**TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION**

March 23, 2016

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The work session of the Jamestown Town Council for review of the Capital Budget was called to order by President Trocki at 6:00 p.m. in the Rosamond A.Tefft Council Chambers of the Jamestown Town Hall at 93 Narragansett Avenue, Jamestown.

1. **ROLL CALL**

The following members were present:

Kristine S. Trocki, President

Mary E. Meagher, Vice-President

Blake E. Dickinson

Michael G. White

Thomas P. Tighe

Also present:

Andrew E. Nota, Town Administrator

Christine Collins, Finance Director

Cheryl Fernstrom, Town Clerk

Michael Gray, Public Works Director

Lisa Bryer, Town Planner

James Bryer, Fire Chief

Edward Mello, Police Chief

Andrew Wade, Parks & Recreation Director

Donna Fogarty, Library Director

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Town Administrator Nota explained the primary focus of a Capital Program is to provide a broad based community needs assessment. The second element is the development of an implementation schedule that addresses the community needs assessment priorities and the final action is to evaluate the Town’s financial ability to manage and finance the costs. The Capital Program identifies projects and equipment purchases and includes all facilities and infrastructure for the whole Town. The proposed budget is $1,388,500, and increase of $144,500 over last year.

Debt Service Requirements were reviewed. Total debt service proposed is $883,696, including Fire Station Improvements (2.2 Mill @ 25 yrs.) and Fire Truck ($300,000 @ 10 yrs.).

**Town Clerk:** These are recurring capitol projects. The proposed items are Clerk Records Management at $2,500 and Codification at $5,000.

**Tax Assessor:** Revaluation set aside is $10,000, with statistical revaluations for 2015 and 2018 and a full revaluation for 2021.

**Planning:** $10,000 was proposed for Planning and Development Documents and $75,000 for Affordable Housing.

**Technology:** Phase III of the Fiber Network (Water Towers) is $22,500 and the annual set aside is $34,500. Councilor Dickinson questioned how the Town has made the website more responsive to the needs of the community, because is seems to offer the same information that the old website did. Mr. Nota listed the expanded community information, the forms and all the other Department information on line. He also noted that user hits has remained flat and has not gone up as he had thought it would. Councilor Dickinson asked for a report and Mr. Nota will provide one to him.

**Police:** A total of $44,000 is proposed for the Police Protection. One cruiser needs to be replaced, and a voice recorder for $10,000 to be used for Communication Equipment is needed. Chief Mello explained that Crown Victoria cruisers were no longer being made and that the replacement was much smaller, exacerbated by all the electronic equipment. The utility type vehicles were bigger to accommodate all of the necessary equipment. Every car is in use all the time. Chief would like to see a cap of 120,000 miles, but currently cars are pushing 130,000.

**Fire Department and EMS:** $200,000 has been proposed for a new EMS rescue vehicle. Currently we have 3aging vehicles. Rescue #1 cannot handle the ALS equipment and Rescue #2 has problems with the ALS equipment staying charged during the run. Rescue #3 is the newest one and will become the secondary one if Rescue #2 is replaced. The newly purchased one will be used to make the runes to Providence.

**Public Works:** In December 2014 the data from the November 2011 inventory of the condition of the Town roads was updated. Of the 50 miles of Town roads, 59% are in good or excellent condition, 23% are in poor or failed condition and 18 % are in fair condition. The North Road project cost is for Phase II. Currently Phase I for drainage will begin in late Spring with Phase II slated for Spring/Summer 2017. Bay View Drive will be done this Spring. All the work has been done by our highway department saving the tax payers much money. Sidewalks are being done in increments. Councilor Dickinson asked about which sections were being done and expressed a desire for sidewalks from PAC to West Ferry to bring in more people to the town center. Mr. Gray said that they were concentrating on Howland Ave. to the Four Corners. We save the Town’s people a lot of tax money by fixing the sidewalks in increments and by using our own highway laborers. The spillway bridge for the proposed bike path was discusses. Councilor Dickinson questioned why the Town continued to push the bike path agenda when the use over the reservoir was in clear violation of the zoning laws. He continued to ask why we don’t address the zoning ordinance first and then go forth with the proposal. Mr. Gray said that this wasn’t a Town project but an ongoing Bike path committee project for the last 15 years. The issue should be address in a Town Council meeting. David Cain addressed the council with a figure of upwards of $500,000 to repair the dock at Ft. Getty. Phase one would be the structural at $150,000 and the remainder of the amount for phase two for the decking. Councilor Dickinson questioned whether a study should be done as to the use (recreational or commercial) so we could then determine the amount and type of work to be done. Mr. Cain was asked if the structural was an emergency. Since it was not, the Council requested that the Harbor Commission and the Council meet to discuss the issue. More discussion ensued. The Council agreed to look into a future meeting time. Mr. Nota said that there are also many grants to help pay for this project. The bathroom at the Fort Getty Pavilion will be finished soon. Building improvements will include a new gatehouse, small bathroom and office space then converting lower restroom to maintenance storage and in the future the main restroom. The total proposed budget amount is $760,000.

**Library:** Proposed funds are for the HVAC compressors, sidewalk repairs and cutouts for ADA compliance and lighting and energy improvements. Total funds are $70,000.

**Parks and recreation:** The proposed budget is $135,000. The improvements include Lawn Avenue fields, basketball court, public playground, public rights-of-way management, community center improvements, senior center improvements and lawn mowing equipment.

There were no more questions or discussion. President Trocki thanked everyone for their input and hard work in preparing this budget. The next budget hearing is March 24, 2016.

1. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss the work session was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Attest:

Karen Montoya, Deputy Town Clerk

Copies to: Town Council

Town Administrator

Town Solicitor

Finance Director