



# **TOWN OF MELBOURNE VILLAGE**

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## **REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING**

### **MINUTES**

Tuesday July 23, 2024

6:30 PM

AHF Hall

- I. Call to Order: 6:32 PM
- II. Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Mayor Ditty.  
Roll Call: present were Commissioners Anderson, Calenda, Muzzone, Perrine, Yorio, Vice Mayor Foster and Mayor Ditty.
- III. Mayor's Report: (at table) Mayor read in full.
- IV. Additions/Deletions and Re-ordering: NONE
- V. Correspondence Appearances, Presentations:
  - (a) Richard Jones Email Correspondence – no further comment by Mr. Jones.
  - (b) Town Review Board Summary – Page 64 & 65 at table. Commissioner Calenda went over the TRB notes and explained how things will go from now, regarding the reviews for structures. She also went over the shed on Acacia and that the issue is that the overall building height is 24.5 feet, which is more than the maximum “as built” of 18 feet H.
  - (c) Rod Steifbold Certification of Appreciation – Mayor Ditty stated that the Town of Melbourne Village presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. Steifbold for his contribution to the town serving on BOA, lead on Responsible Growth Ordinance 2012-01 and his many years of service.
- VI. Public Forum (3-minute limit each)
  - (a) Paula Bailey read her statement, attachment to the minutes.
  - (b) Richard Jones read his statement, attachment to the minutes.
- VII. Department Reports
  - A) Public Safety – Sheriff's Department – Lt. Chris Castiello read in full.
  - B) Public Works– Jeff Conklin, Public Works read in full.
  - C) Code Enforcement – Camille Moore, Code Enforcement, Mayor Ditty read in full.
  - D) Administration/Treasurer's Report – Heather Roberts, Town Clerk read in full.
  - E) Building Department – Heather Roberts, Town Clerk (in Finance Packet) read in full.
  - F) ARPA Report – Heather Roberts, Town Clerk (in Finance Packet) read in full.

Heather Roberts, Town Clerk mentioned that 2 workshops were needed in regard to the 2024-25 budget. The workshops scheduled for August 5<sup>th</sup> and August 14<sup>th</sup>. Both workshops will take place at 6:30 PM at the Town hall.

### VIII. Consent Agenda

(All items appearing on the CONSENT AGENDA are listed as recommended actions and are considered to be routine and will be acted upon in one motion. SPECIFIC ITEMS may be removed for separate consideration, any Item so removed will be considered under new business).

- A) Opportunity for Audience input regarding Consent Agenda
- B) Opportunity for Commission to Remove Items from Consent Agenda
- C) Recommended Actions:
  - 1) Approval of Minutes: For Filing
    - (a) Regular Commission Meeting – May 28, 2024
    - (b) Regular Commission Meeting – June 25, 2024
    - (c) Finance Committee Meeting – June 18, 2024
    - (d) Town Review Board Meeting – June 8, 2024
    - (d) Code Enforcement Board Meeting – February 5, 2024
  - 2) Acceptance of Financial Statements – June 2024
  - 3) Approval of Reports: *FOR FILING ONLY*
    - (a) Department Reports: Public Safety, Public Works, Code Enforcement, Administration/Treasurer's Report, Building Department.
  - 4) Appointments & Resignations:
    - (a) Ray Bowin's resignation letter from Code Enforcement Board
    - (b) Town Review Board Applicants: tabled for further discussion with individuals on anticipated required board commitment.
  - 5) Proclamations/Resolution:
    - (a) Proclamation – Town Election 2024

Commissioner Perrine made a **MOTION** to accept the consent agenda as listed above.

Commissioner Calenda seconded the **MOTION**. All the commission were in favor. **MOTION** passed.

### IX. New Business:

#### X. Unfinished Business

- A) Proposed New Charter Ordinance 2024-01 Final reading: Mayor Ditty read the ordinance title in full.

Commissioner Calenda made a **MOTION** to accept the Proposed New Charter Ordinance 2024-01.

Vice Mayor Foster seconded the **MOTION**. All the commission were in favor. **MOTION** passed.

#### XI. Commission & Verbal Committee Reports:

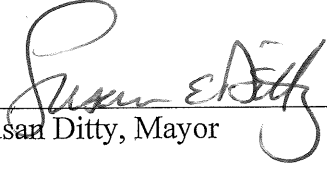
- A) SCLOC Dinner- July 8, 2024, Hosted by City of Indian Harbour Beach
- B) SCLOC Upcoming Dinner – August 12, 2024, Hosted by the City of Cocoa Beach

#### XII. Action Item Review: Mayor Ditty reviewed action items.

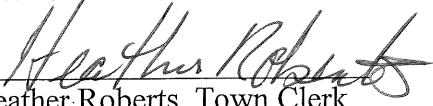
#### XIII. Approval for Payment: None

XIV. Adjournment: 8:31 PM

*If an individual decides to appeal any decision made by the Town Commission with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, a record and transcript of the proceedings will be required and the individual will need to ensure that a verbatim record and transcript of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based and will be acceptable in a court of law (FS286.0105). Such person must provide a method for recording and transcribing the proceedings verbatim as the Town does not provide such a record or transcript. In accordance with the Americans Disabilities Act and Section 286.26, Florida Statutes, persons needing special accommodations for this meeting shall, within a reasonable time prior to the meeting contact the Office of the Town Clerk (321) 723-8300.*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Ditty, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Heather Roberts, Town Clerk

Richard Jones, CPA  
566 Hammock Road

I want to emphasize the surpluses reflected in the June financial statements and the reasons why a **tax cut is appropriate**.

