

**MINUTES
TAYLORS FIRE & SEWER DISTRICT
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
PUBLIC HEARING
JUNE 19, 2018**

A special called meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held at the District Office in the Board Room, 3335 Wade Hampton Blvd., Taylors, South Carolina at 4:30 pm.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Paul Bowen, Commission Chairman

Mark A. J. Rea Jr., Commission Vice Chairman/Secretary

STAFF PRESENT

Bobby Baker, Fire Chief

Samantha Babb, Director of Sewer Services

Gary Cantrell, Operations Supervisor

Stephanie Hackler, Senior Accounting & HR Specialist

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jaime Daniel, Tom Guzik

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bowen at 4:30 pm. Chairman Bowen stated that the media outlets who requested notification of this special called public hearing were notified via door posting, email, website, Facebook, and Twitter.

Chairman Bowen recognized Mrs. Jaime Daniel for a presentation of the proposed FY2019 Budget. She stated that the proposed percentage increase in the millage rate between FY2018 and FY2019 for the Fire Department and the Sewer Department is 5.0% and 0.0%, respectively. The overall proposed millage increase is 3.66%. According to the 2018 tax year proposed millage, the homeowner of a home valued at \$100,000 would pay approximately \$244.00 in property taxes for annual fire protection and \$89.20 for annual Sewer maintenance services, which is a combined increase of \$11.20 (or 2.8 mills) from the 2017 tax year and equates to less than \$1 per month. The FY2018 (2017 Tax Year) tax rate millage for the Fire Department is 58.2 and the proposed tax rate millage for FY 2019 (2018 Tax Year) is 61.0. The FY2018 (2017 Tax Year) tax rate millage for the Sewer Department is 22.3 and the proposed tax rate millage for FY 2019 (2018 Tax Year) is 22.3. The total budgeted revenues and expenditures for FY 2018 for the Fire Department was \$4,630,000 and proposed total for FY2019 is \$4,892,000. The total budgeted revenues and expenditures for FY 2018 for the Sewer Department was \$3,290,000 and proposed total for FY2019 is \$3,398,000. The increase for the Fire Department is primarily due to increased personnel costs and debt service payments. Mrs. Daniel asked if there were any questions. There were none.

The Department Heads discussed the details of their separate budgets with the Board. Director Babb presented the Sewer Department's capital expenditures. She asked if there were any questions, and there were none.

Fire Chief Baker presented the Fire Department's capital expenditures. He asked if there were any questions. Vice Chairman/Secretary Rea asked if the active shooter response kit Fire Chief Baker

referenced in the Fire Department's capital expenditure presentation included head gear. Fire Chief Baker answered that helmets were included in the kit. Fire Chief Baker asked if there were any other questions. Vice Chairman/Secretary Rea asked what was the status on the apparatus that was scheduled to arrive at the end of the year. Fire Chief Baker stated that he had some photos of the apparatus and held a brief discussion regarding its status.

Chairman Bowen opened the floor for public comments. Mr. Tom Guzik asked where Taylors' third Commissioner was. Chairman Bowen stated that Treasurer Hannah had a prior engagement that he could not get out of. Mr. Guzik commented that in his opinion, a Commissioner should only be absent from a called meeting if there is a death in the family or a national emergency.

Mr. Guzik also commented that taxes are going up. Mr. Guzik then asked Chairman Bowen and Vice Chairman/Secretary Rea if they both looked at the budget line for line and what could be possibly cut or increased. Mr. Guzik also asked both Commissioners how they were going to vote in regard to the approval of the FY2019 Budget. Vice Chairman/Secretary Rea stated that he had looked at the budget line by line; that the District was moving on a needs basis as far as the budget was concerned, and that he was in favor of the FY2019 Budget. Chairman Bowen stated that he had looked at the budget line by line; that there were cuts in the budget; and that he too, was satisfied with and in favor of the FY2019 Budget. Chairman Bowen then stated that the District appreciates Mr. Guzik showing up and giving his opinion. Mr. Guzik stated that he was disappointed that Treasurer Hannah was not in attendance.

Mr. Guzik asked Chairman Bowen how many more years did he have as a Commissioner for Taylors Fire and Sewer District. Chairman Bowen stated that he was eligible to run again next year for a Board seat.

Mr. Guzik asked the Board if they had a game plan for the next five years. Chairman Bowen stated that the Board is in the same position as Mr. Guzik and that they are also tax payers who live in the Taylors District. Chairman Bowen went on to say that if taxes go up, the Board's taxes will go up as well. Mr. Guzik stated that he wanted to make a point that Taylors has neighboring districts and Taylors does not have the lowest millage rate. Mr. Guzik went back to his question regarding a five or ten-year plan. Fire Chief Baker stated that the Fire Department has a five-year and ten-year plan. Mr. Guzik asked what was the highlight of the plans. Fire Chief Baker stated that the highlights coincide, because some things that are not done in the five-year plan roll over into the ten-year plan and referenced a couple of examples. Mr. Guzik asked how many firefighters in the Department are nationally certified. Fire Chief Baker stated that was a trick question, because any training through the Fire Academy is nationally certified and that some employees do not have all the training that their fellow employees have. Fire Chief Baker elaborated. Mr. Guzik then recognized Director Babb. Director Babb stated that ReWa is holding development in Taylors and briefed Mr. Guzik on Taylors' 15-year plan/agreement with ReWa.

Senior Accounting and HR Specialist Hackler spoke on behalf of Treasurer Hannah and stated that he was involved in the special called budget workshop meeting and went through the budget line by line. Mr. Guzik thanked the Board for sharing and allowing him to speak. Chairman Bowen thanked Mr. Guzik for attending and showing interest. Chairman Bowen asked if there were any more

comments on the floor. Without any further comments, Chairman Bowen closed the floor for public comments at 5:05 pm.

Vice Chairman/Secretary Rea made a motion to accept the FY2019 budget as presented. Chairman Bowen seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, Vice Chairman/Secretary Rea made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Bowen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 5:06 pm.

Paul Bowen

Commissioner Paul Bowen, Chairman

7-10-18

Date Minutes Approved

Mark A. J. Rea Jr.

Commissioner Mark A. J. Rea Jr., Vice Chairman/Secretary

Commissioner Jeff Hannah, Treasurer

