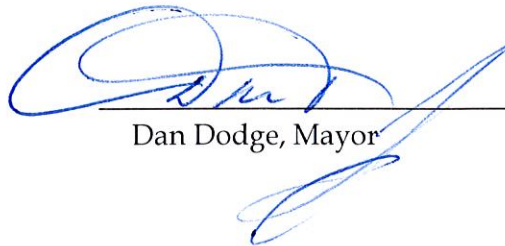
Town Attorney Doody read into record by title only Resolution No. 754 - Adopting the Water Fund Budget for FY 2012-2013

*Commissioner Lambert made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 754 - Adopting the Water Fund Budget for FY 2012-2013 of \$5,106,525. Commissioner Maggiore seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.*

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM

ADOPTED THIS 2<sup>nd</sup> DAY OF October 2012.

By:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Dodge, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jean-Marie Mark, Town Clerk