

Bonnet Shores Fire District

Bonnet Shores Fire District Budget Public Hearing
Saturday, May 25, 2019
9:00 am

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

Council Chair Michael Vendetti called the meeting to order at 9:10 am with the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance were council members Janice McClanaghan, Christopher Mannix and Natalie McDonald and Anita Langer. Also in attendance were Treasurer Mary McGinn, Tax Collector Richard Mercier and Harbormaster Mike Tortolani. Council Members John Pariseault and Daniel Johnson were absent.

Period of Public Comment on 2019-2020 Budget

M. Vendetti called for comments from the audience. N. McDonald suggested that the Treasurer present the budget first.

M. McGinn presented the budget and noted increases to professional accounting services (\$10,000) to support the work of the Treasurer, the increase in the trash contract to \$173,400 and the increase to the District Manager's salary. The proposed budget is \$387,712.

Anita Langer requested an addition to the capital budget of \$45,000 for engineering fees related to the walkway project.

Tony Lupino requested a line item for a Constant Contact-type application. N. McDonald indicated that this request could be incorporated into IT Services.

Paula Childs requested \$45,000 for the walkway project.

Steve Puerini referred to the \$60,000 that had been discussed at last year's budget hearing regarding the walkway.

Neal Coleman talked about the meanness in the country and expenses at the Bonnet Shores Beach Club. He talked about the walkway and public safety.

Tony Lupino stated that he did not want the comments from the meetings to be specific in the minutes. He stated that the walkway would benefit everyone.

Dave Stenmark indicated that the council should be supporting the walkway now that the sewer project has been approved by CRMC.

Michelle Caraccia addressed the importance of safety on the causeway.

Michael Ranaldi asked that the walkway project be considered.

Carol Fortin asked for increased funding of public works. She also asked for a figure between \$7,000 and \$8,000 to be added to the budget for microphones.

Carol DeLeo indicated that if there is a complaint, it can nullify the decisions made during a meeting. She also addressed the increase in the district manager's salary. She also asked for an audit. A discussion ensued regarding the history of the Fire District and the need for a future audit.

Paula Childs asked for increases to the mooring and ramp fees. N. McDonald explained that the Harbor portion of the budget is revenue-neutral and that the mooring fees are put aside to fund harbor-related repairs in the future. Paula Childs replied that Natalie McDonald has a mooring.

An unidentified woman stressed the need for revenue-neutrality.

Marlene Bellini indicated that there were no microphones at the recent CRMC hearing regarding the Beach Club sewer project. She stated that \$45,000 should not be added to the budget for the walkway.

Carol O'Donnell stated that people need to stop being so rude to one another. She noted that walkway advocates and opponents followed the rules of order at the recent CRMC hearing and should do the same at Fire District meetings. She stated that she did not support adding \$45,000 to the budget for the walkway. She stated that the recent truck accident/incident on the causeway would have taken out any walkway that had been built.

Elayne Casey asked for a committee to deal with the rental problem and a possible increase in the rental registration fee. She expressed concern about quality of life in the winter.

A discussion ensued about the merits of hiring a constable. The council and community members expressed support for the idea, but did not have enough details to have a constable-related line item in this year's budget.

R. Mercier addressed the rental list, the lack of respect at meetings and his decision not to run for re-election as Tax Collector.

Robert Patterson addressed the walkway, the recent truck incident/accident and public safety.

Arthur Hardy addressed the possibility of a canoe rack by the pond.

Nancy Riccitelli indicated that she wanted to see money devoted to the walkway.

Michelle Caraccia stated that people against the walkway do not have the information about it.

Sal Loporchio indicated that he attended the recent CRMC meeting, saw how everyone complied better with parliamentary procedure in that setting and indicated he was not in favor of the walkway.

George Monaghan indicated that the current walkway proposal would create a walkway that was not “resilient” and not sustainable. He indicated he would be in favor of an increased police presence on the causeway.

James Riccitelli indicated that he supported the money for the walkway.

Carol Fortin asked for an increase in the legal services line item to \$3,000.

Tony Lupino asked that the council get an auditor and that executive session minutes be unsealed.

Vote on Budget

N. McDonald summarized the following changes that the council had discussed:

- An increase of \$500 to the IT Services line item
- An increase of \$1,000 to the Legal Services line item
- An increase of \$500 to the Payroll Services & Bank Charges line item

N. McDonald further indicated that the appropriation to the capital budget would need to be reduced by \$2,000 to balance the budget.

Anita Langer moved to approve \$45,000 for the safety project of the walkway in the budget. The motion did not receive a second.

C. Mannix moved to approve the budget, as presented, with the proposed increases of \$500 to IT Services, \$1,000 to Legal Services and \$500 to Payroll Services & Bank Charges. The motion was seconded by J. McClanaghan and approved, 4-1, with A. Langer opposed.

Adjournment

J. McClanaghan moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by N. McDonald and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Matthew M. Mannix
Bonnet Shores Fire District Clerk