



**MIDDLEBURG TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, March 10, 2022**



**PENDING APPROVAL**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Trowbridge M. Littleton  
 Vice Mayor Peter A. Leonard-Morgan  
 Councilmember Chris W. Bernard  
 Councilmember J. Kevin Daly  
 Councilmember C. Darlene Kirk  
 Councilmember Philip M. Miller  
 Councilmember Cindy C. Pearson

**STAFF:** Danny Davis, Town Manager  
 Martin Crim, Town Attorney  
 Rhonda S. North, MMC, Town Clerk  
 William M. Moore, Deputy Town Manager  
 Ali MacIntyre, Director of Business Development & Community Partnerships  
 Tina Staples, Town Treasurer/Finance Director  
 A.J. Panebianco, Chief of Police

**ABSENT:** Councilmember Morris E. “Bud” Jacobs

The Town Council of the Town of Middleburg, Virginia held their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, March 10, 2022 in the Town Hall Council Chambers, located at 10 West Marshall Street. Mayor Littleton led Council and those attending in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. The roll was called at 6:00 p.m.

**Action items**

**Council Approval** – Ordinance & Resolution Authorizing Issuance of General Obligation Bond & Approving Bond Financing – Town Hall Project

Town Manager Davis reminded Council that they held the public hearing on the bond issuance during their last meeting; however, no comments were received. He reported that three bank proposals were received, with the staff, the Strategic Finance Committee and Davenport recommending the acceptance of the one from Key Government Finance. Mr. Davis advised that it was for a fifteen-year loan at 2.527%, with no prepayment penalty after the first year.

Joe Mason, of Davenport, opined that the Key Bank proposal was the better of the three. He noted that it would require a higher amortization; however, even with the slightly higher debt service, it was still within the Town’s budget. Mr. Mason further advised that the Town would pay less in interest over the other proposal. He reminded Council that the Town would have the opportunity to pre-pay this or the 2021 bond. In response to an inquiry from the Council, Mr. Mason advised that he was negotiating to allow for a partial pre-payment; however, as of this time, the pre-payment was for all or nothing.

*Vice Mayor Leonard-Morgan moved, seconded by Councilmember Kirk, that Council adopt an ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE TOWN OF MIDDLEBURG, VIRGINIA, IN THE MAXIMUM PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$2,500,000 TO FINANCE THE COSTS OF THE VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR GOVERNMENTAL PURPOSES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE ADDITIONAL COSTS OF COMPLETING THE DESIGN, ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPPING OF A NEW TOWN HALL.*

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers Leonard-Morgan, Bernard, Daly, Kirk, Miller, and Pearson  
No – N/A  
Abstain: N/A  
Absent: Councilmember Jacobs  
(Mayor Littleton only votes in the case of a tie.) (By roll call vote)

---

*Councilmember Daly moved, seconded by Councilmember Miller, that Council adopt a RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE, SALE AND AWARD BY THE TOWN OF MIDDLEBURG, VIRGINIA, OF A GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND, HERETOFORE AUTHORIZED, IN A PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,500,000, AND PROVIDING FOR THE FORM, DETAILS AND PAYMENT THEREOF.*

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers Leonard-Morgan, Bernard, Daly, Kirk, Miller, and Pearson  
No – N/A  
Abstain: N/A  
Absent: Councilmember Jacobs  
(Mayor Littleton only votes in the case of a tie.) (By roll call vote)

---

Council Approval – Virginia Commission for the Arts Grant

Business Development & Community Partnerships Director MacIntyre reported that both applicants attended the Cultural & Community Events Committee meeting to request they be granted the Virginia Commission for the Arts grant and a Town matching grant, which the Committee recommended to the Council. She reminded Council that this was the last year the Open Late Series would be eligible to receive a Town grant under the grants policy.

*Councilmember Miller moved, seconded by Councilmember Daly, that Council allow Town staff to submit a funding request to the Virginia Commission for the Arts for the matched amount of \$4,500, to be distributed evenly to the Hunt Country Music Series and National Sporting Library’s Open Late Series.*

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers Leonard-Morgan, Bernard, Daly, Kirk, Miller, and Pearson  
No – N/A  
Abstain: N/A  
Absent: Councilmember Jacobs  
(Mayor Littleton only votes in the case of a tie.)

---

**Staff Reports**

February 2022

Stuart Will, of IES, advised Council that starting next month, his report would include graphics and statistical information related to water production and wastewater treatment. He noted that the Utility Committee suggested he present it to the Council during their second meeting of the month; however, he was happy to present it whenever the Council desired.

Town Manager Davis explained that the reason for the suggested change in dates was that IES may not have all the data available so a complete report could be given during the first meeting.

Business Development & Community Partnerships Director MacIntyre announced that the Fox’s Trail event would occur March 11<sup>th</sup> through March 27<sup>th</sup>. She explained that participants would need to visit all the participating locations and explained that the idea was to drive traffic to the town. Ms. MacIntyre reported that the business survey was distributed digitally, with 10% of the businesses responding thus far. She advised that EDAC suggested more organic video content

on the Town's social media platforms, on which she was working. Ms. MacIntyre noted that her report contained a list of upcoming events. She advised that, with the guidance of Councilmembers Miller and Bernard, she was working to refine the marketing metrics and improve the Town's social media.

In response to an inquiry from the Council, Business Development & Community Partnerships Director MacIntyre explained that the retail business moving into the former Richard Allen Clothing location asked that their information not be released until the completion of the sale of the building. She confirmed that she and the Deputy Town Manager had held some discussions with the business owner and had heard concerns expressed by others.

In response to a comment and inquiry from the Council, Business Development & Community Partnerships Director MacIntyre confirmed the Middleburg Business & Professional Association was submitting nominations for the upcoming Visit Loudoun awards.

In response to inquiries from the Council, Business Development & Community Partnerships Director MacIntyre advised that she sent the business survey to the 235 businesses located in Middleburg. She noted that she planned to visit any that had not responded next week.

Council expressed a desire to achieve at least a 35% response rate.

Town Treasurer Staples reported that the number of customers who had signed up for e-bills had increased slightly since the last billing cycle. She advised that the new e-welcome packet was now available on the website and noted that those who had received it thus far had been pleased with it. Ms. Staples noted that the Council had the budget-to-actual numbers in her monthly report and advised that everything was in good standing. In response to an inquiry, she advised that 39% of the customers were signed up for e-bills and noted that the staff would continue to conduct outreach. Ms. Staples reminded Council that her goal was 50%.

Mayor Littleton noted that the business license revenues were budgeted at \$500,000 and \$654,000 had been received to date, meaning the Town had received \$154,000 over the budget. He questioned why the monthly report showed this revenue as being in the negative. The Council held some discussion of the monthly report. They asked that when revenues exceeded the budget projection, they be shown as a positive and that they only be shown as a negative when they were below the projections.

Deputy Town Manager Moore reported that the Streetscape Committee met earlier in the day to discuss a number of issues, such as the ivy that was infesting some of the town's trees and the Mayor's suggestion to develop a program to help fund the replacement of large specimen trees that were removed from private property in the downtown area. He advised that they would continue to discuss these items in the coming months and noted that the latter may result in a budget request. Mr. Moore reported that within the coming months, two trees that were in bad health would be removed, as they had become dangerous. He advised that they were in front of Tully Rector's and the Safeway. Mr. Moore noted that this would require the closure of the sidewalk and advised that it would be coordinated with those businesses. In response to an inquiry from the Council, he advised that Streetscape Committee Member Bob Dornin was exploring sources of replacement trees that would work in the spaces in which they were being planted. Mr. Moore confirmed they would not be as small as 2-inches; however, he was unsure of their exact size.

Councilmember Pearson reminded the Council of the need to look at the size of the root ball and advised that they could not be huge. In response to an inquiry from the Council, she confirmed there were still trees in The Hill School's arboretum; however, they were too large to transplant.

Deputy Town Manager Moore reminded Council that the Town removed dead trees and the Middleburg Beautification Committee replaced them.

In response to an inquiry from the Council, Deputy Town Manager Moore advised that he took the necessary legal steps to address the dangerous house on Jay Street, including running a notice in the newspaper. He reported that the property owner accepted the certified letter. Mr. Moore reminded Council that the Town must now wait thirty days and, if the

owner had not completed the repairs by that time, the Town would make them. In response to suggestions from the Council that the property be well documented by an independent source before the Town began any repair work, Mr. Moore confirmed the staff had taken photos on numerous occasions and would do so again before work began. He advised that the repairs would have to be done by a third-party firm.

Council suggested the staff also fly a drone over the property to document the condition of the roof and noted that the entire ridge was completely gone.

In response to an inquiry from the Council, Deputy Town Manager Moore reported that the markings on Chestnut Street were related to the Town's comprehensive sign replacement project. He explained that the contractor was marking the location of signs to be removed, as well as where the consolidated stop/route number/street signs would go.

Council asked that the Deputy Town Manager check the height of the house that was under construction on Sycamore Street and noted that it was quite tall.

Chief Panebianco reported that the Town would give Tim Tharpe an appropriate farewell. He noted that his last official day was March 31st; although, he was on leave until that time. Chief Panebianco advised that he was advertising the position. He noted that the department was preparing for upcoming events, including two 5k races and Art in the Burg. Chief Panebianco reported that the officers recently completed Fourth Amendment search and seizure training and the Administrative Assistant completed Microsoft training. He reported that Joe Ingnoli had been hired as a part-time officer. In response to questions regarding issues with recruiting, Chief Panebianco advised that he did not know whether he would have any issues as the advertisement had only been out for three days. He further advised that if no qualified applicants applied by March 31<sup>st</sup>, he would develop a different plan.

Vice Mayor Leonard-Morgan expressed appreciation for Lieutenant Jones' attendance during the recent Middleburg Sustainability Committee meeting.

In response to an inquiry from the Council regarding the electric vehicle charging station contract, Town Manager Davis reported that he and the Town Attorney reviewed the contract and returned it to Blink with their comments. He opined that there was one remaining issue to be addressed and explained that they wanted to automatically enter into a new five-year contract if they replaced any equipment; however, he advised them that the Town could not do that.

In response to inquiries from the Council, Town Attorney Crim advised that he did not know the status of the bill to allow municipal elections to return to May. He further advised that as to the bill that would make municipalities liable for the loss of business revenues in the event of a road or sidewalk closure, he expected that municipalities would have to make arrangements for parades to be held in locations where no one could file a lawsuit or purchase insurance if possible.

Town Manager Davis advised that according to the LIS Serve, the Senate rejected the amendments passed by the House. He further advised that the related House and Senate bills were now in conference.

### Town Hall Project Report

Town Clerk North reported that the project was currently at the grading stage and opined that this would continue for approximately two weeks, at which point, the building footers would be poured. She noted that work on the utility installations would then commence. Ms. North reported that the contractor hit rock earlier in the day; although, they were able to remove it without the need to bring in additional equipment. She noted, however that this could change as they dug further. Ms. North reported that the project was on schedule as of this time.

Town Clerk North reported that a web camera would be installed soon so people could watch the construction's progress on the Town's website. She further reported that the old fire siren had been removed and was donated to the Middleburg Museum. Ms. North advised that she ordered the new Town flags.

Town Clerk North reported that the staff was working to develop a sponsorship brochure for some of the items associated with the project and noted that it would be taken to the Public Outreach Committee for their review and recommendation to the Council.

The Council held considerable discussion about accepting sponsorships for items associated with the project. They noted the need to address issues such as the naming of items, where the money would go and whether the sponsorship would continue once the item no longer existed.

Town Clerk North noted that there was no intention to name any items and that the recognition of the sponsorship would be in the form of a small plaque. She advised that the purpose of the sponsorship program was to raise money to help cover the cost of the items; therefore, the idea was that the money would go toward the project costs. Ms. North suggested the Public Outreach Committee discuss this and provide a recommendation to the Council for their consideration. She noted that the staff would confer with the Town Attorney beforehand.

Town Clerk North reminded Council that for safety reasons, access to the construction site was limited. She questioned whether the Council was interested in a once-a-month tour. The Council agreed they were and, after some discussion, suggested the staff select a date and time for the monthly tours that was convenient for the contractor.

### **Consent Agenda**

(A) Council Approval – February 24, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

*Councilmember Miller moved, seconded by Councilmember Bernard, that Council adopt the consent agenda as proposed.*

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers Leonard-Morgan, Bernard, Daly, Kirk, Miller, and Pearson

No – N/A

Abstain: N/A

Absent: Councilmember Jacobs

(Mayor Littleton only votes in the case of a tie.)

-----

### **Discussion Items**

#### **Options for Improving Pinkney Street**

Deputy Town Manager Moore reminded Council that the staff and J2 Engineering, the Town's engineer, have been studying the options associated with Pinkney Street. He advised that there were two – improve the street so it could be accepted by VDOT (Virginia Department of Transportation) for maintenance or simply repave the street, which would require that the Town continue to maintain it. Mr. Moore advised that while the corings proved the base was good, it would still need to be replaced before VDOT would accept it into their maintenance system. He noted that the cost estimates provided in his report were not accurate and advised that the engineers and contractors would no longer provide estimates due to the issues associated with oil prices. Mr. Moore advised that while the cost difference between the two options was shown as \$95,000, he expected it to be higher due to rising oil prices. He noted that VDOT would also require the Town to perform a video inspection of the storm sewer system, which could increase the cost further if issues were discovered that needed to be corrected before VDOT would accept the street for maintenance. Mr. Moore advised that the engineer believed that based on the existing base, it would be another fifteen to twenty years before the street would have to be repaved once it was patched, sealed and an asphalt overlay applied. He recommended the Council accept the second option.

In response to an inquiry from the Council as to the downside of the second option, Deputy Town Manager Moore advised that VDOT would not maintain the street; however, they were not doing so now. He further advised that the snow removal contractors sometimes plowed the street but, there was no guarantee they would do so.

Council asked that the staff check with the engineer to determine the likelihood that the base would not need a full depth reconstruction in the future. It was suggested that if the engineer confirmed it was good and would not need to be reconstructed, this item be returned to the next meeting for Council action to approve the second option.

### 1000 Miglia 2022

Town Manager Davis reported that the Town and Salamander have been in discussions with the organizers of the Millie Miglia about returning to Middleburg in October for their local event. He further reported that while they had not yet reached an agreement with Salamander, he believed they would return. Mr. Davis reminded Council that this event would consist of thirty to forty vehicles.

Mayor Littleton noted that the Middleburg event would be held October 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>. He further noted that the Town would have more lead time this year to prepare for it. Mr. Littleton reported that he and the Town Manager have been invited to Italy to participate in the main event in mid-June. He noted that the organizers have offered to cover a lot of the expense; however, the Town would have to cover the airfare, some meals, and incidentals. Mr. Littleton suggested the Town also assemble thank you packets that could be distributed to dignitaries and Middleburg coins that could be distributed to event participants. He opined that the airfare costs would be \$1,200-1,500/each. Mr. Littleton advised that they would not commit to attending without the Council's approval, to which the Council agreed.

### FY '23 Draft Budget (continued)

Town Manager Davis reported that the business license receipts totaled \$688,000 to date, which was \$50,000 more than budgeted. He noted that the FY '23 Budget projections were based on the FY '22 projections and advised that it was up to the Council as to whether they wished to increase the FY '23 projections based on the actual receipts. Mr. Davis reported that the Town's electric costs were going to increase by 20% and advised that he would increase those line items. In response to an inquiry from the Council, he reported that the utility consumption tax receipts were tied to electric rates; however, they only accounted for \$4,000-5,000 of the Town's revenues. Mr. Davis suggested the Council focus their discussions on the proposed General Fund expenditures, excluding salaries.

