

RIDGWAY TOWN COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING  
DECEMBER 6, 2017

The Town Council convened for a budget workshop meeting at 6:05 p.m. in the Ridgway Community Center at 201 N. Railroad Street Ridgway, Colorado. The Council was present in its entirety with Councilors Austin, Hawes, Hunter, Williams, Young, Mayor Pro Tem Johnson and Mayor Clark in attendance.

Town Clerk's Notice of Workshop dated November 30, 2017.

1. Review of the proposed 2018 Fiscal Year Budget

The Council received a Memorandum from the Town Manager dated December 5, 2017; 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; charts and graphs of revenues and expenditures.

The Town Manager explained upon preparation of the 2018 mill levies it was discovered the Town can not request a property tax mill levy for repayment of the RAMP bond. She explained the Council chose to commit \$50,0000 or half of the annual capital improvement sales tax revenues generated in the calendar year, preceding the year of each annual repayment. This was included in the language of the ballot question approved by the voters in 2014 to establish a mill levy to repay the downtown project debt. Due to an increase in sales tax revenues in 2017, the capital improvement tax revenues must be fully applied to the bond repayment. She noted unless there is a downturn in the economy and the capital improvement taxes decline and a mill levy can be leveraged, the Town will be responsible for the full amount of the bond repayment. This will apply to the remainder of the 1.4 million dollar bond, which will be paid in full in 2029.

There was discussion by the Council. The Town Manager reported due to the reduction in projected revenues, and to meet the deficient, some items in the draft budget have been eliminated, the largest project was the \$100,000 storm drainage assessment plan. She recommended some of the smaller items removed at prior meetings be added back into the budget, and there was discussed by the Council.

There was discussion regarding the need for a storm water drainage plan, and it was agreed to pursue grant opportunities and funding sources in the upcoming year.

Consensus of the Council was to approve all recommended expenditures in the memorandum from the Town Manager.

The Council discussed funding commitment to the Ouray County Housing Authority, and agreed to continue to place funds in the budget which would continue to accumulate if not used, if the County and City of Ouray commit to the same protocol.

Manager Coates reported the online utility and credit card payment system requested by the Council should be implemented in February. The process will be administered through the

State's SIPA Portal System, with no cost to the Town. Users will pay a seventy-five cent service charge, and \$1 for a checking account debit, or 3% for a credit card transaction.

There was discussion regarding increases for the judge and court clerk and it was agreed to increase the annual stipend by 15%.

Manager Coates presented two changes to the draft Strategic Plan.

2. Response to the Draft Forest Service Plan Revision resource area assessment as they pertain to Ridgway's recreational interests

Mayor Clark presented a draft letter to the US Forest Service regarding the lack of inclusion of the Town's recreational opportunities in the proposed revision to the Forest Assessment titled Recreation published November 2017. He explained the letter outlines the Town's recreational opportunities, and there was discussion regarding adding a number of other outdoor recreational amenities to the list. It was noted responses to the draft revision are due by December 8<sup>th</sup>.

ACTION:

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson moved to approve the letter to Forest Service, Councilor Hunter seconded and motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Kraft, MMC  
Town Clerk