Last year ended with a **surplus of \$ 368,000** . This surplus equates to over \$ 1,000 for each of the 291 houses in the Village ( \$2 out of every \$ 3 tax dollars ). The June financial statements reflect an even larger surplus of \$ **406,000** and this surplus **does not** include the increase in the investment fund of another \$ 40,000.

Last week, the Finance Committee approved next year's budget with a **surplus of \$ 258,000** plus \$ 26,000 in the investment fund. This budget includes a **tax increase** totaling more than \$ **60,000** on a millage rate of **9.06**.

Taxes are calculated by a simple formula - **taxable value times the millage rate**. The mayor points out the current millage rate is the same as in 2012. Current year taxes total **\$ 588,000**. For 2012, taxes totaled only \$ 280,000. Taxes for 2020, taxes totaled \$ 461,000 on a millage rate of **9.87**. Taxes today are \$ 120,000 more than in 2020. These differences are a result of increasing in taxable values, **not** millage rates. Taxable values have increased roughly **50 %** since the 2020 budget.

I urge the Commission to recognize the **\$ 800,000 surplus** of the last two years, the **substantial increase tax base**, and the **\$ 200,000 saved** from disbanding the police department. The financial position of the Town is much, much different today than just a few years ago.

By example, a millage rate of just **7.0**, would result in a budgeted surplus of over **\$ 130,000**. By comparison, last year's budget reflected a surplus of only **\$ 47,000**. This millage rate may seem radical in historical terms, but actually reflects the impacts from an exploding tax base.

The rate could be reduced to as low as **5.0** to eliminate the budget surplus. Note, a rate this low would **not create a loss** either. There is a lot of room to debate between the proposed tax increase to 9.06 and a breakeven rate of 5.0.

It's time to "right-size" the millage rate. A millage rate of **7.0** would allow for a continuing "**buildup of reserves**" that recent mayors have said is needed . A rate of **7.0** would deliver a **tax cut** that is clearly **warranted**.

## TMV Town Clerk

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**From:** Paula Bailey <pkcbailey@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 26, 2024 5:48 AM  
**To:** TMV Town Clerk  
**Subject:** Statement

Good evening, members of the town commission. I'd like to address some concerns regarding our Town Review Board and propose solutions that I believe will strengthen our community's governance.

First, I want to express my gratitude to the three engineers who have volunteered their expertise to serve on our TRB. Their willingness to contribute is commendable and reflects the spirit of civic engagement we strive for in our town.

I am concerned that some residents join the TRB to push their own projects through.

While we're reviewing one candidate tonight, I'd like to bring attention to an opportunity we may be overlooking. We actually have two other qualified engineers who have volunteered their services. These individuals could serve as valuable alternates on the Town Review Board.

Having alternates available offers several benefits:

1. It ensures we have backup expertise when our primary engineer is unavailable due to work commitments or other obligations.
2. It allows for a diversity of perspectives and a broader range of engineering experience to inform our decision-making process.
3. It provides a built-in succession plan, ensuring continuity of expertise on the board.
4. It demonstrates to our community that we value and welcome their professional contributions.

I propose that we consider appointing these additional volunteers as alternate members. This could help prevent the integrity issues I mentioned earlier by ensuring we have a stable, committed board membership.

However, this leads me to a related concern about the current daytime scheduling of TRB meetings. This timing may unintentionally limit participation from qualified professionals who work during standard business hours.

This scheduling challenge doesn't just affect potential board members. It also makes it difficult for working residents to attend and provide input on projects that impact our community.

I respectfully suggest that we consider moving TRB meetings to evening hours. This change would allow for broader participation from both potential board members and residents, ensuring a more inclusive and diverse representation in our town's development process.

By holding meetings in the evening and creating a more flexible structure for the TRB with alternates, we can ensure that we always have engineering insight available, even when individual schedules conflict with meeting times. This setup would strengthen the board's capabilities, enhance the quality of our project reviews, and help prevent conflicts of interest.

I believe these changes would strengthen the integrity of our review process and demonstrate our commitment to transparent, accessible local governance. By tapping into a wider pool of expertise and encouraging more community engagement, we can lead to more thorough project reviews and better outcomes for our town.

Paula

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