

Mayor's Report – September 2022

With the end of September also comes the end of our busiest month of the year. We had six meetings as we continued our clean-up efforts in the Town Office as well as the tedious but important work of setting the millage and establishing the budget for next fiscal year. Last week the FY 2022-2023 budget was approved with an all funds budget of \$1,083,310. This is one of our highest budgets as it includes grant funds as well as approximately 175k in discretionary funds that may be utilized by the future commission for several purposes. Those funds may be used to fund infrastructure projects, to build up reserves for future infrastructure projects that are imminent, or to attempt to reconstitute the police department. The millage rate was passed at 9.4381, the lowest in almost ten years. Though the millage rate is lower, it will still be realized as an increase in your taxes as the commission passed a millage rate of 8.13% over the roll back rate. All in all, I feel that changes made this year partnered with a fiscally wise commission next year with guidance from our finance committee, the town will be in a healthy standing with a good future before her. Thank you, commissioners, finance committee members, and residents for your time, effort, and input throughout this process.

I am pleased to report that for the first time in quite a while, our office is fully staffed. Heather Roberts, our former accountant, has taken on the role of Town Clerk in a part time nature. She is quickly coming up to speed on the rhythms of the job and requirements of the office. Our Deputy Clerk and Office Assistant are continuing streamlining processes, updating office procedures, and preparing the office for the next fiscal year. Our Public Works Department has been clearing ditches, fixing equipment, and doing some much-needed organization in the work barn among other things. I truly am hopeful that this team will persevere and help strengthen Melbourne Village as a whole.

Currently contractors for AT&T are in Town running fiber optic cable underground. They are working in easement and should not be disturbing any homeowner's property. Following completion of the work, they will replace sod as needed. They anticipate being done with all work by the end of September.

This month has also been the first month of having our police services covered by Brevard County Sheriff's Office. I have received countless statements of support and appreciation for their presence in our Town. There have been many reports of increased patrol within our limits which is reassuring to all residents. I am thankful for their support and professionalism throughout the transition. I sincerely hope that it is a relationship that continues as what they offer far exceeds our financial abilities.

Lastly, I want to take a moment to thank our staff, contracted and permanent. With all the changes and stress that essentially starting over can bring, I am thankful for their fortitude. This process of growth and improvement takes time, and I find it important that we recognize their efforts and reflect on how far we have come. This isn't to say that we are done, as we are all aware that there more improvements to make, but that we should be slow to criticize and find fault. Let us move forward as a team and allow our staff the latitude to grow and bring their gifts to the table.

As always, thank you for the privilege to serve.

Tabitha Niemann, Mayor