*Administration Budget:* Town Manager Davis reported that health insurance and VRS (Virginia Retirement System) costs were proposed to increase, with VRS costs increasing by 12%. He advised that the major changes in the Administration budget was to add \$5,500 to the Citizen Engagement line item for the future maintenance of the Christmas signs, which were in need of repair.

Mayor Littleton reminded Council that there were twenty-seven plywood signs, five of which were too deteriorated and could no longer be hung. He reported that John Ralph, of Quail Run Signs, indicated he could recreate them using composite materials and suggested that three to five signs per year be recreated until they were all replaced. Mr. Littleton advised that once a sign was replaced, the original would be returned to The Hill School. In response to a suggestion that the original signs be sold, Mr. Littleton reminded Council that the signs were owned by The Hill School, not the Town. He reported that he was getting a cost estimate from Quail Run Signs for the replacements. Mr. Littleton advised that Mr. Ralph would also create digital images of them so other things, such as Christmas ornaments, could be created.

Town Manager Davis reported that the FY '23 Budget included a significant increase in the line item for the Town Attorney and explained that the staff anticipated his assistance would be required for some of the strategic initiatives. He opined that the engineering and architectural line items would require the same efforts. Mr. Davis advised that the line item for equipment and software was also proposed to increase due to the replacement of computers and technology related equipment. He noted the need to replace the server when the staff moved into the new Town Hall. Mr. Davis advised that the software costs were also proposed to increase. He noted that the transfer to the Capital Projects Fund was deleted and reminded Council that any project requests would come to them, along with a suggestion to use the unassigned fund balance as the funding source.

In response to an inquiry from the Council as to whether the Town needed servers, Town Manager Davis explained that the Town's system was a blended one of servers and Cloud storage. He confirmed the Town's emails were Cloud based, as was the Laserfiche system; however, the Southern Software system was server based. Mr. Davis noted that it was backed up. He advised of the need to have a server for the domain controller to administer user log-ins and for the permissions for network storage. Mr. Davis noted that the staff always worked with STS on the best choice based on the Town's scale.

In response to inquiries regarding the IT contract, Town Manager Davis advised he recently entered into a one-year contract with STS when they moved to a managed services model. He noted that he explained to them that he would issue an RFP for the contract this summer. Town Clerk North advised that STS began work as the Town's IT contractor before her tenure; therefore, they had been the Town's contractor for more than fifteen years.

Council suggested the need to get a different perspective periodically through changes in vendors. It was suggested that the requirements be well defined and that there be an identification of what was needed and what the Town wanted to do, with the bidders proposing an architectural solution. The Council advised that they wanted the best ideas for how the Town's system should be managed that was innovative, efficient, scalable, and flexible.

In response to inquiries from the Council, Town Manager Davis advised that the Town's typical contracts were for four years; however, they could be done for a shorter period. He recommended companies not be changed too often. Mr. Davis advised that the new Town Hall had already been designed and noted that the contractor would pull the wiring, which the equipment would then be plugged into. He confirmed that wi-fi for the parks was included in the Town Hall Project contract and advised that cable would be run to the corners of the building, which would provide for access points. The Council noted the need for recommendations as to what should be hooked to the wires for now and in the future.

In response to inquiries from the Council, Town Manager Davis explained that the changes in the VRS costs were due to staff changes. He confirmed the rate change applied across the board.

*Buildings & Grounds:* Town Manager Davis reported that the proposed FY '23 Budget included assumptions related to the operating costs for the Town Hall, including the cleaning and landscaping contracts. He noted that Downey & Scott provided the staff with some assumptions, such as the electrical costs. Mr. Davis reported that the staff was looking at options for the phone system, including a VoIP solution. In response to inquiries from the Council, Mr. Davis confirmed the desire was to have the staff members answer their own calls, with the system having the ability to toggle to the front desk when needed. He explained that the desire was also for the staff to be able to make a Town call from their personal cell phone and/or computer, with the caller ID showing the Town's phone number. Mr. Davis confirmed the RFP could also include internet services. It was noted that the drawback of that was that when it was down, the Town would lose both phone and internet service. Mr. Davis advised Council that the new Town Hall would have two analog phone lines that would be used for the fire alarm system. He confirmed the desire was to keep the existing phone numbers.

*Police:* Chief Panebianco advised that the increase in the Other Wages line item was to cover part-time officers and the officers who assisted with Christmas in Middleburg. He noted that using part-time officers provided the opportunity to reduce over-time, which would save \$7,200 annually. Chief Panebianco advised that funds were included in the equipment line item for the purchase of a trailer, traffic cones and barricades. He reported that two new hybrid vehicles were recently purchased and noted that they were getting 40% better gas mileage. In response to an inquiry from the Council about the gasoline line item, Chief Panebianco reminded Council that the remaining gas-powered vehicles were still in service. He reported that the Police Department recently received a grant, which allowed for the purchase of computers so the officers could work from their vehicles.

*Maintenance:* Deputy Town Manager Moore reported that at the suggestion of the Strategic Finance Committee, the line items were increased by 8-10% to account for inflation for services and durable goods. He noted that the refuse collection contract limited the annual increase to 3%; however, there was a clause that allowed the company to appeal for a greater increase. Mr. Moore opined that given the increase in gas prices, the Town would see such a request. In response to an inquiry from the Council, he confirmed the same truck collected the recycling as collected the garbage.

He explained that the trash was collected in the morning and then offloaded so the truck could return in the afternoon to collect the recycling.

*Planning & Zoning:* Deputy Town Manager Moore reminded Council that the Town would soon complete its contract with The Berkley Group on the R-2 Zoning District ordinance changes, which allowed the consulting line item to be reduced. He noted, however, that he proposed to keep it a little higher than normal as consulting services would be needed to assist with the inspections for The Residences at Salamander. Mr. Moore reported that some of the Planning Commissioners were interested in taking certified Planning Commissioners training, which was reflected in the budget.

*Economic Development:* Business Development & Community Partnerships Director MacIntyre reported that the marketing allocation was broken down into categories in the proposed FY '23 Budget. She further reported that the Town events line item was increased to account for new and expanded events. Ms. MacIntyre noted that additional revenue was anticipated as a result of the Town events.

In response to an inquiry from the Council, Chief Panebianco reported that the cost for the Police Department support of Town events was included in his budget. He confirmed that communications were occurring between himself and Ms. MacIntyre regarding Town events.

The Council held some discussion as to where that cost should be shown - in the Police or Economic Development budget. Chief Panebianco noted that the Town received reimbursement from some of the events for police support costs. The Council agreed this needed to remain as a line item in the Police budget, as the costs should remain in the budget of the department responsible for the expenditures. It was suggested that notes be included to explain items, such as when reimbursement was received.

The Council expressed concern that things like this were increasing the Police budget, which was causing some comments in the community. It was suggested that news articles be written to explain why the budget was increasing.

Town Manager Davis reminded Council that the Middleburg Community Center was transferring the Fourth of July Celebration to the Town effective with the 2023 event. He noted that the Town already paid for most of its costs. Mr. Davis advised that funding was included in the proposed FY '23 Budget to cover the cost of having the Town's event management company run it.

Council expressed concern that the event support line item had doubled. They suggested the need to think about events, including what the Town paid for and what it got out of them.

Town Manager Davis advised Council that funding for the special events grants and the event management firm were moved from other line items to this one, for a total of \$125,000 of the increase. He noted that the staff anticipated the Town would be more successful in obtaining sponsors for events, which would reduce the Town's net costs. Mr. Davis reminded Council of the need to budget both the revenues and the expenditures.

The Council held some discussion regarding the need to show the offsetting revenues on the same page as the expenditures for transparency purposes. They agreed this should be addressed in the notes section for the line items.

*Capital:* Town Manager Davis advised Council that the Town Hall Project and one vehicle for the Police Department were the only items in the Capital Improvements Plan. He noted that the revenues for these items would be from the unassigned fund balance.

Town Manager Davis announced that he received an email from Congresswoman Wexton's office earlier in the day confirming the Town's request for federal support for the Town Hall Project was approved. He noted that there were some nuances to be addressed, such as how the introduction of federal money would impact the project. Mr. Davis advised that the staff was working to ensure the application of Davis-Bacon wages would not have an impact on the project.

Mayor Littleton suggested the Town use the services of a federal funding attorney to help it navigate these issues and to ensure the Town spent the money on items that would not impact wages.

Town Manager Davis noted that the Town could re-pay some of the Town Hall loan with these additional funds.

Mayor Littleton asked that a thank you note be sent to Congresswoman Wexton.

*Real Property Tax Rate:* Town Manager Davis reminded Council that the public hearing was scheduled for March 24<sup>th</sup> on the setting of the real property tax rate. He reported that the Strategic Finance Committee concurred with the idea of a mid-range rate based on equalizing the tax rate plus an inflation factor.

The Council noted that a lot of retirees were on fixed incomes and that social security was increasing by 5.9%. They further noted that elderly and/or disabled residents could apply for the Tax Relief for the Elderly and Permanently Disabled Program, which would exempt them from paying real estate taxes.

Town Manager Davis reported that based on a snapshot of the Ridgeview area, it was determined that most of the homes experienced a 9-14% increase in their assessed value. He advised that based on a tax rate of \$.1429, which was the equalized rate plus an increase for inflation, the average tax bill for those residents would increase by \$53 annually.

There being no further business, Mayor Littleton declared the meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Trowbridge M. Littleton, MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rhonda S. North, MMC, Town Clerk

## March 10, 2022 Middleburg Town Council Meeting

**(Note: This is a transcript prepared by a Town contractor based on the video of the meeting. It may not be entirely accurate. For greater accuracy, we encourage you to review the video of the meeting that is on the Town's website – [www.middleburgva.gov](http://www.middleburgva.gov))**

**Bridge Littleton:** All right, we're going to call the meeting to order the first item is the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Everyone:** I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands one nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

**Bridge Littleton:** Ok, next item is Roll Call.

**Chris Bernard:** Chris Bernard.

**Philip Miller:** Philip Miller.

**Darlene Kirk:** Darlene Kirk.

**Bridge Littleton:** Bridge Littleton.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** Peter Leonard Morgan.

**Cindy Pearson:** Cindy Pearson.

**J. Kevin Daly:** John Kevin Daly.

**Rhonda North:** Rhonda North, Town Clerk.

**Danny Davis:** Danny Davis, Town Manager.

**Martin Crim:** Martin Crim, town attorney.

**Bridge Littleton:** All right. Next item is public comment. So we will open public comment for anybody, any member of the community who wishes to speak Rhonda is there online oh we're not doing that any more right.

**Rhonda North:** No we are doing it, but we have no one online other than Martin.

**Bridge Littleton:** What's that.

**Rhonda North:** Yeah, because of the parking we're going to do.

**Bridge Littleton:** We're allowed to do that.

**Rhonda North:** The council is not, but citizens can. [off mic] Well, the council council can for a certain number of meetings.

**Bridge Littleton:** No, no, that's not what I mean

**Rhonda North:** But the citizens.

**Bridge Littleton:** We can determine that public comment.

**Rhonda North:** Yes.

**Bridge Littleton:** Can come in by the computer because we don't have parking.

**Rhonda North:** Yeah, the citizens can comment publicly. You can remotely. You can allow that. Ok. [off mic]

**Bridge Littleton:** All right. So we'll open the public comment. [off mic] All right. We'll close public comment and move on to action items. First item. Let's go to the general obligation, bond and approval of the bond financing. Since Jeff is here. No sense in making him wait through a bunch of other stuff. [off mic] Joe, I'm sorry.

**Joe Mason:** No problem. Yeah. Correct. [off mic].

**Danny Davis:** Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Council members, we do have Joe Mason from Davenport with us this evening, as laid out in the memo before you. As a reminder, you held a public hearing at the last meeting on this additional financing for the Town Hall project. No members of the public spoke at that meeting. We provided to you the three options that were presented or proposals that were responded to from banks, and we also took this to the Strategic Finance Committee at the end of last week, who also recommended the staff and Davenport recommendation, which is a [off mic] a bond with key government finance, 15 year term 2.527 percent. One of the additional benefits of this is that there is no prepayment penalty after the first year. So should we get to a point where the town council decides and in coordination with Davenport that paying off either this bond or a portion of the other bonds is appropriate use of our unassigned fund balance dollars than we would have the flexibility either with our existing town hall bond or with this new one. Under this proposal, so Mr. Mason is here, we're happy to go through the presentation if you'd like, and we we can talk through some of the implications of this at the request of council or if you'd like him to run through it.

**Bridge Littleton:** I mean, I think we already covered most of this last time, I guess the big question, does anybody have any direct questions for Danny or for Joe?

**Joe Mason:** [off mic] Yeah. Mr. Mr. Davis summed it up very nicely. Our thought is the KeyBank proposal is is the better one. The amortization is slightly higher than the Truist proposal, albeit with a lower rate. But even with slightly more debt service, it still fits within your budget. It's below the planning rate that we've been working with the 3 percent, and it allows you to pay less overall. And even if you paid the bond out through its term, you would pay less interest than you would with the Truist proposal. But in all likelihood, you're going to have an opportunity to prepay all or a portion of this at some point in the future. Either this or the loan it was originally done for for town hall. That's. Absolutely. I'm happy to entertain any other questions you may have.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** [off mic] I was just going to ask about so the partial prepayment is not permitted after even after 12 months, but might be, is that right by negotiation?

**Joe Mason:** Yeah, we're discussing that with with Key Bank. They've alluded to that. It's a possibility. I think we'll work with us on it. We do a lot of work with them and I can't guarantee it as we sit here right now, but certainly a negotiating point that we're

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** At the moment. It's all or nothing after 12 months.

**Joe Mason:** Correct.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** Thanks.

**Bridge Littleton:** Any other questions. [inaudible] Danny.

**Danny Davis:** No, sir, just as a note, if council is open and willing to pass the motions, we have the first motion needs to be made and voted upon and then the second motion will need to be made and voted upon.

**Rhonda North:** And Mr. Mayor it does need to be by roll-call vote.

**Bridge Littleton:** Ok, so if there's no other questions, [off mic] please.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** I move that the Town Council adopt an ordinance authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds of the town of Middleburg, Virginia, in the maximum principal amount of \$2,500,000 to finance the costs of various capital improvement projects for governmental purposes, including, but not limited to, the additional costs of completing the design, acquisition, construction and equipping of a new town hall.

**Darlene Kirk:** Second.

**Bridge Littleton:** Any other discussion? Rhonda will you call the roll

**Rhonda North:** Vice mayor Leonard Morgan

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Bernard.

**Chris Bernard:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Daly

**J. Kevin Daly:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Kirk.

**Darlene Kirk:** Aye.

**Philip Miller:** Council Member Miller.

**Philip Miller:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Pearson.

**Cindy Pearson:** Aye.

**Bridge Littleton:** Ok. Next one, Mr. Daly,

**J. Kevin Daly:** Yeah, I move that the Town Council adopt a resolution providing for the issuance, sale, and award by the town of Middleburg, Virginia, of a general obligation bond hither for authorized in a principal amount not to exceed \$2,500,000 and providing for the form details and payment thereof.

**Philip Miller:** Second

**Bridge Littleton:** Any other discussion? Rhonda, will you call the role

**Rhonda North:** Vice Mayor Leonard Morgan.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Bernard.

**Chris Bernard:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Daly.

**J. Kevin Daly:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Kirk.

**Darlene Kirk:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Miller.

**Philip Miller:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Pearson.

**Cindy Pearson:** Aye.

**Bridge Littleton:** All right, I like that. Sure, I'll do that more often than a whole lot easier. [off mic] Joe, thanks a lot. We appreciate it.

**Joe Mason:** Good luck.

**Danny Davis:** Thank you for being here, Joe.

**Bridge Littleton:** And [laughter] and honestly, next time, if we can allow him to call in, if you just want to call in, I mean, that's easier, too. I love how David always drives up here.

