

**TOWN OF SNOW HILL, MARYLAND**  
*Life on the River*

**BUDGET SESSION**

**March 11, 2019**

A Budget Session of the Mayor and Town Council of Snow Hill, Maryland was held at the Train Station on Monday, March 11, 2019 with Mayor Steve Mathews presiding and called to order at 4:30pm.

**PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Mayor Steve Mathews; Councilwoman Alison Gadoua, Councilwoman LaToya Purnell; and Councilwoman Jenny Hall

**STAFF PRESENT**

Kelly Pruitt, Town Manager; Trish Goodsell, Assistant Town Manager; and Lounell Hamstead, Finance Manager

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The Department Heads and the Fire Department were in attendance to present their annual budget requests to the Mayor and Council.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Fire Chief Trey Heiser and EMS Supervisor John Holloway were present. They are requesting a total of \$183,300 from the Town, which is a \$73,300 increase over last year. Chief Heiser explained the cost involved for fire and EMS calls, as well as the cost to outfit a fire fighter, repair and service the ambulance and that a new fire truck will be needed in 2026. He stated that the department had 11,056 total calls for last year.

Chief Heiser stated that the membership has reduced this year from 65 to 43 active members. Mr. Holloway added that it is difficult to keep volunteer EMS providers so it gives them a need to increase staffing.

Mayor Mathews asked Mrs. Hamstead to research how much Snow Hill taxes would need to be increased to accommodate the \$73,300 requested increase.

**MUSEUM**

Dr. Cindy Byrd presented her budget request to the Mayor and Council. She stated that her request is the same as last year, except for anticipation of a 30% increase in the cost of propane. Mayor Mathews confirmed she is requesting an increase for her two employees.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Lt. Edward Schreier presented the budget request to the Mayor and Council. He added that the largest funding request is for two new police vehicles to replace the aged Crown Victoria's. He has quotes through the State bidding process and the lowest was for a 2WD Tahoe, cost of \$33,296 each, with an

additional cost of \$11,332 per vehicle to outfit them. The second largest funding request is for entrance fortification at the police station. He stated that the entrance is not effective in keeping people out of the station and needs to be improved.

Lt. Schreier stated that Red the Tailor has gone out of business; therefore, he is researching companies for uniform quotes. He added that they will not be able to get identical uniforms, but close in color, unless they choose to go to BDU style pants and shirt.

## **WATER/WASTEWATER**

Mr. Barfield presented the Water and Wastewater Department budget request to the Mayor and Council. He stated that nothing has changed from last year's request.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

Mr. Barfield presented the Public Works Department budget request to the Mayor and Council.

He stated that the staff has not received raises, only bonuses for the past two years. He added the Mrs. Pruitt and Councilwoman Purnell have worked on an incentive program of training that provides salary increases. Mr. Barfield added that he would like to see the Public Works staff receive a 5% increase on top of any incentive offers. Mayor Mathews commented that he feels their salaries are significantly better compared to the past and recognizes their hard work; however, he feels the incentive program is the way for them to get higher salaries and any raise should be across the board COLA for all employees.

Mr. Barfield reported that he would like to request a new lawn mower to replace an aging one they currently use. The cost would be \$14725, but they are offering a discount to the town which would make the cost \$10600.

Councilwoman Gadoua questioned line item 7212, asking if the \$75,000 was for paving. Mrs. Pruitt responded yes, adding that the town is once again eligible for LMI grant funding so staff will be submitting grant applications for sewer projects that will require paving.

## **ADMIN**

Mrs. Pruitt presented Town Hall and P&Z budget request to the Mayor and Council. She stated that her figures include a 1.5% increase under salaries. Otherwise, the request is the same as last year.

## **GENERAL DISCUSSION**

1. Councilwoman Purnell questioned if money could be budgeted for the Mayor and Council to attend conferences other than MML. Line Item 7031 is already active for Training – need to decide how much they wish to budget.
2. Councilwoman Gadoua questioned if any money was being allocated for demolition of blighted homes. There is currently Line Item 7404 Condemnation Expense where money could be placed. Mrs. Pruitt advised that staff will be applying for grants toward this expense.
3. Councilwoman Purnell questioned if money has been allocated for the incentive program. Mrs. Pruitt advised she has not determined the amount yet.

4. Resident Gary Weber asked if copies of what they are working from can be given to the public. Mayor Mathews advised they don't have line item budget sheets yet, as this was just department head requests. The spreadsheets will be available next budget session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Mathews adjourned the work session at 5:45pm.

Respectfully submitted: Trish Goodsell, Asst. to Town Manager