

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING
NOVEMBER 15, 2017

The Town Council convened for a budget workshop meeting at 5:35 p.m. in the Ridgway Community Center at 201 N. Railroad Street Ridgway, Colorado. In attendance Councilors Austin, Hawes, Williams and Mayor Clark. Councilors Hunter and Young were absent and Mayor Pro Tem Johnson was not present for the roll call.

Town Clerk's Notice of Workshop dated November 6, 2017.

1. Presentation of the 2016 Fiscal Year Audit

Pete Blair, with Blair and Associates, presented the 2016 Audit and distributed to the Council the Management Report for the Town of Ridgway as of December 31, 2016 along with the governance letter to the board.

He reported operating revenues were over in the general fund based on additional receipts of \$200,000 in sales tax, \$20,000 in lodging tax and \$27,000 in building permits, and stated this was a "good economic indicator" the "Town is doing well" and "growing". Operating expenses were down \$600,000 in the general fund from budgeted to actual. In 2016 the Town "invested 1.65 million in capital assets" "in infrastructure", and noted the audit firm will be presenting a depreciation schedule for staff use.

Mr. Blair reviewed the budget document with Council, noting capital assets after \$102,000 in depreciation is shown with a total increase of \$1.5 million. He reported pertaining to long term liabilities, investment to infrastructure, the Town leveraged 1.5 million in the RAMP Project and received a total 13 million dollar project "so it was a good leverage on your part". He noted he performed a "comparison from 2015 and it compared except what was put into infrastructure investments". Mr. Blair stated "the fund balances are really healthy". In the general fund the balance includes "6 months of expenditures and most Towns your size are 3 months to a year"; the enterprise funds, he reported, "are in really good shape" "the water fund has a year of expenditures" and the wastewater is the same.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson entered the meeting.

2. Review of the proposed 2018 Fiscal Year Budget

The Council received a draft of the 2018 Fiscal Year Budget; draft 2018 Strategic Plan; drafts of the 2018 Capital Outlay and Five Year Capital Improvement Plan and 10 year Capital Improvement Plan; and requests for funding from the following organizations: Neighbor to Neighbor Program; Voyager Youth Program; Ouray County Food Pantry; Public Art Ridgway Colorado; Partners Youth Mentoring Program; The Center for Mental Health; Ouray County Soccer Association; KVN Community Radio; Ridgway Area Trails Group; Ouray County Housing Advisory Committee; Juvenile Diversion and Services; Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership; Second Chance Humane Society; Uncompahgre Volunteer Legal Aid; EcoAction Partners; Ridgway Chautauqua Society.

Continued from the budget workshop of October 25th the Council met to discuss and review a draft of the fiscal year 2018 budget. The Town Manager noted this is the last scheduled budget workshop, and if Council does not set another meeting, adoption of the budget will be presented at the December regular meeting, along with the capital improvement and strategic plans.

Council and staff discussed bond repayment for the RAMP Project. It was noted 50% of the capital project revenues are slated for repayment of the bond, the remainder is collected through a dedicated mill levy in property tax.

The Town Manager presented an update on construction of the drainage culvert in the alley west of S. Railroad and Lena and Streets; participation in the Region 10 broadband project; and structure of the public works and marshals departments. She noted the Town Attorney has suggested Council consider an increase in salary for the Municipal Court Judge and Clerk. There was discussion by the Council and it was agreed to increase the Judge to \$1800 annually and the Clerk to an equal amount. The Manager suggested the budget include a merit pool for full time staff and Council agreed, and included funds for a year end holiday gift.

Staff answered question from the Council regarding budgeted items. Council reviewed and discussed the requests for funding and Council initiatives.

Council and staff reviewed the capital outlay and project sheets, and the strategic plan.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC
Town Clerk