**Joe Mason:** I live half an hour away up near Leesburg, so it's easy for me. [off mic] [laughter]

**Joe Mason:** If you need it.

**Bridge Littleton:** But he's moving to Delaware so. Ok, next item is the Hunt country music series grant. So who's doing this? I've got two names on it.

**Ali McIntyre:** That's me. Good evening. [off mic] What's up? Sorry. Ok [off mic] All right. Good evening. Both applicants, both from the Hunt Country Music Series and the [inaudible] Open Late Series, attended the most recent Cultural and Community Events Committee meeting to request grant funding from the town. In addition to the VCA grant, the Cultural and Community Events Committee did move this to council. They did want to recommend it for just one note that I wanted to add, as this will be the final year the open late series is eligible for the grant since we adopted the grant. The three year grant policy in 2020.

**Bridge Littleton:** Ok, any questions? No

**Philip Miller:** I move that the town council, allow town staff to submit a funding request to the Virginia Commission for the Arts for the matching for the matched amount of \$4,500 to be distributed evenly to the Hunt Country Music Series and the National Sporting Library's open late series.

**J. Kevin Daly:** Second.

**Bridge Littleton:** Any other discussion?

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** I did have a comment.

**Bridge Littleton:** Go ahead.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** It's not. It's not a complaint. I just wanted to say I think the form looks great now. We haven't really used many of these, have we? The new.

**Rhonda North:** Not, not a whole lot of them.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** It's so much clearer than we used to have. So that's [multiple speakers]

**Bridge Littleton:** I would say the font could be smaller.

**Ali McIntyre:** [off mic] I don't know.

**Bridge Littleton:** Ok. Any other input? [off mic] All those [multiple speakers] You know, it was so much fun. Rhonda, you want to call the roll? No [laughter] Uh, yeah. All those in favor say aye.

**Everyone:** Aye

**Bridge Littleton:** Opposed, abstentions? Ok

**Ali McIntyre:** Thank you.

**Bridge Littleton:** All right. Now we're on to the staff reports. Maybe I'll just go round robin on this, Stuart. Ok.

**Stuart Will:** Oh, good evening. Are there any questions for me?

**J. Kevin Daly:** Just a brilliant report. Thank you.

**Stuart Will:** Brilliantly short and sweet, and we're actually going to be changing that. Mark wants us to do more graphic. Yeah, yeah. And get you guys a little more statistical information. It's my understanding. You like statistics and data, so.

**Bridge Littleton:** It's objective.

**Stuart Will:** It is. It is. And they're all during the utility committee meeting here yesterday, they suggested that perhaps we the utilities that is present our report at the second town council meeting and I'm fine with attending whichever meeting the town would like for me to attend. However, I can serve you best is what I'll do. So part of the rationale behind that is based on when we send the agenda packets out. We may not have or IES may not have had the opportunity to compile all the data into the revised report form for the first meeting. So if council is OK with it, we would just have them come to the second meeting of each month. And that way they'd have a full report of the prior month's water production, wastewater treatment and then for billing periods. We we could also include how many gallons were billed so we can see where those discrepancies may be on a bi monthly basis as well.

**Bridge Littleton:** I suggest we just move the council meetings to align best with Stuart.

**Darlene Kirk:** Yeah, I agree.

**Stuart Will:** I'm good with that.

**Bridge Littleton:** No, that's fine. Ok, any questions for Stuart? Stuart Thank you. Very good. Have a good evening.

**Stuart Will:** Have a good one. Good evening.

**Bridge Littleton:** Ms. North.

**Rhonda North:** Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Right now, most of my time is taken up with the Town Hall project, you'll have that report here very shortly now. Anyway, I have nothing to add to my written report.

**Bridge Littleton:** Any questions for Rhonda? All righty. Thank you. Next is Ali. Ms. Idaho

**Ali McIntyre:** [off mic] I'm going to Idaho [laughter] and I'm already dressing to theme. [off mic] So don't be jealous. [off mic] All right. So just a few of the key highlights. The Foxes trail does kick off tomorrow, March 11th, and it'll continue on through March 27th. The visitors have to visit all the purses, all the participating locations, and it's just an effort to drive more traffic to the town. The town of Middleburg business survey was digitally distributed on February 28th and thus far 10 percent have responded and at our most recent [inaudible] meeting the committee did suggest the town's social media platforms feature more organic video content. So per the recommendation, I have been collecting that around town and more recently, just at the participating locations for the Foxes Trail to and I'll be releasing that next week. You'll see a list of upcoming events in my report, so if you have any questions, please let me know. And last but not least, we do with guidance from Council Member Bernard and Miller. We do continue to refine our marketing metrics and continue to make progress in improving our social media month over month. Any questions? [off mic]

**Bridge Littleton:** Do you know what's going on in the old Richard Allen building?

**Ali McIntyre:** I do. Yes.

**Bridge Littleton:** They had it sold or it's under contract.

**Ali McIntyre:** Yes, I am aware they have asked that until this sale is complete, which should be in April, that I just not say the name of the business.

**Philip Miller:** But it is a retail shop.

**Ali McIntyre:** Yes.

**Philip Miller:** Having heard the rumors, have we started to do any discussions with that venue that's coming in?

**Ali McIntyre:** With that particular business. Yes. Yes, and I've spoken to them as well.

**Philip Miller:** Ok. And have you received any concerns or comments from any other retail stores?

**Ali McIntyre:** Yes. [off mic] Be all the above. Yeah.

**Bridge Littleton:** Oh, OK. All right. So. I had a second question. It's already jumped.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** [off mic] I see we've got the Loudoun annual awards. Loudoun Visit Loudoun.

**Ali McIntyre:** Yes.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** There's a link. Thanks for the link there. And you quite rightly say if anyone wants to nominate a business or a member of the Middleburg community, that's something that would be really nice to try and you know, push through, yes, is yes.

**Cindy Pearson:** And the business association working with getting some nominations for that?

**Ali McIntyre:** Yes. Yes, they are.

**Bridge Littleton:** [off mic] Two weeks is not a lot of time, actually. That's OK. I know the question was so the surveys, how many did it go out to?

**Ali McIntyre:** 235.

**Bridge Littleton:** And that's basically all the businesses listed in Middleburg, I guess.

**Ali McIntyre:** Yes.

**Bridge Littleton:** Ok.

**Ali McIntyre:** That's all the emails that I have currently, and I did make an announcement at Biz Buzz for anybody that may not have received the survey too

**Bridge Littleton:** No I saw that. And did you send it to like the owner email or the

**Ali McIntyre:** Owners.

**Bridge Littleton:** Owners only.

**Ali McIntyre:** Yes, and I do apologize.

**Danny Davis:** The list is anybody we have, so it came from our business license. Essentially, if someone gave us their email address with a business license, it was that list that's basically the only list we currently have.

**Bridge Littleton:** Ok, did MBPA send it out as well?

**Ali McIntyre:** MBPA did not send out our survey. No.

**Bridge Littleton:** Ok, and it was only for businesses residing in town.

**Ali McIntyre:** Yes.

**Bridge Littleton:** OK.

**Ali McIntyre:** I do plan on going out next week and going into the businesses that I know haven't responded and just taking my tablet. [multiple speakers].

**Bridge Littleton:** Because I thought we had like 350 business licenses, right?

**Danny Davis:** I was just going to ask how many business licenses do we have? And and you said 10 percent have responded. So that's only 20

**Ali McIntyre:** 10 percent of the emails there.

**Bridge Littleton:** Yeah, we've got to get that to at least 30 or more, 30 percent or more, not 20, not 30. [multiple speakers] You want 50. I mean, you know, but if you can get 30 or 35 percent or more in a survey, you've got to, that's typically a good statistical

**Danny Davis:** Tina's looking at the number now. I think last year we were somewhere around 300 business licenses.

**Bridge Littleton:** Ok.

**Tina Staples:** Renewals are at 245. So that would exclude contractors that are out of town in other businesses coming in from out of town. That's intel.

**Bridge Littleton:** Did it get sent to them too by contractors?

**Ali McIntyre:** I will have to get back to you on that.

**Bridge Littleton:** Ok. Um, OK. Any other questions for Ali? Going once. Twice. Ok, great. Thanks, Ali.

**Ali McIntyre:** Thank you.

**Bridge Littleton:** All right. Treasurer.

**Tina Staples:** I want to keep with me around, I don't know where I am anymore. Thank you. Sorry. Too much, too high. Hello, everyone. So you have my report, I made a couple of notes on there. I'm sorry, you have my report. I just lost it. It popped down. There it goes. I made a couple notes on there we worked on. We talked about this a while back when we were first putting together Invoice Cloud about trying to get more people on the ebills. So I talked about where we're at currently, which is still a little bit of an increase, but not much. But we did get the E-welcome packet out this week or ready and starting to send it out and putting on the website and all of the staff. All the different departments added pieces to it. So it's actually really nice and the people that have received it so far were really pleased with it. So if you get a moment to take the time to see it, I was going to link it, but we hadn't had it. It was just had finished at the time I wrote this, so we still had to get it up on the website at that point. Outside of that, your budget to actuals are here. Everything is in good standing. All the accounts for any positives. So for the month is a little over \$300,000 and the year is about at \$1.8. And are there any questions?

**Bridge Littleton:** Any questions?

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** Just a question about the I see the paperless is still about two thirds of sorry, paperless is about a third of the paper.

**Tina Staples:** Mm hmm.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** But improving?

**Tina Staples:** Yeah, we're at 39 percent now. I think that when we first pulled it, I mean, it was it was probably like at 37 and, you know, a little bit. So it's slowly edging up. We're hoping that the the E-welcome packet might help because it's intended to be emailed or downloaded because it has the links in it. So maybe that will make it easier for people. And then again, we're still trying to work on outreach with some of the existing customers to improve that, but it'll get there. You'll get to 50 percent that I can say. [off mic] That's right.

**Bridge Littleton:** So Tina I just had a quick question. So on your as I was looking at this on the you get your after page one where you've got your first general fund revenue.

**Tina Staples:** Yes.

**Bridge Littleton:** I just want to make sure I understand it. So I know there's the difference between cash accounting and accrual and accounting versus, you know, just versus finance. I would say it. So it's like I look in the business license tax, right? So it's \$500,000 was our total budget for the year, right? Yes. Ok. Currently, we've got \$652,000 right.

**Tina Staples:** Yes.

**Bridge Littleton:** Year to date, we have \$654,000.

**Tina Staples:** That's correct.

**Bridge Littleton:** There's a \$2,000 difference. I don't think we had one period, which was \$2,000.

**Tina Staples:** Well, the for the most part, business licenses until now have been pretty minimal because it was just new businesses coming in and new businesses.

**Bridge Littleton:** Stop. That's all I need. [multiple speakers]

**Bridge Littleton:** Yeah, sorry but I got you. Ok, here's my question, though.

**Tina Staples:** Yes.

**Bridge Littleton:** And again, this is just for the sake of clarity. So in there, what we're basically saying is we're \$154,000 over our budget.

**Tina Staples:** That's correct.

**Bridge Littleton:** But that's being represented as a negative. You got prices around it.

**Tina Staples:** Yeah, the variant shows any variance over your budget number. So if you're over your budget number, that's how it's going to show it. But I can.

**Bridge Littleton:** It should be the reverse. That should be a positive. And if you're below your budget, that's a negative variance. Exactly.

**Tina Staples:** Yes, it's I mean, I can if that's easier for you to understand it that way. [multiple speakers]

**Bridge Littleton:** As a regular layperson in the public, you know, parentheses mean negative, not actually negative. Were over [multiple speakers] it's a positive not a negative variance. And I mean, I get it. In accounting credits are sometimes shown as I totally get that, but I'm just, you know, somebody will look at that and go, Oh my God, you know, we're \$155,000 in the negative.

**Tina Staples:** I understand.

**Bridge Littleton:** I mean, so again [multiple speakers] what does everybody else feel? I just I mean, I get it, but I just, you know, a lot of people don't know accounts accounting work.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** That's true. If you look at the bottom line, it looks like, hey, we're \$1.4 million over but we're not. But we know it's fine that we're not.

**Tina Staples:** Right yeah and you're right. I guess it's maybe labeling it a little better too would help, but I guess it's trying to tell you that that's amount. That's what you have remaining of your budget. [multiple speakers] Yeah, I get that and if it's negative, it means you're OK.

**Bridge Littleton:** So that's not what a variance is, then what you have remaining of your budget. That's not the variance. The variance is the difference between that and what came in. So as an example, and Peter has pointed this out really well, you got prior year surplus revenue from reserves, right? We have it in our budget \$200,000, \$320,000 zero has happened. That's being reflected as though it's a positive number of \$500,000. It's really throwing that \$1.4 million, that one point. People are going to look at that and go, Oh, we have a positive variance of \$1.4 million. Right, that's what it

says. I mean, if you look at it without parentheses, it's a positive variant, it's what it could be. If somebody could, could, could interpret it that way.

**Tina Staples:** Ok.

**Bridge Littleton:** So and I mean, again, I know you're showing us an accounting spreadsheet there. I'm just trying to think if there's there's a way to capture the average person from the community would read it and you know.

**Tina Staples:** I mean, I can manipulate it however you like. If if you think it's easier for the public to read because I try to make them [multiple speakers]

**Bridge Littleton:** Let's just sit down some time and think and like, figure out the right way to do it.

**Tina Staples:** Sure.

**Philip Miller:** It was completely clear to me on the revenue side.

**Bridge Littleton:** Well, I didn't get to have the variance was positive \$200,000 if we've actually collected nothing, we have a budget, right? We have a budget like look at line 10. You know, the one says prior year surplus, right? We called a that our budget for the year was to a positive \$200,000. Nothing's actually happened, but our variance is a positive \$200,000

**Tina Staples:** Because that's the remaining.

**Bridge Littleton:** I got it, but there's actually not a positive \$200,000 because nothing's happened yet.

**Tina Staples:** No, your year to date is your that's your numbers.

**Bridge Littleton:** It's zero.

**Tina Staples:** It's zero year to date.

**Bridge Littleton:** But in our our total sum up at \$1.4 million, that \$200,000 is in it.

**Tina Staples:** Yes, because that's that's the total variance. Absolutely, yes.

**Bridge Littleton:** But it looks like it's a positive variance, number, that we're in the in the in the black that much in revenue.

**Tina Staples:** OK.

**Bridge Littleton:** From from what our budget was. So anyway, it just

**Tina Staples:** We could not show the remaining balance.

**Bridge Littleton:** [multiple speakers] I don't know the answer.

**Philip Miller:** I think not showing everything is the answer.

**Bridge Littleton:** No, no, no, no. I agree. I agree. Or maybe it's an extra. I don't know. You know, we can think about it. It just it was I was going through it. I was going, Well, wait a minute. Why is there should be no variance? Wait a minute, you know? So it was it was catching me a little. I was getting all confused. So and then I put my accounting hat on and I understood.

**Tina Staples:** I do have a note just since you brought up the business license line. I did.

**Bridge Littleton:** Yes.

**Tina Staples:** I did. I did include March 1st in that because I was trying to give you. So this is obviously not all the business license income that is come in yet, but I wanted to at least give you us up to date numbers as I could, since we're working on the budget. So.

**Bridge Littleton:** Yep. Ok.

**Tina Staples:** So if I would had cut it off at February it wouldn't have taken such a big jump either. I only for that line put in March 1st. Ok? Sorry, I don't want to confuse it more.

**Bridge Littleton:** Ok. That was [inaudible] have any other questions. Ok. All right, Tina, thank you.

**Tina Staples:** Peter, did you?

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** No thank you.

