

Bluff Town Council Budget Hearing Minutes

June 6, 2023

Bluff Community Center at 5:30 p.m.

190 N 3rd East P.O. Box 324

435-672-9990

Regular meetings are held the first three Tuesdays of every month at 6:00 p.m. at the Bluff Community Center. Requests to be on the agenda may be submitted in writing to Ann Leppanen (ann@townofbluff.org) at least 4 days before the meeting. Agendas and minutes are posted at:

townofbluff.org on Town Council tab and audio, in addition, at the Utah Public Notice Website

This meeting was held electronically.

The hearing started at 5:31 p.m.

Roll Call Mayor Ann K. Leppanen, Luanne Hook, Linda Sosa, Brant Murray Jim Sayers
Erin Nelson, Town Manager

1. Discussion of Certified Property Tax Rate

Leppanen explained that every year we set the tax rate. If we do not change the tax rate a Truth in Taxation hearing is not necessary. Hearing no interest to change the tax rate from the Council Leppanen declared we would keep the current tax rate. Duncan Lyman is working with the State Tax Commission and should have the tax rate by Tuesday, June 13th. We will vote to approve on next week's agenda.

2. Public Comment on Certified Property Tax Rate

None

3. Discussion of Amended FY 2023 Budget

Nelson presented the highlights of the amended budget and noted projections from last year were very close to the revenue and expenses of the actual budget. The General Fund increased from \$432,204 to \$579,365 due to increased tax revenues and the airport maintenance project. The Roads Fund needs to balance within it self and as part of the General Fund. It has a deficit of \$9,000+ because of an increase in expenditures and that will need to be covered by the General Fund. It did receive a matching grant from the San Juan County Transportation Board. She noted the new joint banking account with Utah Dine Bikeyah and the Special Revenue Fund for the CCC project. Leppanen explained the airport maintenance project cost is about \$138,000 and our cost is \$13,000 to \$14,000. There are two ways to pay it, the Council pays the whole bill and is refunded by UDOT or UDOT sends us their share and we will pay the entire

bill. We will do the latter. Leppanen proposed to hold the vote to approve the budgets until the June 13th agenda to give Council members more time to think about recent changes.

4. Public Comment on Amended FY 2023 Budget

None

5. Discussion of Tentative FY 2024 Budget

Nelson explained the 2024 budget has a projected 2.5% decrease from last year based on information from Utah League of Cities and Towns on state-wide sales revenue expectations. We are working on a fee schedule and will be applying for grants. Expenditure items include Dark Skies, the CCC renovation and the solar eclipse. Roads spending is minimal, the CCC special revenue fund is added. Funds for the Fire Department and EMS are added and include fundraising money from last year's Fort fundraising breakfast. Murray said the budget was done well and it is good to be cautious. Leppanen noted if we receive more grant money it could trigger an amended budget. The budget for Fire is less than requested and includes administrative personnel, maintenance personnel and supplies. This is new for the Town and the budget is fluid in terms of increasing funds to the Fire Department.

6. Public Comment on Tentative FY 2024 Budget

Gary Lichtenstein, assistant fire chief, expressed appreciation to the Town for their work. He noted this is the first time the Fire Department has had a budget and it will take some stress off the volunteers and leadership. Leppanen explained it will be worked out how to administer the funding and year end report. She expressed appreciation for all of the fire volunteers.

7. Other

None

Sayers motioned to adjourn at 6:07 p.m., Murray seconded and Leppanen, Murray, Sayers, Sosa and Hook voted in favor.

Linda Sosa Recording Officer

This meeting took place electronically in order to follow the social distancing guidelines given by state and local authorities. The public was able to connect and participate electronically.

To view the livestream, or watch past recordings, please visit our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTqBxSP-Erhxg6muVMX6vdw>

For requests to receive emails/meeting invitations email linda@townofbluff.org