

1 **TOWN OF EASTON, MARYLAND**  
2 **Easton Town Hall**  
3 **14 S. Harrison Street**  
4 **Budget Workshop**

5 April 9, 2013

6  
7 **PRESENT AT CONVENING**

8  
9 Mayor Robert C. Willey  
10 Councilmember Kelley K. Malone  
11 Councilmember Leonard E. Wendowski  
12 Councilmember Megan M. Cook  
13 Council President John F. Ford

14  
15 **IN ATTENDANCE**

16  
17 Also in attendance were the Town Manager Mr. Karge, and Town Clerk Mrs. Ruf.

18  
19 **CONVENING**

20  
21 President Ford called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of  
22 Allegiance.

23  
24 **Superintendent of Public Works Mr. Michael Dickerson and Assistant to the Town Engineer Mr.  
25 Brian Hause.**

26  
27 Mr. Wendowski asked for clarification for the supervision amount in the budget. Mr. Karge stated that  
28 it is for multiple personnel's salary.

29  
30 Mr. Dickerson stated that uniform costs went up this year and has been adjusted. He discussed other  
31 accounts that have been increased.

32  
33 Discussion occurred regarding sidewalk repairs and concrete work.

34  
35 Mr. Dickerson discussed being over budget due to drainage concerns that were addressed on Harrison  
36 Street and Chapel Easton.

37  
38 Mr. Leshar suggested asking the state for funding for street lighting on Route 50.

39  
40 Mr. Dickerson stated that related to the cuts in the capital budget, his biggest priority is for the bulk  
41 truck.

42  
43 Mr. Dickerson stated that all residential garbage pickup is now once a week.

44  
45 Ms. Malone asked for clarification on the recycling participation. Mr. Dickerson gave weight totals.  
46 Mr. Karge stated that the waste stream reduction is still roughly 15%; a discount was given for a 30%  
47 reduction in the waste stream.

48  
49 At 7:14 p.m., Mr. Dickerson and Mr. Hause exited the meeting.

50  
51 **Fire Department**

52  
53 At 7:16 p.m., Mr. Tim Knotts was present for the Fire Department's requests. He stated that they asked  
54 for another custodian but that was cut. Mr. Knotts stated that most of the figures remain the same and  
55 they are satisfied with the amounts given to them.

56  
57 Mayor Willey asked for a quote for the new windows. He stated that there is a placeholder in the  
58 budget for those repairs. Mr. Karge stated that he has asked the Building Code Official to take a look at  
59 those repairs.

60  
61 Mrs. Cook asked what is used in the Operating Expense. Mr. Karge clarified the expenses spent year to  
62 date.

63  
64 At 7:36 p.m., Mr. Knotts exited the meeting.

1 **Planning and Zoning Department**

2 At 7:37 p.m., Mr. Lynn Thomas was present for his department.

3  
4 Mr. Thomas stated that it is a straight forward budget and essentially what it costs to run the  
5 department. He stated that professional services are one of their main expenses.

6  
7 At 7:51 p.m., Mr. Thomas exited the meeting.

8  
9 **Director of Economic Development**

10  
11 At 7:52 p.m., Mr. Mark Heckler was present for his department.

12  
13 Mr. Heckler discussed the Economic Development and Main Street budget. He stated that it has  
14 decreased approximately \$120,000 due to a departure in the way economic development has been  
15 handled.

16  
17 Mr. Heckler discussed the new direction the Department is trying to accomplish. He discussed the  
18 Easton Development Corporation that is in the progress of forming and the Main Street transition.

19  
20 Mayor Willey discussed accountability for the funds allocated.

21  
22 Mr. Heckler stated that a charitable organization such as the Development Corporation can lessen the  
23 burden of government.

24  
25 Mr. Karge discussed the organizations meeting objective goals. He stated that they must be given the  
26 chance to start.

27  
28 At 8:25 p.m., Mr. Heckler exited the meeting.

29  
30 **Budget Discussion**

31  
32 Mayor Willey stated that the budget is short about \$516,000.

33  
34 Mr. Wendowski asked about the rainy day fund. Mr. Karge stated that it is healthy but Moody's would  
35 not view that as a good source for funding.

36  
37 Mr. Leshar asked what raising the tax rate \$.01 would do. Mr. Karge stated that \$.03 may net  
38 approximately \$600,000.

39  
40 Suggestions were made to yield the additional funding.

41  
42 Mr. Leshar suggesting staying under the cap and look at \$.02 and send to Mayor Willey to decide  
43 which requests to fund.

44  
45 President Ford stated he wants to see some menu options.

46  
47 Mr. Karge stated that he would make a schedule for the council to consider the options.

48  
49 Mayor Willey stated that the options may be within the next two weeks.

50  
51 **ADJOURNMENT**

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53 Upon motion by Mr. Leshar seconded by Mrs. Cook and carried unanimously, President Ford  
54 adjourned the budget workshop at 8:45 p.m.

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58 \_\_\_\_\_  
Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk