



The Town of Fenwick Island

800 Coastal Highway, Fenwick Island, DE 19944-4409

302-539-3011 ~ 302-539-1305 fax

www.fenwickisland.delaware.gov

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

April 24, 2025

MINUTES

APPROVED

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

W. Rymer, S. Brennan and N. Magdeburger at Town Hall

J. Napolitano, S. Rubenstein, W. Hayden, B. Waide and L. Lear via Zoom

ALSO, IN ATTENDANCE (in person or via zoom):

D. Gary and E. Ellinger were in person.

Rymer called the meeting to order at 2:00pm and the Committee did the Pledge of Allegiance.

The committee then reviewed and approved the minutes from the March 10, 2025 meeting (vote was unanimous 8-0). Motion was made by N. Magdeburger and seconded by S. Brennan.

Rymer provided a quick update on the FY25 Forecast for the remainder of the year with the only significant change from the FY25 Forecast provided during the March 2025 meeting is a \$200,000 increase in the forecasted revenues from Building Permits (March 2025 permit revenues were approx. \$186,000).

Rymer then discussed the First Draft of the FY26 Budget ("FY26Budget"). Significant topics and items discussed include:

- Two items still open and awaiting additional information: final salaries (information included estimates but salaries to be finalized by town council) and capital spending for Resiliency Efforts (Infrastructure committee still researching options).
- FY26Budget revenues of \$2.64 million as compared to the FY25Budget of \$2.63 million and the FY25Forecast of \$2.98 million. FY26Budget revenues for building permits (\$350,000) are consistent with FY25Budget (\$325,000) as opposed to the FY25Forecast (\$700,000). Transfers from RTT funds to be \$300,000 which is the same as FY25Budget and FY25Forecast. No other significant items. FY26Budget RTT revenues projected at \$350,000 as compared to \$350,000 for the FY25Budget and \$573,000 in the FY25Forecast. FY26Budget RTT revenues are consistent with historical average and recognizes the potential softening of the real estate market.
- FY26Budget total expenses of \$2.87 million as compared to \$2.75 million for FY25Budget and \$2.73 million for FY25Forecast. Police Department expenses represent 39.3% of total town operating expenses. Payroll and benefits represent 73% of total town operating expenses. The increase in expenses from the FY25Budget is primarily driven by salaries for the police department which continue to face market pressures. These increases are partially offset by the savings from the town council decision to operate without a town manager. Salary increases also included for all admin and staff as well as a \$1 per hour increase for lifeguards to stay competitive with neighboring beach communities. FY26Budget includes the purchase of 3 office



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computers which was reflected in Admin Office Equipment maintenance (\$5,000) and annual license fee for new QuickBase software package.

- After taking into effect the impact of the \$300,000 RTT transfer, the FY26Budget reflects an operating loss (expenses exceed revenues) of \$185,131.
- FY26Budget Capital Expenditures are \$198,000 with Street Maintenance (\$82,000) and Police Vehicle (\$79,200) being the largest items. Resiliency Efforts request to come.
- FY26Budget Fund Rollforward schedule projects total “non-committed” reserves (General Ops, RTT and Dedicated Street Funds) to be \$2.585 million as of July 31, 2026 which represents 11.0 months of operating expenses. Town goals are to maintain at least six months of operating expenses in reserves. This forecast reflects \$1.17 million on excess of that six-month goal (\$236,000 per month or \$1.41 million for six months).

The committee discussed the decision to continue operate without a town manager with appreciation expressed for the significant cost-savings as a result of the council’s decision but also recognizing that future councils may decide to add that position back. Total annual cost savings exceed \$100,000 and experienced town managers could earn from \$125,000-\$150,000 in salary and benefits.

There were no other items of significance discussed related to the FY26Budget and the next draft will reflect final salaries, recommendation for Resiliency Funding and any other items needed to be adjusted.

The committee then discussed Hourly Parking rates charged during the summer. Current rate is \$3 per hour while most local beach communities are now charging \$4 or \$4.50 per hour. Rymer made a motion to increase the hourly parking rate to \$4 and motion was seconded by Magdeburger. Committee voted unanimously to change the hourly parking rate to \$4 (8-0).

There was no Public Participation.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by B. Waide and seconded by L. Lear to adjourn the meeting. The motion was passed unanimously (8-0) and the meeting was adjourned at 3:18pm.