**Tina Staples:** OK Sorry, sorry. Thank you. Great. He looked like he was OK. All right. Thank you. [off mic]

**Bridge Littleton:** Oh God, please. No. Ok, Mr. Moore.

**Will Moore:** Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Members of council. You have my report, I don't have anything necessarily to highlight that is included within I will mention that the streetscape committee not captured in here because they meet the very morning of council meetings met this morning to discuss a couple of issues, one was ivy that's infesting a lot of trees throughout town and then one that the mayor suggested that we float by the streetscape committee. And that's the possibility of setting up a program of where we could provide some town funding for private property owners, whether they be residential or commercial or institutional like churches that experience kind of unexpected losses of maybe say, like a specimen tree. So like in the really high wind event that we had last year when the Methodist Church lost a really large specimen tree, if there was something we could do to help at least match fund a replacement of a decent sized tree instead of just like putting back a like, yeah, a stick. So they seemed intrigued by that idea. So we'll be discussing that over the coming month, and it may be a slight budget request that we would add in. But yeah, they were very appreciative that that idea was at least floated because they think they see some value in that. Additionally, next month, just to give you fair warning, we do have two plan tree removals that will take place along Washington Street, one in the area of Tully Rector on East Washington and one in the area in front of Safeway. So

**Bridge Littleton:** The big one in front of Tully rector's?

**Will Moore:** Yeah, it's it's reaching a dangerous status at this point in time

**Bridge Littleton:** In terms of the sidewalk or in terms of its health,

**Will Moore:** Its health, its health. Both trees are suffering, but in particular the one in front of Tully Rector. So we're going to be coordinating with Karen. We'll obviously, we're going to have to shut down a section of the sidewalk. It's such a sizable tree you're going to have to do some protection boarding of her windows while while this is going on. But so we're going to coordinate with her kind of what days are best, where it might provide some interruption of her business. We'll be working with her on that. [off mic].

**Bridge Littleton:** Hey, Will let me ask you a question. So how big of a caliper caliper tree can you get in there? You know,

**Will Moore:** In that space.

**Bridge Littleton:** You know, that'll survive. I mean, it's a tight space, right?

**Will Moore:** Yeah. Bob Dornin, who's one of the members of the committee, he generally works on sourcing the replacement trees, and we'll come back to the committee and say what he's found. So that's ongoing. This at the earliest, it would be mid-April. So we'll have some time for him to come back and let the committee know what's available in terms of caliber and species, what's best. The committee is really attuned to trying to find trees that work best for the individual spaces now so that it won't create some of the you're always going to have some issues with trees makes the sidewalks, but some do better in certain spaces. Some do better, depending on where the building is relative to the planting. So we'll learn a little bit more about that next month.

**Bridge Littleton:** Are they thinking, you know, it's going to be that big or this big?

**Will Moore:** We don't do any two inch caliber replacements, which are the the small sticks, but I'm not sure it's going to depend what's available out there.

**Cindy Pearson:** They were talking about the size of the ball that can go back in there and the size of tree that's available that can't let it just grow like that again. Right? You don't want to do that. So it won't be a huge tree [off mic]

**Will Moore:** Ok. [off mic] Yeah, yeah. And just in terms of that, what we typically do is the town funds the removals and beautification the nonprofit. They actually fund the replacement planting. So it's kind of a partnership with beautification.

**Bridge Littleton:** They've got enough money to do everything.

**Will Moore:** Yes, OK. They were the recipient of the Foxes on the fence last year. They took that over. So they, yes, got it.

**Bridge Littleton:** Ok, Will what was the latest on the house at Jay Street?

**Will Moore:** So subsequent to you passing the resolution? We had to take two legal steps one sending a certified letter to the owner and then also placing legal ad in the newspaper. So we did get a return receipt from the certified letter. So we then have to wait for the second ad to run, which ran today. And at this point in time, there's a 30 day clock that starts ticking, and if the owner does not complete repairs within those 30 days, then we have the ability to move in at that point and execute the repairs ourselves.

**Bridge Littleton:** Excellent. Well, I would say. I don't know what the process is, but I'm just gonna throw this out there, somebody who is independent can go in and before you start doing any work and take pictures of everything. Document exactly what the state of condition is before you guys start anything. That way, when it's over, if the owner comes back and says, you broke this, you broke this, you broke it, you know, no, here's the picture here, you know, and if it's a third party, can't be, oh, well, we'll took that picture after they broke it. So just, I don't know, that's part of our process, but I'm just thinking we already have used this stuff.

**Will Moore:** Yeah, we already have documentation. We have photographed that property. I'm going to say at least five or six times over the last couple of years. But before we would do the project, we would go in and take probably much more extensive, more detailed pictures

**Bridge Littleton:** Also photographs of where your guys are going to put equipment, where they're going to set up scaffolding, where they're going to work. You know, all I mean, I get to see it now. There's a broken window. Oh, you kicked it with your foot and you climb the ladder. Yeah, that's the type of, you know, just to protect you guys understood [off mic] You can turn that off. I mean, the thing is, it's protecting these guys against the accusation that or, yeah, well, you know, just somebody that can't be accused of

**Philip Miller:** I'd rather hire an outside firm to come in and do it so that we are. [off mic]

**Will Moore:** Well, the the extent of repairs will require a third party to do that. Yeah.

**Bridge Littleton:** I mean, Martin, what do you think?

**Martin Crim:** That's a good idea, I haven't done that in the past with an independent person, but we have certainly documented in the state of the interior when we've done that for other clients.

**Bridge Littleton:** Ok.

**J. Kevin Daly:** May even be a good idea to get a drone and get some aerial shots. The entire from my understand, from roofers working on a neighbor's home, you can see right down the entire ridge of that roof is gone.

**Will Moore:** They provide us a picture. Yeah, so whoa, it's bad.

**Bridge Littleton:** I wonder if it's leaking inside. Oh wow.

**Darlene Kirk:** I have two questions. Yes, ma'am. I got a couple emails. Oh. [off mic] one is Chestnut Street, there's some paint marks on the street, and they want to know what those are about, are they going to widen are they doing a sidewalk [off mic]

**Will Moore:** Yes, it's not a VDOT project that has to do with our comprehensive sign replacement plan. So they're marking locations where they'll they will be removing the existing street signs and then replacing the stop sign consolidated with the route number and street. So that's all related to our sign project. Ok.

**Philip Miller:** Do you see that that slight smirk? Yeah. Means that projects moving forward.

**Darlene Kirk:** And the other question is for [off mic] and I mentioned today any two, I've gotten some questions from somebody that lives up the street from me about the height of the new house that's going in on Sycamore. And if you could check that out, maybe just some measurements. I know it's up on the highest part, but that's what I tried to explain [off mic] Yeah, so it's really hot.

**Bridge Littleton:** Thank you. Any other questions for Will? Will thank you.

**Will Moore:** Thank you.

**Bridge Littleton:** A.J..

**AJ Panebianco:** Thank you, just want to point out that we'll be giving Tim a farewell soon, that's worthy of his service. He's doing well. He's come back to visit us a couple of times and currently is bored from retirement. He's been back, I think, three times since he's retired, which we're glad we want him to come back. [off mic] Yeah, yeah. Yeah, he did. Yeah, yeah, he comes back and visits. He's got some dogs here that he made friends with and he visits them and then he visits the businesses and still just such a great guy and just a real treasure that we've had. And so we want to make sure that he knows we appreciate him, so we'll be setting something up. His last official day is the 31st, but he's on sick leave and vacation until then. His vacancy is advertised. We did a push again, like we did in last couple of advertisements for diversity. Danny took care of part of it and I took care of part of it with Noble, which is a police organization for officers of color, and we advertised there as well. So hopefully we'll get some good responses. We're planning for the upcoming two 5Ks and Art in the Burg and hope that, you know, those that's the beginning of our our season of events and we'll continue to plan for them as they come around. Officers continue to do training. We just did some training on Fourth Amendment seizure search and seizures. Colleen completed a Microsoft training and our new hire for part time because Mark Davis had retired part time is Joe [inaudible] and he'll be he's actually working tonight, but we'll bring him in at

some point and do the swearing in front of council with that as well. But Joe completed his courses to where he's now certified again because he. You have to get 40 hours every two, two years, and he was out of that compliance if he didn't get it done by December. So we got him taken care of. So great. Are there any other questions?

**Bridge Littleton:** Yeah.

**J. Kevin Daly:** For recruiting? What are some of the issues you're facing right now?

**AJ Panebianco:** Currently, we don't know. I mean, we always have issues of, are we offering enough and are we competitive? But we don't know what that is yet, because it's really this is like day three of the actual advertisement being out. We'll vet the applications that we get on the 31st and then if we don't have quality applicants, we'll have to come up with a different plan. But currently we have zero applicants, but it's only been out three days.

**Bridge Littleton:** Ok, thank you.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** Yeah, say thank you to Sean for coming to our sustainability committee meeting recently. He called me to come talk about some of the events that we're doing, so really appreciate that, and he had some great input as well.

**AJ Panebianco:** Sean's doing a fabulous job. He had us. He has one more treatment left and today was the one that brought him to where he has one. So he's at home recovering.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** It is in remission?

**AJ Panebianco:** Yes. And he's excited and as are we as are we so very excited about him and also about Timmy being able to move on with the next chapter of his life.

**Bridge Littleton:** So, all right. Thank you. Thanks, A.J. and Martin.

**Martin Crim:** Thank you, Mayor. You have my report stand ready to answer any questions. Anybody?

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** Yeah. I'm not sure there's a right time to ask it, but here I go. The electric vehicle charging station agreement. Is that quite close to your knowledge, Martin?

**Martin Crim:** I will let Danny answer that one. You know, better than I do.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** Ok, thanks.

**Danny Davis:** Yeah, Martin and I worked on that. I reviewed some of the issues. The biggest concerns worked through them and sent them back to blink and they reviewed it. It sounded like maybe there was only one sticky issue left. But from our perspective, we had already sent them back. The either the clauses that we could not agree with because they were contrary to code or the ones that we were requesting, they amend and we did not have not heard back specifically.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** So actually, that does remind me I did put a call into him and he did call me back and say he was getting something. I don't know what it was exactly that was a sticking point. He felt it could be figured out, so that must be what we're talking about.

**Danny Davis:** So it sounds like if the email, if I read it the right way sounded like the real issue was if they replaced the equipment, they wanted to automatically turn that into a new five year agreement. And we said, No, no, no, no, no. If you replace the equipment, thank you. But you have to come get approval from council to extend that agreement, and part of that gets into state code issues. And so I think their response was essentially, OK, then if we decide to change new the equipment, we'll just come back to them with the new agreement, which seemed to make sense. Thank you.

**Bridge Littleton:** Martin, what is the latest with the bill to allow towns and municipalities to go back to May elections?

**Martin Crim:** There's a bill. I'm sorry, I didn't know that.

**Bridge Littleton:** Passed the House.

**Martin Crim:** Really?

**Bridge Littleton:** Yep.

**Martin Crim:** Do you have [inaudible]? Well, you know more than I do. Sorry [off mic]

**Bridge Littleton:** Martin, that's always been the case.

**Philip Miller:** We are a rough crowd.

**Bridge Littleton:** Ok? The the other one was the the one that was going around earlier this week about holding a municipality liable for, you know, cost of disruption if you close the street for something.

**Martin Crim:** Yeah, that's a bad bill.

**Bridge Littleton:** Thank you, Captain Obvious. [laughter]

**Martin Crim:** Yeah. So about that one is that when the constitutional amendment regarding eminent domain was passed, Jackson Miller was the House majority whip and he and people said, You know, the logic of this constitutional amendment is such that it would make us liable for loss of access if we closed the street for parade. And he said, No, no, no, no, no, that'll never happen. I'll get an attorney general opinion that says that won't happen. He did that. So we have we, you know, we said, OK, fine. And then it was written into the state code as well. And then now they're going to write it out of the state code. So I would expect that people are going to have to make arrangements for parades to occur in places where nobody can file suit or, you know, buy insurance in some kind. I don't know if that's even possible. It's going to be a disaster. And you know, the people who say, well, nobody would be such a Scrooge just to file such a suit don't really understand the litigation. There have been all kinds of crazy lawsuits in eminent domain land, and there's a firm that we all know and love that would bring those cases.

**Danny Davis:** So I just looked up on the LIS system and the the Senate rejected the amendments that were passed by the House

**Bridge Littleton:** On this bill.

**Danny Davis:** Because if you recall

**Bridge Littleton:** That one amendment, which was the disastrous one,

**Danny Davis:** Well, Senator Peterson had a similar bill and had completely rewritten the bill after discussions with local governments and VML and [inaudible]. Right. The House did not make those changes or made it worse. And so when the House passed, theirs went to the Senate and they said, absolutely not. We already talked about this. So now they're going to have a conference Petersons on that conference as well as five others.

**Bridge Littleton:** So we'll see who's on it.

**Danny Davis:** [inaudible] Shane Peterson and McClellan from the Senate, which is McClellan's, also allowed. No, she's it anyway. And then the delegates are Bill Coiner and Clark. So

**Bridge Littleton:** Ok.

**Danny Davis:** I don't know any of them.

**Bridge Littleton:** You know, Bell. [off mic] All right. I can't think of anything else right now on the legislative stuff.

**Danny Davis:** Yeah, we'll look up the May elections one, I didn't think it was moving forward, but maybe it did.

**Bridge Littleton:** I know the House passed it.

**Danny Davis:** Ok

**Bridge Littleton:** Ok, any other questions for Martin? All righty. Martin, thanks. All right. Town Hall project.

**Rhonda North:** Thank you, Mr. Mayor. So as you may have seen, we are now at the grading stage, we think will be completed with that in about two weeks and they'll be pouring footings and then from there they will move on to utility installations. We did hit some rock today. As of this moment, we can still continue to move forward without bringing in additional equipment and without incurring additional costs. But the deeper they go. That could change. As of right now, the project is still on schedule. We will have a webcam set up here very soon so that folks can watch the the project as it moves forward on our town website. You may have noticed the fire siren. The old fire siren back here has been removed and we have donated that to the Middleburg Museum. It's now sitting in their backyard [laughter].

**Bridge Littleton:** That's avoiding the scrapping charge,

**Rhonda North:** We asked they said yes. So we have ordered a dozen town flags. We were able to get a cost savings. They were having a sale. So we did save close to \$900 by ordering them when we did. And we will. Danny and I have been working on a sponsorship brochure, so we'll be getting in touch with council members Miller and Vice Mayor Leonard Morgan to try to schedule a outreach committee to review that and so we can start moving forward. If anyone would like to sponsor items associated with the project like benches, things of that nature for the parks, mostly for the parks. Yeah.

**Bridge Littleton:** And so we have decided that we are going to do things like name plaques on benches and stuff.

**Philip Miller:** Sponsorship is different than than naming somebody buys the rights to the sponsorship. We choose to name something in honor of somebody that's a very different process.

**Bridge Littleton:** That's what we talked about. No, I got it. But what I'm saying is, is that we've made the final decision. If somebody wants to, I don't care what you call it, spend money to have the naming rights of a bench.

**Rhonda North:** They've donated by, you know, such and such a person or such and such a business. Little, little name plaque on it.

**Bridge Littleton:** Ok.

**Rhonda North:** [inaudible] Discuss some time ago.

**Bridge Littleton:** We were OK with them pursuing the list that Rhonda has made.

**Rhonda North:** We just wait. We were waiting until after the project was actually moving forward. Before we we moved into the sponsorship.

**Bridge Littleton:** And what happens with the money?

**Rhonda North:** What happens to their money? Then we will use it to help cover the cost of the project for the benches or the picnic table or whatever it is that they sponsor.

**Philip Miller:** Are we collecting the money? Is the donation being made to us?

**Rhonda North:** Yes.

**Philip Miller:** Ok.

**Bridge Littleton:** Well, I would recommend that we give it to the foundation. I mean, really talking about \$1,000 for a bench is going to make a difference in anything the Middleburg Health Center Foundation have the money go to that.

**Rhonda North:** I mean, the idea was to offset the cost of the town, you know, of these projects or these amenities associated with the project. I, we we still don't even have that button down so well.

**Bridge Littleton:** We're not going to be selling benches for a year. Right?

**Rhonda North:** Yeah, I think that's totally two different things that if you want to have the town bench, it's the money comes to the town to offset the cost of the bench. If you want to donate to the Health Center Fund or whatever it will be called from this point forth, that's totally different. We wouldn't want to co-mingle those two things.

**Darlene Kirk:** We're not going to just charge them the cost of the bench. There's going to, you know, it's going to be a certain amount. I mean, the bench could cost \$800 and they give us a \$1,000. So there's still a difference. So we need to make a decision on how much we're going to charge for what and where, but not right this minute.

**Rhonda North:** Well, that's part of the brochure is all the items are listed out and the cost associated with each item. So you decide I want to sponsor a, say, \$500 tree or I want to sponsor a \$700 bench. You pick what you want to sponsor and then you get a little plaque.

**Bridge Littleton:** Chris.

**Chris Bernard:** What's the total dollar amount of everything on that list? Do you know.

**Rhonda North:** I have not added the total dollar amount up, but I can certainly do so.

**Danny Davis:** \$100,000 give or take.

**Rhonda North:** Probably somewhere around there. I mean, there are a few large ticket items like, you know, the Cupola and the weather vane and a few things that you're going to have limited number of folks who are going to be willing to sponsor something like that. But you know, we're going to have a lot of trees and a lot of bushes and somebody may be willing to sponsor.

**Bridge Littleton:** And so then with their name, be on it in perpetuity or until it needs to get replaced again. So the bench wears out in 10 years and needs to be replaced. Who's going to pay for the next one?

**Rhonda North:** That would be something for the committee, the outreach committee to discuss.

**Bridge Littleton:** I think that person who sponsors the first one needs to know whether it's in perpetuity or it's only as long as this bench lasts, or only as long as this tree lasts.

**Philip Miller:** These are just durable goods.

**Cindy Pearson:** Yeah. They wear out. You don't expect that bench to last forever.

**Bridge Littleton:** No, but I mean, I've seen, like a lot of places where you can sponsor a brick right on the sidewalk and the brick wears that, you got to replace it, the person's name goes back on it. You don't resell it. So I mean, whatever the common practice is, I don't know if the common practice is, but I think it's something to be worked out and you'll have people, you'll have people who have an expectation.

**Philip Miller:** I think those things where people, their name is in perpetuity, those are typically things done in trust.

**Bridge Littleton:** Well, I mean, it's our choice. We can do whatever we want with it. I mean, it can be. Look, you offset the first one, but you know you, this is always your.

**Philip Miller:** This is not like an endowed thing. That's my point. You know what I mean? [off mic] I don't disagree that they need to know that. But let's just make that determination.

**Darlene Kirk:** Can you send me a copy of whatever that is?

**Rhonda North:** Yeah. I mean, the committee needs to, you know, has has to meet. And then once we yeah, once we get that.

**Bridge Littleton:** How about we all get together as a committee to flesh out some of these ideas and then come back again? We've got a little time. Absolutely. You know. I mean, we can always pay for it and then offset it afterward. There's no reason it has to be before. I just think that, you know, when you're putting the memorial names of people on things, there's it's like, you know, they're going to think long term. I'm endowing this because I want that person's memory to live on for forever. And if it's well, it's going to be on there for 10 years and then we're going to replace it and we'll send you your nametag back. That actually could be like, Oh yeah. [off mic] That's the name of a business I'm talking about. Like, people are going to name things for for like a memory of a person. Yeah. [off mic] I just I just think it's one of those things that could get emotional.

**Rhonda North:** So would you like for the outreach committee to meet and come back with the recommendation to the council?

**Bridge Littleton:** Well, I mean, you have to I think as you need to have all the details of the program fully fleshed out what is allowed and what is not allowed for naming. If you're going to tell [off mic] right and maybe certain businesses, you don't. I mean, are you going to allow religious organizations to name things? Well, this is town property. No, no. There's a separation between that stuff and government. So you need to make sure that everybody fully understood like we can't give money to the Emanuel Episcopal Church. Right. Can you allow a church to name a piece of government property? I don't know. Or a piece of property that there's going to be on government property.

**Rhonda North:** They wouldn't be naming it, they would be donating and there would just be a small plaque that says donated by X Church or X person or X business or

**Bridge Littleton:** And then is there a vetting process for the name? Martin. I mean, we're talking about naming some of the rooms, we don't have a vetting process to make sure that a name gets vetted and as you want.

**Philip Miller:** Are we selling? Are we selling a name to a room now? No, no, no, no, no, no, no. We're sponsoring. We're talking about sponsoring benches and trees and bushes and stuff like that. We're not talking about an actual room inside the building.

**Bridge Littleton:** But you're not. You're not hearing my point. This is going to be something named on the town property, which is going to project the image of the town. So do you want the Ku Klux Klan of America to sponsor a bench and put their name on it? So is there a vetting process for things that are not acceptable

**Martin Crim:** [multiple speakers] I can speak to that if I may.

**Bridge Littleton:** Yeah.

**Martin Crim:** So there's a question. The first question is, are you talking about government speech or private speech? And so that's not always easily answered, but there are ways to structure the program so that it becomes government speech and then you have full control over it. If, however, you've created a forum for private speech, then you have to look at the issue of whether you have a reasonable restriction on the use of that private forum. So you could have, for example, a requirement that you have meet certain standards. I mean, you're not going to name. There was an internet poll for naming a, I think, an icebreaker or something like that. The winning the winning candidate was Boaty McBoatface, and so they didn't really want to name the boat that they didn't end up naming the boat boaty mcboatface. But you know, that's why you don't want to have an internet contest for naming anything at all. But you know you you can certainly have some rules set out as long as they are reasonable and viewpoint neutral. So you can't say, well, we would. We would allow a the NAACP to to donate and have their plaque on there, but we wouldn't allow some white supremacist organization to do that. So that's the current state of the law, and we would probably want to spend a little bit of time looking at what best practices are for this kind of project before we adopt rules.

**Bridge Littleton:** So there's a whole lot more here that needs to be thought through.

**Darlene Kirk:** [off mic] But that's going to be a part of the building forever. And I just.

**Bridge Littleton:** Well, so.

**Darlene Kirk:** That's like donating a room. [off mic].

**Bridge Littleton:** Because it's Martin's point is exactly right, you know, if you can't restrict what name goes on it. Do you want the, you know, David Duke memorial bench? And because you can't say no to that? Right, so God only help that that doesn't happen, but you know. Yeah. So and maybe next time, what you guys should do is have Martin in the conversation as you flesh it out.[inaudible] It could be a whole lot cheaper than the lawsuit. Oh, God.

**Rhonda North:** One more item. Yeah. So, you know, as you know, access to the site is very limited for safety reasons. But we thought what we'd like to do is set up a date and time once a month that the council can come in appropriately dressed to tour the site, you know, to do a visit and tour the site. And that means hard hats, long pants and closed shoes, gloves, safety, no flip-flops, safety belts. [off mic] Yeah, safety vests and safety glasses. We can help you all with the vests and glasses. [off mic] You'd have to have your hard hat.

**Bridge Littleton:** Can we bring our shovels?

**Rhonda North:** No. No. Yes. So, you know, if you all would like to set say just an example. The third Monday of the month at 3:00 p.m. as the date, then we'll let the contractor know we'll get it on the schedule and everybody can can meet on the site. They'll give you your safety training. Make sure you're appropriately dressed. And then we'll do a brief tour of the site. We can do this like once a month. Is the council interested in doing that? And if so, do you have a preferred date and time?

**Bridge Littleton:** Well, first, does anybody want to do it?

**Philip Miller:** Yes. [multiple speakers] Inside I am still a little boy who likes to watch construction [laughter]

**Rhonda North:** We gave you a hard hat already. You already got it.

**Bridge Littleton:** All right. We'll have plenty of hard hats. [off mic] All right.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** Should it be not immediate because I'm obviously there's nothing to look at right now. [off mic].

**Bridge Littleton:** OK. Here's what we'll do. Rhonda, you, and Danny pick a date that works for you and the construction company once a month. Like, like the second Thursday or whatever at noon. And it is. If we can make it, we can make it. If we can't, we can't. We have to accommodate them, not them accommodate us because it's they've got to schedule it and all that stuff. What's that? And it makes it delay, which makes us pay more. So maybe, maybe with our retreat for our strategic planning, we should all go to one of those classes where we learn how to use heavy equipment. [off mic].

**Rhonda North:** I can assure you they are not going to allow you on the heavy equipment.

**J. Kevin Daly:** Just sit on it. [multiple speakers].

**Rhonda North:** No I did not. I know they're not going to take that liability on.

**Kevin Daly:** I drove. I drove a tank that's heavy equipment.

**Bridge Littleton:** I will never listen to anybody else's complaints about meetings going along if we want to continue the 30 minute discussion of driving construction equipment by all means. Keep on going. OK

**Philip Miller:** Bridge this. There's a possibility bridge. This could be your fastest meeting.

**Chris Bernard:** [off mic]

**Rhonda North:** The the contractors do leave the site at three. They have they have a two hour drive behind them and they've been here very early in the morning. Like I, it's going to be

**Bridge Littleton:** Like I said, you guys figure out what is easiest for you and them. It might be hard for that because they got to get council chambers ready. They've got to get the ready.

**Philip Miller:** And and what time of day is safest? Yes, exactly.

**Bridge Littleton:** If it's lunch great, if it's eight, whatever it's four, you know. But yeah, you're making an accommodation for us, so we need to make it as easy for you. Yes. Ok. Any other questions on the town hall or Rhonda? Any other update on the town?

**Rhonda North:** That's all I have, Mr. Mayor.

**Bridge Littleton:** Ok. Consent agenda.

**Philip Miller:** I move we adopt the consent agenda as proposed.

**Chris Bernard:** Second. [laughter]

**Bridge Littleton:** Any further discussion.

**Darlene Kirk:** No.

**Bridge Littleton:** Let's do roll call that's fine. All those [inaudible].

**J. Kevin Daly:** Aye

**Bridge Littleton:** Opposed abstentions? Ok. Next item here is Pinckney Street.

**Will Moore:** That's an option, it's not one of the recommended ones. So obviously we've been considering studying, I guess, is a better way to say it. Some options to present to you for the future of Pinckney Street. So basically, we're facing a decision point for council is do we want to continue to pursue Pinckney Street being accepted into the secondary road system for maintenance by VDOT? Or do we want to continue having the maintenance responsibility fall on the town, so outlined some of the some of the issues that we found we did corings of the pavement section. They came back positive in the view of our consulting engineer, but they do not quite meet the spec that would be required by VDOT for the substructure of the road, meaning that if we wanted to get it accepted, we would have to do more extensive digging and restoration of the sub base before we would do Surface Pavement. So we have a couple of dollar amounts for you. I put three asterisks I almost wanted to put like 27 on it to just kind of reiterate the point, emphasize the point that these dollar amounts are going to be very low because of some of the surging in oil prices. Currently, neither the consulting engineer nor the private pavement paving company that we got an estimate for for one of the options is willing to give us an updated estimate at this time just because of the market. That being said, you see, if we took these dollars as current dollar figures, you're looking at about \$95,000 difference between these two options. The that gap, I think, would grow if we pursued the VDOT. This is assuming everything goes well with that. One unknown is that we would have to do a video inspection of the storm sewer system and if there were any issues in there, we might have to rectify some of those issues before it could be accepted so that dollar amount could could go up. Nevertheless, it still is an option, and our consulting engineer does believe we could get it accepted if we made investments. But again, this is a baseline and again, you're looking at \$95,000 difference minimum if oil prices continue to surge. That alone will make that gap widen because simply, we're doing more asphalt work in the first option to seek acceptance. So there's that that dollar gap would grow if we wanted to continue maintaining ourselves again. While the substructure does not meet VDOTs minimum requirements, it's very close. Certain core is met certain did not. The Mr. Bischoff with J2 engineers does think it is a good quality substructure, and that if we pursued the improvements that are listed here in the second option that it would, it would be a 15 to 20 year lifespan for it before it would need resurfacing repaving. It would not require any milling. Basically, we would treat the surface. We would do selective patching, selective sealing, and then we would lay a surface code of asphalt above the current asphalt. It would be the approach. I've talked it over with Mr. Davis, and we would recommend just based on the uncertainty of the VDOT process for acceptance that and the dollar amount difference which would likely grow. We would recommend continuing to pursue the second option where the town would continue to maintain. So that would be our recommendation

**Danny Davis:** And the last comment that Mr. Moore made about Option two was one of the concerns council head was if we go spend \$20,000 to just throw asphalt on top, is it going to break up in another two years and we don't want to just keep churning and throwing money at it. And so the input from Mr. Bischoff at J2 was helpful to hear that his expectation is that it would have a a normal, useful life of of a roadway based on the substructure that's there.

**Bridge Littleton:** Any questions for Will?

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** Yeah, Will great report and really wanted to ask you what's the downside? So if VDOT doesn't do it, we don't pay for the veto. I think we lose the ongoing maintenance is that snow removal plus repair of the obviously repair of the road in the future.

**Will Moore:** Well, so they don't do that now. Well, they're not responsible for those things now. Now they use contractors for plowing, and these contractors don't always lift their plow when they drive down Pinckney Street. Sometimes they push the snow and take care of that for us as it is, but it's not guaranteed. But in general, VDOT does take care of the snow removal currently, it seems.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** I mean, I think your recommendation is absolutely right, in my opinion.

**Bridge Littleton:** Other questions?

**Philip Miller:** I had a question.

**Bridge Littleton:** Yes.

**Bridge Littleton:** If in 20 years now it's time to, you know, it's degraded. What's the likelihood that the substructure will still be in good condition, that all we have to do is maybe a milling or repaving? Or, you know, at a certain point, it's going to need full depth reconstruction. Right. Is that in 20 years that in 50 years, whatever? So, you know, what's the likelihood that in 20 years, it's going to be towards that end of it, which is way more involved?

**Will Moore:** I might have to ask for a more detailed response from J2 on that. In general, though, once you have a good substructure, it doesn't deteriorate. So generally when you see areas that require full depth reconstruction like the entire north side of the town, it was because it didn't have a good substructure to start with. So generally, once you have that milling and overlaying, milling and overlaying can be done repetitively for at least 20 or 30 years, I think. But I will ask for a to reaffirm that with J2.

**Bridge Littleton:** Yeah, I mean, I agree. I think it's the right way to go. I just, you know, I just wanted to make sure, you know, so it's an easy twenty thousand fix now, but in 30 years, is it going to be? Well, we're right back to a hundred grand, right? So hell we should have done it now and then handed it off to VDOT in the long run will be it. That's fine. Ok. That's my only question.

**J. Kevin Daly:** Of course, given the cost of gas, I think everybody is going to be walking pretty soon.

**Bridge Littleton:** This is America, no, we won't. Anybody want to make a motion.

**Will Moore:** I don't really have a draft motion in here,

**Bridge Littleton:** Oh, I thought, OK/

**Danny Davis:** We'll take one. I mean.

**Bridge Littleton:** Well, I'll let's do this check with J2. And if it's all, if his thing is no, no, you'll be good next time, it'll just be the same thing again. And that should be good for a long time and great and we can do the motion.

**Will Moore:** Ok, we'll come back at the second meeting. Thank you.

**Bridge Littleton:** All right. Millie Miglia.

**Danny Davis:** So over the past few months, we've been having ongoing discussions with the Millie Miglia regarding their return to Middleburg in October, and they have been working very closely with Salamander, who has made very good effort to help I'll say, control the costs of rooms for the event and for the participants. And so while we don't have necessarily a formal signed agreement for them to stay at Salamander, we feel that it's 95 percent certain that they are returning back for an event. Their goal would be to have between 30 and 40 vehicles participating, and they are very, very excited about this event continuing to be part of their kind of international circuit, if you will, pairing it with one in Japan, the UAE and some other events. So it becomes kind of a whole series of smaller Millie Miglia events. Would you like me to turn the rest of the discussion over to you or do you want me to continue?

**Bridge Littleton:** Yeah, no. I mean, so I think the I think it's going to be four days Tuesday through Saturday. Third week of October. The week after the film. Yeah. [off mic] Correct. Yes. Correct. Like the.

**Danny Davis:** 19th through the 22nd. [off mic]

**Bridge Littleton:** So and it really yeah, it sounds like that their partnership with Salamander is really, you know, getting solidified very well. The new guy there, David Mars is working with [inaudible] and that that team is pretty excited to come back. They're looking at new routes and trying to have more country roads and stuff like that, which so from a town perspective, us preparing you know, we have a lot more lead time than we did last time. I think last time we did an awesome job given how quickly it had to all come together. And it I mean, it was great, you know, and now we'll really be able to do a good job. The other thing we talked about this last year as a potential, but with COVID and everything, it

just didn't make sense. They have again invited us to come over and participate in like their official functions and stuff like that as they kick it off and then, you know, participate in the drive and all that kind of stuff. They recommended that myself and Danny go to represent the town as they're going to be representing the different rallies they're having around the world and they'll be there with the mayor of Brescia and the local senator and all that kind of stuff in these different kind of events. They have graciously offered to cover a lot of the expense in terms of like local hotel costs and all that kind of stuff. And then when there's an event that it's food and beverage they're covering that. For us it would have to be airfare meals that weren't, you know, associated with anything going on. And really, after that, just as far as travel costs and time costs, just incidentals, I think we absolutely would want to put together some type of Middleburg thank you packets or whatever you want to call it for all the dignitaries and the people who work the Millie Miglia. Maybe something like a Middleburg coin or whatever for all their participants. So Danny can work all that out. But I looked right now, flights are about twelve hundred and fifteen hundred dollars. Yeah, well, fuel with fuel surcharges and it would be in June like it's mid-June. So we did not want to book anything or commit to doing it without coming to council and making sure that everybody was on board with doing that.

**Darlene Kirk:** Good idea. I was just thinking about this. Do we have any? I mean, could they be like our sister city or something, sister town or something? I mean, I know there we do that. Yeah, government does that. So I just thought maybe we.

**Bridge Littleton:** We could if we wanted to. It's something we could talk about. Yeah, I mean, so I would say this. No, no. I got that. I would say this if there's going to be a sister town program with another town, let's think about the whole world. And, you know, just make sure we don't because a lot of these cities and towns like have multiple ones that just sort of like, you know, defeats the purpose, right? It's you're going to have one have one because it really means something special. [off mic] Well, I don't know that this is it. No, there might be something else. Right. Let's just think about it before we jump in. Well, then you can go there. [off mic ] And let's see how it goes the first year. You know, there's no rush to do anything, OK, so unless anybody has any other objections or concerns. [off mic] They're friends of yours. Oh, never mind. OK, was that? Hey, Danny, Danny, are we good?

**Danny Davis:** I feel confident. Yes.

**Bridge Littleton:** Okay. All right. Cool. All right. Budget discussion.

**Danny Davis:** If you want it to be the quickest meeting in your reign, then you could just say approved. [off mic] Thank you, Mr. Mayor and council members. Just a couple of quick updates before we go through this, first of all, as Tina noted in her report, but as she stated, the business license receipts she reported were through March 1st. We actually subsequently to that received another thirty, what, thirty five thousand dollars or so in business license payments that were delinquent. So we're over six hundred and eighty eight thousand dollars in business license receipts, and that's probably even a little bit more now. So obviously we have budgeted fiscal 23 based on some projections of what that number would be yet, and we're already for this year, 50 more than 50 thousand over that amount. I'll leave it up to future discussions, and we don't have to decide this tonight about whether we wish to increase that projected revenue amount. But again, it's one of those where, you know, not necessarily required to do or we definitely don't need to do that this evening. I also note that we received our kind of general expected electricity costs. We're part of a cooperative purchasing program through other municipalities. We anticipate our electricity costs to go up 20 percent year over year. So we're going to increase those budget line items. I've not done that yet in the budget, but we will do that.

**Bridge Littleton:** Hey, Danny, let me ask a quick question. Do we have anything in our revenue side which is tied to electricity? I can't think of anything. Do utility taxes come to us, though? Does Dominion pay us a portion of that and do they? Ok. [off mic]

**Bridge Littleton:** But how much is that? [off mic] Ok, yeah, I'm just curious, tell me like we don't really have anything that's tied directly to energy. [off mic] Anything meaningful in revenues? Nom like someone needs a couple hundred thousand dollars, if it's going up 20 percent, that's an extra twenty five thousand dollars in tax we're going to hit.

**Danny Davis:** Yeah, nothing. Nothing.

**Bridge Littleton:** There's not like a gas tax, right? Sure. Ok. [off mic]

**Danny Davis:** The only other companies are thinking for this evening's discussion about the budget would be that we focus on the general fund and we don't focus on revenues since we talked about that a lot at two meetings ago. And at this point, I would say we'll set aside any discussion of salary increases for another day. If that's OK with council, I don't mind talking through it if you wish. But really tonight to focus more on kind of departmental other line items in each department. And my suggestion would be we just go in order department by department. And when we hit a specific department where, you know, department head is here, we'll have them come to the table and mention any major changes for this fiscal year in their budget. And then we're happy to answer any questions. Does that sound agreeable,

**Bridge Littleton:** Fire away.

**Danny Davis:** All right. So we will start with administration again, a few quick things. Salaries aside, we've talked with you in the presentation last week just about health insurance increases. And again, as a reminder, VRS in general increased about 12 percent year over year. And that's the contribution that the town makes on behalf of employees. Other expenses. There's a couple just major changes that I'll point out. And then again, we can open to you asking questions under citizen engagement. We increase that line item by about \$5500, give or take over the amended budget. And that is for anticipating future maintenance and replacement of the Christmas ornament signs that we're going to bring to a future meeting with an agreement with the Hill School. So they need repairs, they need long term improvement. So we'd like to go ahead and start budgeting some dollars in our budget to do that and whether

**Bridge Littleton:** Heard anything from John yet?

**Danny Davis:** I've not heard anything. And whether it's in this line item or we move it to maintenance, we can we can figure that out at some point, but it definitely is a an important thing.

**Bridge Littleton:** So let me you know what, let me mention some of that real quick. Just as an aside, so there's twenty seven Em Sharp signs I think. Something like that. Yeah, so I met with Trevor and Lisa Patterson last week about a long term. You know, all those things were made on plywood, right? So they are eventually going to just deteriorate. The initial review by John was that five of them can't even go back up anymore. They're so far deteriorated that they're just, you know, they wouldn't last another winter. So what the plan is is for him to recreate them exactly as they were. But using some of that, that type of composite material that looks like wood but will last not forever, but will last decades and can paint the paint will adhere to it really well. And all that. And then, you know, the idea is maybe take on three or four or five a year. So within four or five years, we've, you know, or maybe longer replace them all. And then once the original one has been replaced with a new one, that original one we'll give it to Hill and they can, you know, put it on a wall inside of a building or, you know, do whatever they want with it. It's an original Em Sharp, but we will have exact replicas that will go up and you won't be able to tell the difference.

**Darlene Kirk:** [off mic]. I like the idea of donating them. [off mic]

**Bridge Littleton:** We don't own them [off mic] No, she donated them to the school and they let us use them. And I mean, Em was a huge part of Hills School. And it's a big memory for them. So. And the key for us is to have the ones that we can put up on the polls.

**Darlene Kirk:** Yeah. But it'd be nice.

**Bridge Littleton:** So we'll get it when we get the prices from John on what the replacement costs, this might have to change. But it is what it is.

**Darlene Kirk:** I have another idea. [off mic]

**Bridge Littleton:** I talked about that and everybody. They were all fine with that. So someone had mentioned making Christmas ornaments out of them or making them at one point they had the cards. Yeah, the cards.

**Cindy Pearson:** [off mic]

**Bridge Littleton:** And John would make digital images so we could do all different types of stuff with it. Yeah, and everyone's on board for that. [off mic] Ok, sorry, Danny, go ahead.

**Danny Davis:** That's all right. So that's the citizen engagement line item. Moving down into administrative services for the town attorney, you'll see a significant increase that was built in by us. There are some just general rate increases from our town attorney, but we also but we also added some additional dollars in there, anticipating that as we look at the Town Council's strategic initiatives over the coming year, that there may be the need for additional support from the town attorney through either projects, policies, ordinances and other strategic efforts of the council. In addition, the next line item engineering and architectural could be utilized for similar type efforts as as necessary the moving to the next page under administration. A few other administrative expenses here. Just to note one, I have increased the equipment and software purchased line item. That's what we generally use for anything from our servers, our computer replacement or other general computer technology related equipment. We do anticipate some additional either server replacements that are up for replacement anyway in the coming year, and so we might bump that up slightly so that we can have that in place by the time we move into the new town hall and just go ahead and put the new server in and not, you know, be switching it out six months later. And then additionally, our ongoing software costs, as are general typical increases as we're dealing with Microsoft our M 365 subscriptions, our tech support contract and then some of the other again systems that we have from Laserfiche to our website, et cetera. And then the other big change, as mentioned in my presentation, is that under non-departmental on that page, we have removed the transfer of funds to the CIP so that future CIP projects would come up to you as both a project and a funding request funding source. And at that time, we could see if there are funds available in our unassigned fund balance to pay it just directly out of reserves instead of making an annual transfer that may or may not be used. So those are kind of the highlights of administration right now and have

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** I think we had this question once before in one of the committee meetings about going back to equipment and software. Do we need servers? Do we, you know, everything on the cloud these days? Is there a reason?

**Danny Davis:** So we have a blended, you know, set up here, just to be honest. So for instance, our our all of our email is hosted online. It's cloud based Microsoft, M365, highest encryption security, you know, per normal. That's much easier than maintaining your own exchange locally administered server. So that's definitely a cloud based system. Our Southern software, we decided it was more advantageous to us to host that locally on a server for a few reasons. I think partly cost the benefit of it being cloud based would not necessarily any change to our operations. And I think at the time the cost and the reliability of the internet here was a concern. So we do host that locally and back it up triplicate, if you will. So there's no concerns there. Some of the other ones are, well, Laserfiche is all cloud based and then you have to have some servers anyway, so you have to have a domain controller which administers all of your user log ins, all of your permissions for network storage and things like that. So it's kind of a blended, if you will. We're always I'm always working with STS our contractor to look at what's the right choice, you know, based on our scale. And again, sometimes that is better to do hosted on the cloud. Sometimes it's not necessarily any better.

**Bridge Littleton:** When was the last time we re competed our service provider for IT services?

**Danny Davis:** Yeah, great question. So STS has just moved to a managed services model, which if you're familiar with IT instead of it being hourly based, you know you pay them for the hours they respond to your needs. It's a per client per month cost, which is fairly standard these days and kind of covers soup to nuts response. With that change, I entered into a one year contract with them under my authority and the procurement ordinance. However, I explained to them and also told them with us moving into the new town hall that I intend to compete that this summer, partly because if we do a multi-year contract, it comes out. It is greater than my authority to award a contract because it's basically twenty thousand bucks a year. And also because I think it's worth competing it out. So I'm not sure the last time we competed it, but we plan to this summer.

**Bridge Littleton:** Rhonda, do you have any idea?

**Speaker6:** STS has been here as long as I've been here, so more than 15 years. [off mic]. Thanks. Yeah.

**Danny Davis:** Well, if I can, I will say, I think what they do for us and our needs, they are very adept and they provide us very good service.

**Bridge Littleton:** But if we don't have anything else to compare it against, we could be getting fleeced. I'm not saying they're taking advantage of us. I'm sure they do a great work and a great job, all that kind of stuff. But it's also always a good idea every now and then to bring in new ideas, new approaches, new technologies and a different perspective. I think if we're going to re compete this, we need to have a very well defined requirements document. You know, not just put IT in our new building, but I mean, what do we want out of this capability? What do we want it to do? What do we need it to do? Right. And it's about the outcome. And then them, what they what everybody should be doing is providing us an architected solution that they would recommend given our size, scale, connectivity, blah blah blah blah, blah blah. Right. And what we shouldn't be doing is saying, we want to have six servers here and we want to host email there. We want to do this. How much does it cost? What we want and this is technology right, we want people to come in with the best ideas of how to manage what we need to be delivered. And I don't know if you're planning on doing it that way or not, but. What's that? Well, no.

**Philip Miller:** Sounds like a consultant from, you know, government contracting might, might be the right person to contact about this.

**Bridge Littleton:** No. Well, no. You know and well, and the thing is right you want innovation. You want, you want it to be efficient. You want to make sure that things are, you know, you want to leverage the best of the breed that's out there and and you want it to be scalable, right? You want it to be modular, scalable and flexible, right? [off mic] Right. Twice as long. Twice over budget. But yeah, but I mean, but you know, but that's a great point, though, like they didn't say, I want it to be seven servers. They said, I want it to go this fast. You tell me what the best way to do it is. So, OK, are you planning on it being how long?

**Danny Davis:** I'm sorry.

**Bridge Littleton:** How long do you play on the contract being?

**Danny Davis:** Typically, we do, you know, four to five years. We've done some recently as short as a year or two. Ok, but I would caution against flipping it companies very willy nilly.

**Bridge Littleton:** Well, when you're going into an all new building with all new hardware and everything. That's the time to do it.

**Speaker6:** No.

**Danny Davis:** I was responding to [inaudible]

**Bridge Littleton:** Oh, every year. Oh no, no, no. I'm not saying that. I'm not saying that.

**Danny Davis:** We would see like a four to five year. And then with all.

**Bridge Littleton:** Oh, I get.

**Danny Davis:** Then a opportunity to extend it another, you know, four or five year terms. You know, we can do that for 20 years

**Bridge Littleton:** Is the idea to to have them come in and say, you got this new building, it's a blank slate, kind of, you know, here's what we need. How would you do it or is it?

**Danny Davis:** Well, I think we need be careful. We segregate the physical structure and the operational day to day. The new building is designed. It is what it is. The cords are being pulled, they're just going into a rack and then someone needs to plug them in. So my anticipation would say, here is what we do, and here are our needs as a town, right? We have this software. We have, you know, we need email, right? We need network drives. Let them tell us how to do that. I would not be asking them to come say, you know, I'm putting in new WiFi access points. But we just put in Wi-Fi access points. Does that make sense? So yeah, I'm not having them.

**Philip Miller:** But if those are things that we're looking at long term for, let's say the town green, where we want to have high speed internet access open to the public, then that's something we need to write in as a capability.

**Danny Davis:** Well, so there's again, two different issues there. One is design of the town hall, which we've built into. And then the second is how to maintain that or improve that. And you know, Wi-Fi publicly dispersed or accessible Wi-Fi, I'm just going to be honest, is not a hard thing to do. So any firm can do that, right? So if they can't, then we've hired the wrong firm. But we've I mean, that's a very granular example. But we've built those ideas into our town hall by running cable to the corners of the pillars so that we can have access points sitting beaming at that direction. Now it may not cover the full town green, but

**Bridge Littleton:** Yeah, I mean, wires is not the point. The physical infrastructure and the building of where wires and plugs are, that's irrelevant. This is about what's going to be hooked to those wires. What's going to be hosted outside versus inside? What kind of client servers you're going to have, what type of computers make sense and all that kind of stuff? Oh, OK.

**Darlene Kirk:** And my concern is also we don't know what's going to be the future. So we need them to tell us what things do you think you should build in to you know, to prepare for that.

**Bridge Littleton:** Flexible, scalable, modular. Well, that'll be fun. Ok. Sorry, keep going. Oh, is there any other questions on that?

**Danny Davis:** Ok, so that's that's a kind of highlight of administration. I don't know if there are specific questions that Council Members had as you reviewed these two pages, but again, we can always come back to these that future meetings as well. This isn't like your only shot at it, but if there are any specifics, I'm happy to answer any other questions right at the moment.

**Bridge Littleton:** Anyone?

**Darlene Kirk:** [off mic]

**Bridge Littleton:** Only question I have is VRS in all the different categories, the percentage increases different.

**Danny Davis:** Yes. So that's a couple fold. One is we've had staffing changes throughout the year. So that percentage that we show you in the document is based on our amended fiscal 22 budget, the one we're in now compared to fiscal 23 of course. So we have had some staffing changes in various departments that may have been higher salaries or lower salaries than what was in the original current year budget, or they weren't filled for the full fiscal year.

**Bridge Littleton:** So the question then is, this is my only question. The VRS changes that we're getting hit with are the same across the board. Yes. Ok. I didn't know if there was different classes of employees got treated different ways.

**Danny Davis:** We blend the rate and it's.

**Bridge Littleton:** Got it. Understood. Ok. That was my only question. Anybody else? All right. Next?

**Danny Davis:** The next budget pages, buildings and grounds. This covers generally again, specifically our building and the things around it. This just to be clear. Other things like Route 50 landscaping, tree removals, all that falls under the maintenance budget. But in terms of the building itself in this budget, we have as mentioned in the presentation last meeting, we've made some assumptions about some costs for the new town hall, including cleaning costs, some additional landscaping costs with a larger property that we will have some electricity costs. We receive some recommendations from Downey and Scott on what our anticipated, you know, whether it's fuel or electrical costs might be. I will note under the telephone internet, we are in addition to our other technology. We are looking at the proper method of providing telephone services and the new building, and I've reached out to Comcast for a quote on their VoIP solution. So, yeah, so so VoIP would. Yeah, I mean, we technically actually have four phone numbers, no one knows it, right? You can call any of those. But but with VoIP, everyone gets a number you could call direct if you prefer to. We can set it up how we wish, but they own the phone. You know, they lease the phones to us, the server, they give us a dedicated circuit and all that. I haven't looked at the proposal yet. I assume it's going to be quite costly, but we also have a current phone provider and we can get proposals from them too. We've had some initial discussions, so I just want to lay that out there that between this line item and the prior administration line item we'll be tweaking that as we get more clarity on that product.

**Bridge Littleton:** Darlene.

**Darlene Kirk:** Wouldn't you want the phones to go directly to the people or would you rather go through a reception type thing?

**Danny Davis:** We'll work through the details of that.

**Darlene Kirk:** I mean, I don't know if it works.

**Danny Davis:** Yeah, we I think we just need to kind of discuss that as both a team, but also, you know, for council, we we do like having it filtered through a person who will answer right at the at the beginning. But you can always tweak that that's a that's basically a toggle switch on or off. The other benefit of things like this is your phone number at my at your desk or your extension. You can call from that number from a laptop, from your own personal cell phone, and it shows you calling from the town office. And so that way, those who are using their personal cell numbers on behalf of the town don't necessarily have to give that out. Their phone could ring anywhere, or they can call out from anywhere. Again, we're kind of solutioning here, but just so you know, it's a lot of capabilities there.

**Philip Miller:** Is this a service we can combine with our IT bid?

**Bridge Littleton:** Just put it in the RFP.

**Philip Miller:** That's what I'm asking, if.

**Bridge Littleton:** You can offer it and figure it out, great, if not, OK. Yeah, I will say the only issue I've experienced with having Comcast and I don't know if the Comcast will be our internet provider. Ok, if you have the VoIP service, when the internet goes down, it all goes down. There's a benefit to having a separate phone service provider so when that internet's out all your phones are out, all your comms are out, all your emails out, it's all down.

**Danny Davis:** We have that situation now, actually, because what happens is while we have here analog POTS, right? Plain old telephone system, it goes into a local VoIP server. So all of these phones in the building are actually voice over IP, even though they get directed onto a copper line. Well, we had an extended outage and I was like, So who has a telephone around here? I mean, we don't have or do we find one? I'm trying to remember. But I mean, I was like, let's literally take a real phone and just plug it in somewhere. And so and.

**Philip Miller:** Got to find a 1962 table model?

**Danny Davis:** Well, that's it. [laughter] And we we will have probably three analog lines in the new building or at least two, I should say, because the fire alarm system, we'd rather it be on copper and not over VoIP.

**Bridge Littleton:** No need for all the details, just bringing it up. And also think about the police department.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** Obvious question. We get to keep. If we do transfer, we get to keep our number.

**Danny Davis:** Yes. Ok.

**Chris Bernard:** You own your number.

**Bridge Littleton:** Not with Comcast. So ours had to change. This is three years ago we moved, but we moved above you guys. We could not keep the six eight seven number from Comcast VoIP because it was owned by Verizon in this area. It's not a mobile number. It was our that was a landline. It was. It was an existing landline number. We could not transport it from Liberty Street over there. He went from analog to Comcast VoIP couldn't bring it.

**Darlene Kirk:** You said something about putting in a like a landline to so you would always have a phone.

**Bridge Littleton:** Well he was talking about for the fire alarm? That's not the telephone.

**Darlene Kirk:** Did you say that? I thought you said, you wanted to [inaudible]

**Danny Davis:** We have to have redundancy for the fire alarm system. So.

**Bridge Littleton:** So I mean, I will tell you, when we brought it over in 19, we could not. We try we could not bring the six eight seven number over. Its three whatever something.

**Danny Davis:** So anyway, that's down a pathway. I didn't mean to go down, but we are starting to try to, you know, build in our expected expenses for the new building. And as we go through the summer, you know, we're cleaning RFPs right for the town office or town hall. Obviously, landscaping I wanted I'd like for us to procure all of these so that we start fresh, start clean with at least, you know, four or five year long contracts and we can make sure it's all buttoned up. So that's buildings and maintenance or buildings and grounds, excuse me.

**Bridge Littleton:** Any questions.

**Danny Davis:** Chief. I'll turn it over to Chief.

**Darlene Kirk:** [off mic]

**AJ Panebianco:** I can go over the highlights or if you have specific questions, I can try and address those, but they may be in my highlights.

**Philip Miller:** I have one specific question. Other wages accounts for what?

**AJ Panebianco:** That accounts for our part time people and our Christmas in Middleburg people. [off mic] With the other wages we've up that to use our part time people as opposed to overtime to fill gaps. We're figuring at least 10 weeks of vacation between all the officers. That helps, and that will probably save us about \$7200 in overtime by doing that. The biggest thing that I kind of, I guess, is the increase in the equipment and supplies. It's a one-time increase. We're looking to add a trailer with cones and barricades, which makes it a lot easier to put the stuff out at Christmas and other events. Plus, we need more cones. So if there are other questions, I'd be happy to answer them. I've got a whole list myself. Manager Danny Town Manager Danny Davis and Mr. Daly sit down and hashed through this and kind of chipped it out as to where it is.

**Bridge Littleton:** Any questions for Chief? [off mic]

**AJ Panebianco:** We got two vehicles currently that are electric partially. And we believe just on an initial look at the the new ones, we're getting about probably 40 percent better gas mileage is that about the number.

**Danny Davis:** Could be a little more than that.

**AJ Panebianco:** It might even be better than that.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** So chief on that, I was going to look, I was looking at the increase in gas. I mean, we know increasing gas costs, but if you've got the electric.

**AJ Panebianco:** We have two, but we currently have kept the other vehicles in service to kind of keep the guys separate for COVID reasons just till we know exactly what's going on. So they're not sharing vehicles and sharing germs as much as possible. We also did another step where we wrote a grant to get some computers so that they can do their office work, which is not currently on [off mic]. So they can do them from the car.

**Danny Davis:** I will say picking a number for fuel for the police was a bit of a throw it against the wall. Yeah. I think it's a legitimate line item right now. It's good to see that we're saving gas with the hybrids, which is great. But we also know for the reasons chief stated that it still may go up year over year. [off mic]

**AJ Panebianco:** We tried that. Remember, we stopped [inaudible]

**Bridge Littleton:** It was quite blinding.

**AJ Panebianco:** It would have been. It would have been. Definitely. You'd have to wear your sunglasses at night.

**J. Kevin Daly:** [off mic]

**Bridge Littleton:** Hey, A.J., you never need reflective stripes anymore.

**AJ Panebianco:** Exactly. Exactly, exactly. They're almost bright yellow.

**Bridge Littleton:** So any other questions for A.J.? All right. Thank you. Yep, thanks. Next maintenance.

**Danny Davis:** Turn over the next two to Will.

**Bridge Littleton:** Signs in June.

**Will Moore:** Thank you. So I did review this with Danny. We don't necessarily have a designated Council representative over the maintenance function, so there was no council representative at the suggestion of the Strategic Finance Committee, and you'll see this throughout much of the budget and escalation of eight to 10 percent was built in for a number of just services and lines that deal with durable goods as well. So we have built in and escalation of eight percent for refuse disposal. Now there is a process that the contractor has to go through to request an escalation if it's above a three percent escalation, with the fuel cost rising like they are now. And that's one of the main justifications for increases in that service. We may see that request forthcoming, so we'll see how the contractors.

**Darlene Kirk:** [off mic]

**Will Moore:** It's generally the same truck, but they do trash first. They go and offload and they come back with the same trucks [inaudible]. So, yeah. Just scanning through, there aren't a lot of other tweaks other than the standard escalation that we've built in again at the suggestion of the Strategic Finance Committee, but happy to answer any questions that you have [inaudible].

**Bridge Littleton:** Any questions for Will?

**Darlene Kirk:** [off mic].

**Will Moore:** Ok, and then planning and zoning. I did meet with Council Member Jacobs and, of course, the town manager. The main thing I would highlight here we are finishing up. Excuse me, we did have a budget this current fiscal year for some services for consulting, particularly with the Berkeley Group, who was assisting us with a study which is completing this month on the R-2 district. We were while we're reducing the engineering and consulting line, we are still keeping it higher than maybe would be a typical year at 50 thousand because we do have to have some services provided at our own cost for inspections of the development of the Residences at Salamander. So a lot of these costs are built into the the initial construction plan application, which was filed in 2015, but that was an \$85000 application for that which the review fees were nowhere near that. So realizing some of those costs for a number of years later now. They are responsible for their own inspections. These are redundant inspections that we do for our own purposes. Otherwise, it's just the standard lines of we are happy that we have some interest from a couple of planning commissioners to do the Certified Planning Commissioner training. So while the \$5000 was not used this year or the training dollars in the past couple of years due to COVID, we do have both an in-person session and a virtual session of that training program available this coming year. There are some interest in. Otherwise happy to answer any questions you have.

**Bridge Littleton:** Any for Will? Right, thanks Will.

**Danny Davis:** Well, now we get to the really long one.

**Bridge Littleton:** All right. Let's everybody lean in.

**Ali MacIntyre:** So I guess some of the highlights would definitely be we did with guidance from council members. We did break down the allocation of the marketing, so we did add in a few different line items. And I don't know if you guys have the notes on the side, but I'm happy to explain that. Additionally, we did increase some of our event dollars due to the return of some events and the anticipated growth of those events. We do anticipate some of the revenue coming in to offset those costs, but we're not talking about the revenue right now. So any immediate questions?

**J. Kevin Daly:** Cost. We're coming up with a lot more events and those events could require more security. Or are we discussing with the police department additional officers that are going to have to be working overtime? And how where does that salary increase show up under economic development or in AJ's. Ok, A.J. answered it for you. I could read. Yeah, he was playing ventriloquists.

**Ali MacIntyre:** He and I are in communication of the schedule of events.

**Bridge Littleton:** But it's a good question. If you're scheduling an event, is he increasing his line item?

**AJ Panebianco:** We have some money built in for unforeseen events that are added. If it would exceed that, then we would probably let Danny be aware. But I will say that the communication between her position and us is at an all-time high.

**Philip Miller:** And I believe when we sat down and discussed it, we decided we wanted to keep those costs in AJ's budget rather than here so that we could accurately track them year over year, depending on what comes up more so than a specific event.

**AJ Panebianco:** And we built an event based on worst case scenario on a first event. And then if we see like Art in the Burg, we used to have more officers for the [off mic] because we've seen the event requires less, but we have to do it. So typically the first year is going to be a little higher than maybe some of the rest.

**J. Kevin Daly:** But a good point that Phil made. I think it's important to realize that these multiple events and they're going to be building up more as the years go on, that's going to be an increase in the budget. And anecdotally, someone came up to me look at the police department budget. It just went way high up. Why are they getting, you know, and this is part of it, and we need to show that connection. And it doesn't show up very well here that in order to [inaudible] what was at the Oktoberfest, someone gets overserved and ends up requiring an officer to drive them to Leesburg. That loses one officer on the spot here. You know, you don't send an Uber with someone who's being incarcerated.

**AJ Panebianco:** So we do we do line item budget every single event based on the hours that we know, like we even have Mille Miglia built into this budget. And based on the hours that we knew we were needed last year or last time.

**Darlene Kirk:** That's one thing I'll say that I found about your budget. It does have layers to it that we don't always see here, but we we know because of your past performance that they're there.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** I think I think Kevin's point is very good, actually. I think I almost think they could be a line item in the economic development for.

**AJ Panebianco:** There's a fair number of events that we get reimbursed for, but we have to show them as an expenditure. So if, say, there's a 5K event, it's for an individual and it's not the towns that individual pays the town that money, but we show it as an expenditure. So I think there's about \$8000 in our overtime that get reimbursed.

**Chris Bernard:** I think they're related, but policing is not an economic development activity, and I think you could extrapolate that down to like we had to plow the snow before an event. Does that count as economic. I mean, it needs to stay in policing.

**Danny Davis:** So potential compromise solution to that, which may be helpful. Just it's kind of after the fact reporting, but what we can do when we after Oktoberfest and we give you reporting of here's everything we spent. We budgeted thirty thousand, we spent twenty eight thousand. In addition to direct dollars spent, we could also show you the absorbed, absorbed cost right that we did not recover.

**Bridge Littleton:** Total town cost. Every budget line item that was hit by directed by that event, like Tim's, got to hire three extra guys to help clean up. That's going to be in your budget. Just total town cost for the event.

**Danny Davis:** So we can break it down by, you know, direct costs and then other costs just so you see what may go into police or what may go into maintenance. Correct.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** No, no. Just to belabor it a bit, because again, to a point, you know, I get some neighbors saying, Oh my God, the police budget is so high. Well, you know, we have the town cleanups, for example, the sustainability committee does, and we've got a committee budget we could transfer a bit into. I don't know how to do that, but.

**Chris Bernard:** So for argument's sake, what wouldn't you add a line to the police budget that says community events rather than try to put policing in the economic development?

**AJ Panebianco:** We have that already bit in.

**Chris Bernard:** It sounds kind of already does.

**AJ Panebianco:** We break it down by event.

**Philip Miller:** It's also why I asked the question what other wages incorporated. [off mic]

**Darlene Kirk:** What I was going to say is at one point on one of our many years ago budget, we did have an extra line or an extra category, I guess down here that just explained you might have an asterisk and it might say, you know, connect

it to this because of this. You know what the extra amounts were didn't get all upset about it or even, you know, do a breakdown or something, but.

**Bridge Littleton:** Well I mean, normally what you do is the person who's responsible for spending the money, the money is in their budget. Now he's supporting another activity, but he has to hire the. what you don't want to have to do is you have to come to Ali and say, Oh, Ali, I need you to transfer me from your budget to my budget so I can then go spend.

**J. Kevin Daly:** Well, I was talking about is that if you just hold it up, you need to understand where is this increase in salary coming from, you know, it's not just that we want to have really fat a bunch of officers standing around doing nothing. This is what they're doing, and this is why the salaries are going up. [off mic] Yeah, that's true.

**Bridge Littleton:** All the Donuts.

**J. Kevin Daly:** It ain't. It ain't cheap.

**Darlene Kirk:** [inaudible] is maybe do like an article or something to put in Middleburg Eccentric that says, you know, this is, you know, our Police isn't just, you know, salaries, it's about everything that goes in and explain that.

**J. Kevin Daly:** Yeah. Well, we got a great picture of Tim wearing a Santa Claus hat, wearing his uniform, ringing the bell in front of Safeway. I think that would be appropriate.

**Danny Davis:** I'd like to just highlight one thing if I can in the economic development budget. And that is and I believe I mentioned this previously, the community center intends to. They've essentially just kind of handed it off, and I'm not [inaudible].

**Darlene Kirk:** Do you know that the board is behind that?

**Bridge Littleton:** It's been decided. They're done, they're out.

**Danny Davis:** I have been assured by the president of the board that she has had that conversation with them. I did not want to get ahead of them and she assured me that it has been discussed. And so just so you know, we have we I mean, we already generally paid for most everything anyway, but we've upped our amount in that budgeted line item of town sponsored events a little bit for July 4th. We've also increased our event agency budget because they'll be the ones responsible for running the show and having the staff and making it happen. So just for full awareness. I've built that in if council has objections to us doing that, I'd like to know sooner rather than later. And I haven't heard any objections, but I just wanted.

**Philip Miller:** Just remember, that's not this upcoming.

**Danny Davis:** Correct. It's not 2022. It's calendar year 23, but we will start spending money in fiscal twenty three when it falls on July 4th. You end up paying like half of it in one fiscal year and a half in the next fiscal year, and it'll balance out.

**Bridge Littleton:** Ok, I have a quick question about events, so. And if you can or if Tina has got it off the top of her head or whatever, that's fine. So actuals for 2020 and actuals for 2021 are kind of useless because, well, 2020, maybe, you know, COVID didn't really hit until March, so most of the events were had happened that year. So my question is

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** In 19.

**Bridge Littleton:** Fiscal, Oh OK, we're looking at fiscal. It started in June, July of 19, and we really only had the April, May, June events that didn't happen, which are, you know, sidewalks a couple of things, but not the big stuff. All right. So my question is this, so if we take 2020 actuals and say it was ninety three thousand and that's sort of a normal year, so

let's just make it 110, OK for a couple of things. We missed those last three months because of COVID. It's 110 and we go forward three years. It's now two hundred and fifty. So we are more than doubling the budget on event support. Doubling. So. That's a lot. So hold on. So and I understand costs, you know, so get that, that's 20 percent of it. Ok, great. We're still 80, 90 percent, you know, increasing this budget. And you know, I just want to make sure I we really have deeply thought about all these events and what we're paying for and what we're getting out of them. And I don't think it's any well, you know, new events, I mean, you know, in that 2020, we had Oktoberfest and we had all the new stuff, right? We had Millie Miglia, we had. So I'm just I'm looking at that going. Yes, it's only 22 percent from what's actually more than 22 percent from adopted. It just it. It's throwing me a bit.

**Danny Davis:** So two major reasons that it's gone up that much. One is we moved the cultural and community grants and the VCA grant into this line item. It had been in a previous sub header, if you will, so that's forty nine thousand right there. The bottom two lines, so the community and cultural events grants are the ones through the competitive process and then the grant program, of course. So that's fifty thousand of the differential that you're referencing. And the other main costs is the event management firm, which we have budgeted at a round figure of \$75,000 for this upcoming year. And that's to run all the events which we never had before.

**Chris Bernard:** [off mic] volunteer and staff time.

**Danny Davis:** Absolutely. It's allowing us in ad hoc. I mean, basically, Philip and I with, you know, obviously a lot of support from staff, but it was hours of putting Millie Miglia together. Right, which we knew was not sustainable into the future. So between the 75 and the fifty, that's one hundred and twenty five, which basically makes up the delta now. I will flip that as well to say we hope and anticipate that we're more successful with our sponsorships for these programs, with our event management firm that will actually offset.

**Bridge Littleton:** Got it And that's all hopeful, but it's not guaranteed.

**Danny Davis:** So like Oktoberfest and we have a history of doing this and I do this myself. We'll budget what we think the net cost to the town will be. In an expenditure line, we really need to budget the gross cost and then we budget the revenue as a revenue, so part of the increase in the town events line. Yeah, it was a conscious decision with consultation with Philip and Chris was to say, OK, Oktoberfest, we kept saying was a \$20000 event, well it was a \$20000 net event. It was really a \$30000 event. So let's budget it at 30. Let's put 40 in for Millie Miglia. One suggestion from Chris that we've not put into the budget yet because we didn't want to just, hey, I want to get it right and B, I didn't want to mix things up too much was on each department page actually ad revenues associated to that department on the department page. So we keep the revenues on the revenue page, but we recreate it or copy it as well in the department page. So on the expenditure page, so you on economic development, we'd have six hundred and thirteen thousand dollars of expenditures. We'd have anticipated revenues of, say, thirty thousand dollars. So local tax funding is only five eighty three instead of 613 or whatever the numbers are correct. So the idea is that you actually can see that some of these things in Chiefs case, he gets reimbursed for \$5000 of overtime a year. Well we can show police here's your budget five thousand comes in as a allocated, if you will, revenue. His real local tax funding for that department is is less than the actual expenditures. So that makes sense because

**Philip Miller:** What we're trying to do is for everything that's offset by any of these events or activities we wanted. It was it was not transparent in previous budgets that we have revenue coming in from sponsorships that actually this 613 is a worst possible scenario, right? We pay the whole 613. We're hoping with revenue from sponsorships that we'd be getting 30, 40000 something could be more so we wanted to we wanted we were trying to find a way to reflect that that was more transparent than previous.

**Bridge Littleton:** But so it sounds like you're saying is you're going to reflect those revenues on the expenditure page?

**Danny Davis:** Yes. No, I'm still going to keep them.

**Bridge Littleton:** On the expenditure.

**Danny Davis:** Ok, so hold on.

**Bridge Littleton:** And then and if you put them on the revenue page as well, now it's displayed twice.

**Danny Davis:** It's more clarification for the public's point of view. So they understand.

**Bridge Littleton:** So it's in a notes section. Not on the spreadsheet.

**Danny Davis:** Yes. Or a separate box under the spreadsheet that clearly says.

**Bridge Littleton:** So you don't have this now?

**Danny Davis:** No, it's not here.

**Bridge Littleton:** Ok. Because because. Ok, got it. Yes. So because but you do actually have two things on here that are revenues, those two grants.

**Danny Davis:** Actually, it's so no. The grant, the grant program is \$4500, and we must match it with four thousand five hundred, so our expenditure is \$9000. The grant is shown on the revenue line as an inter-governmental.

**Bridge Littleton:** How about the comms community commercial events grant the 40,000?

**Danny Davis:** That's our dollars we give out to other people. [off mic]

**Chris Bernard:** [off mic] go through this with Danny we were starting to look at those numbers like you did and got like, wait a minute, what? How does this work out? And so being able to kind of annotate, Oh, this is balanced out by X amount of sponsorship or revenue dollars and gives it more context.

**Bridge Littleton:** All right, let me ask. Ok, so that OK, so that VC grant for 9000, the VC grant, what's our match?

**Danny Davis:** 4500. So we get 4500 in revenue from the state. That's a pass through and we must put in a matching four thousand five hundred. So the total so the total expenditure that we put out for VCA is nine thousand not to VCA, but through this program is nine thousand. That's our expenditure.

**Bridge Littleton:** And on the revenue side. We show forty five coming in.

**Danny Davis:** Exactly.

**Chris Bernard:** Yeah, because in the past they would have just said it's 4500 out.

**Bridge Littleton:** I get it. I think it's the right way to do it. It's much more. It's you've got to dig into the details, but the full picture is there. You're not left guessing.

**Philip Miller:** [off mic]

**Danny Davis:** And technically.

**Philip Miller:** [off mic]

**Bridge Littleton:** Well, actually technically it would be zero because we don't get the match. You don't do it, you don't do your match.

**Philip Miller:** No no, I'm saying for the overall budget.

**Bridge Littleton:** I get it. I get it. I get it. I get it. [off mic] Exactly.

**Danny Davis:** You say, offset by four thousand five hundred. Yeah. In the prior way, technically we council only appropriated four thousand five hundred dollars and I was spending nine. So I was spending money that was not actually appropriated if that makes sense.

**Bridge Littleton:** Yeah, that makes sense. Ok. Any other questions on this? [off mic]

**Danny Davis:** So I'm happy to or Ali is happy to answer any other questions.

**Speaker6:** Anything else? [off mic] Stop bringing up questions. [off mic] All right. Any other questions? All right. Next.

**Danny Davis:** That's all we have on operations. The CIP is town hall and one vehicle for the police department. I'm sorry. Yes, for the police department. Unfortunately, I heard chief you said there's no hybrid allocations at this time. You do. Oh, he he knows how to pull strings. Never mind.

**J. Kevin Daly:** He knows people.

**Bridge Littleton:** That's scary.

**AJ Panebianco:** Or I've been dealing with the same company for 33 years.

**Danny Davis:** I will note on the CIP page, we do show use of fund balance that is anticipated use. We had shown in a prior breakdown that we'd have additional financing, some additional potential use of cash if necessary. And so it's shown just as an outlay from reserves here. That's it.

**Bridge Littleton:** Do we want to mention the news from Congress?

**Danny Davis:** Oh, sure, happy to do that. So I was emailed earlier this morning from the legislative director of Congresswoman Wexton, who indicated that our request for the townhall project was in fact passed by the House last night in their latest appropriations bill. And I said, well, can you help me understand? Has it made it through the Senate? And his response was you can consider it a done deal.

**Bridge Littleton:** It's going to the Senate tomorrow. They have to pass it or else the government will shut down.

**Danny Davis:** So it sounds.

**Bridge Littleton:** Already a baked bill.

**Danny Davis:** So it's basically already been through. Now, as we've discussed with you, there are some nuances as it comes to the impact of federal funding on a project. And we are going to work through all that and we will work every angle possible. And he has also offered to help very, very much with us on this as we start working with the direct agency that will be distributing the funds to ensure that the impact of Davis-Bacon would not either jeopardize our funding at all or any impacts would be as minimal as possible.

**Bridge Littleton:** So I came by earlier when you were, I spoke to Rhonda. So back in the day, we used to have to deal with Davis-Bacon all the time. So there is a federal funding attorney that we always used, and at Denton, he is excellent on helping you navigate the requirements of Davis-Bacon and making sure that you can spend it on things that you can spend the money on things that do not bring the applicability of wage determination on. And so he could really, you know, I think just spending an hour with him on the phone could be really, really helpful.

**Danny Davis:** Great. Yeah, absolutely. I'd love to talk to him. Thank you. So that's great news. And if that does come in as just a reminder, I know we already had the discussion of the financing for town hall, but our existing \$8 million loan has provisions in there for a one time partial prepayment with no penalty whatsoever. Should we have any. And it was very broadly written, but any additional funds or surplus of funds come in so we could. If this happens, we could take some of that funding as well as our unassigned fund balance. And we could definitely pay off a great portion of our existing debt through that or use it to pay off the current debt if the new the new debt. Either way, as long.

**Bridge Littleton:** And we've got the 500000 from the county.

**Danny Davis:** That's yeah, that's really great news.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** Remind us what this amount is.

**Danny Davis:** Two million dollars. [inaudible]

**Bridge Littleton:** And so I already wrote and sent one today, but I don't think it is a bad idea. The town is a whole write, a thank you note.

**Danny Davis:** Absolutely. Rhonda is good at those.

**Bridge Littleton:** Wow. Talk about passing the buck.

**Danny Davis:** You said to delegate.

**Bridge Littleton:** Right? Yeah, exactly. Yeah. [multiple speakers] Wine, OK. Any question on capital CIP? Ok, I think we're done.

**Danny Davis:** That's it for now. So our next meeting is in two weeks, we'll be the public hearing on the real property tax rate. I will go ahead and just note for you that we did discuss that as well with the Strategic Finance Committee. I thought they asked a lot of questions about the budget, but then we talked about the the tax rate and they generally concurred. I mean, there was no formal, you know, vote per say, but they generally can concurred that the idea of taking the approach of somewhere in between our current rate and the equalized rate was a good approach and the discussion of looking at that equalized rate plus inflation. And at this point, I had been using seven and a half percent as an inflationary number. They all nodded and said, Yeah, that makes a lot of sense. I think that's at least a good approach to consider and take forward and in the deliberations.

**Bridge Littleton:** So that one quick thing I want to mention on that is I was speaking to somebody in Fauquier the other day and in the county government, and he brought something up that thought, you know, that is a really good point. So we have a lot of people in this town who are retired on fixed incomes. And the COLA for the fixed income and their retirement programs and Social Security and all that stuff is going up by like two percent, right? [off mic] Or is it five, for Social Security? [off mic] Well, like some of these people are retired firefighters and they're not necessarily getting, you know, more like I said, they're on fixed incomes. I mean, we have a average household income of fifty seven thousand dollars a year. I don't know if we can. I mean, I know we can't do the tax by, you know, one section of town versus the other, but. I would really be interested to know, and I'm really thinking of Ridgeview. You know, the average single family home there, what will be the, doing what we're planning on doing. What's the excuse me, annual increase to their tax bill? I know you had it in there before, and if it's like 50 bucks, OK, that's for the year. That's no big deal. But if it's a couple of hundred, you know, again, I can't. I was talking to some this person yesterday and and that's one of the things they're really wrestling with is, you know, equalizing versus equalizing or something above. And then it was there's a lot of retired folks on fixed income that aren't making a lot and their house is all paid for, but every dollar counts and it was like. oh that's a good point.

**Cindy Pearson:** Remember that some of those people that are on that fixed income can also apply to not pay those taxes at all. What's it called? [multiple speakers] because they are at that fixed income.

**Bridge Littleton:** Yeah, and some can and some can't, right? Some are just above. Like Windy Hill. You're just above it. You've got to leave. Right.

**Danny Davis:** So different program. If your net assets, I'm sorry if your net worth not including your house, but your net worth is less than \$500,000 or something like that, then you can be completely relieved of all your real estate taxes, both county and town. [off mic]

**Bridge Littleton:** And then we really need to think about getting that people make sure they're aware of that program. I'm the mayor. I never heard of it. I mean, I mean, I'm not because of [inaudible] but I was just not aware of it. No, but we should be aware of it. Yeah. So anyway,

**Danny Davis:** So and just.

**Bridge Littleton:** So it was a good question. I thought, wow, it's something to think about.

**Danny Davis:** Yeah, we had Cody do some take a snapshot of properties from across the town and just looking at his list, he did Ridgeview is kind of in the nine to 14 percent general increase range. For what it's worth. Yeah, which is not quite what some have experienced in a townhome. [off mic] So, you know, we can show some general, you know, what's the impact.

**Bridge Littleton:** What would be the average bill increase.

**Danny Davis:** Give me one second.

**Bridge Littleton:** Because again, if it's like we're talking 30 dollars, it's no big deal. I'm sorry. Let's move on. But if it's three or four hundred, that's real.

**Danny Davis:** I got too many. So. At the Equalize Plus inflation, so the the tax rate would be 14.29, the. Now this is average, but the average single family detached house would see a fifty three dollar increase annually. Ok, and that's with a 13 percent over 13 percent equalized change in values.

**Bridge Littleton:** I got it. Ok, I'm a little less worried than. Yeah, yeah. Ok. Anything else? And we had nothing on closed session, right? Correct. Anybody have any information items? Ok with. Yeah. [off mic] With that meeting adjourned.