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TOWN OF EASTON, MARYLAND
Easton Town Hall
14 S. Harrison Street
Budget Workshop

March 29, 2016

PRESENT AT CONVENING

Mayor Robert C. Willey
Councilmember Al Silverstein
Councilmember Pete Leshner
Councilmember Ron Engle
Councilmember Megan M. Cook
Council President John F. Ford

IN ATTENDANCE

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

CONVENING

President Ford called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Willey said that any additional budget requests must have funding identified as the budget is balanced.

Superintendent of Public Works Mr. Michael Dickerson and Town Engineer Mr. Rick VanEmburch.

At 6:01 p.m., Mr. Dickerson and Mr. VanEmburch were present for the Public Work's requests.

Mr. Dickerson started with the capital budget.

The Town Engineer discussed pucs that are requested in the budget. He stated that they are 1/3 of the price and easier to install.

Mr. Dickerson discussed the proposed Public Works storage building in the budget requested for heavy equipment and equipment that is near retirement that needs to be replaced. He stated that more funds are requested for additional tree plantings.

Mr. VanEmburch discussed proposed projects in the budget and necessary road improvements.

Mr. VanEmburch stated that there are three sidewalk replacements out of ten they would like to start working on. Payment in lieu of constructing sidewalks has been proposed for some new development.

The upgrade of handicap ramps was discussed and the necessity to show that improvements are being made to make them compliant.

Mr. Dickerson discussed replacing split rail fencing around the ponds the town maintains.

Mr. Dickerson discussed property for a salt storage facility and a place where the sweeper can go to dump when they are on the east side of town.

Mr. VanEmburch stated that the town may have all the colonial street lights replaced in the next two years.

Mr. VanEmburch discussed drainage issues and storm drain improvements. He stated there is no money in the budget but the design has been completed to rectify the problem but would cost approximately \$125,000. Mr. VanEmburch discussed an expenditure of \$350,000 to help with drainage issues in the vicinity of Easton Utilities' pumping station.

Mr. Dickerson stated that they have requested two new employees in the upcoming budget.

Mr. Leshner asked for clarification regarding the recycling fee and associated costs.

1 At 7:36 p.m., Mr. Dickerson and Mr. VanEmburch exited the meeting.

2

3 **Fire Department**

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5 At 7:38 p.m., Mr. Edward Lynch, President and Mr. Ken Bush, Treasurer were present for the Fire
6 Department's requests.

7

8 Mr. Lynch discussed the replacement of the self-contained breathing apparatus. He stated they intend
9 to hold meetings regarding the bid. Mr. Lynch stated that 50 masks, 100 tanks and face masks would
10 cost approximately \$400,000. He stated that the operating budget is basically the same. Mr. Lynch
11 stated that there are no grant opportunities for the expense of the breathing apparatus.

12

13 At 7:47 p.m., Mr. Lynch and Mr. Bush exited the meeting.

14

15 **Planning and Zoning Department**

16

17 At 7:49 p.m., Mr. Lynn Thomas, Town Planner was present for his department.

18

19 Mr. Karge stated that \$27,000 should be added to the Planning Department for professional services.

20

21 Mr. Thomas stated that they are proposing no change to the current budget. He stated that there are not
22 many expenses for the Planning Department. He stated that the amounts proposed are generally for the
23 employees' continuing education credits such as conferences.

24

25 Mrs. Cook discussed a proposal to paint on a silo and the possibility of façade improvement funds.

26

27 Mr. Silverstein stated that funds usually can be funneled through the Arts Council for projects such as
28 this.

29

30 President Ford stated that he has a meeting with Talbot Bible Church next week.

31

32 Mr. Karge stated that Talbot Bible Church was annexed in 1997.

33

34 At 7:56 p.m., Mr. Thomas exited the meeting.

35

36 Mayor Willey stated that the council can address individual budget contributions and Economic
37 Development before a regularly scheduled council meeting.

38

39 **Administration**

40

41 Mr. Karge stated that his numbers are effectively the same as the previous year with a proposed 3%
42 increase in salary and possibly a 16% increase to the health insurance.

43

44 **ADJOURNMENT**

45

46 Upon motion by Mr. Silverstein seconded by Mr. Engle and carried unanimously, President Ford
47 adjourned the budget workshop at 8:03 p.m.

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51 _____
Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk