

# Battle Ground Town Council

Meeting Minutes, April 1, 2024

Attending: Council President James Miller, Councilors Matt Coppock, Steve Hahn, Mary Jo Totten. Also attending: Interim Marshal BJ Moyars, Clerk Treasurer Georgia Jones. Greg Jones was absent.

Guests: Joe Kline, Soo Shin, Bill Jones

James Miller called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The only topic for this work session is to examine police department requests for additional 2024 budget appropriations.

## **Police Department Budget**

Bill Jones presented a revenue overview document showing Battle Ground General Operating Fund and Public Safety revenue estimates for 2024 to 2027. A copy is attached to the minutes for reference.

He emphasized that capital expenses (including vehicles and equipment among others) could be paid from Cumulative Capital Development revenue funds or Rainy Day reserves, however department operating expenses are paid from the General Operating Fund (General Fund). (Typical operating expenses include personnel costs, education/training, office administration, computer repairs and software, supplies, fuel, attorney fees, insurance, utilities, facility updates, repairs and maintenance.)

The Council considered the impact that an increase in the current level of police expenditures would have on the town's other responsibilities. The General Fund revenue grows at a slow and controlled rate, historically 3-5% per year. Expense increases are limited to the estimated growth. With limited resources, allocating more to the police department means a decision as to what items will receive less. One item mentioned was the expense for trash collection, which could be charged in whole or in part to residents on their monthly utility bill instead of being paid solely through the General Fund.

Bill Jones introduced the concept of a debt rate, which is a way to raise revenue for large capital projects such as new buildings. The town would collect an additional property tax rate for a specific named purpose until the loan is fully paid. Then the rate is discontinued and no additional collection occurs. More information about the implementation process and requirements would be supplied upon request.

Officer Moyars submitted a spreadsheet of 2024 Budget Appropriation requests. A copy is attached to the minutes for reference. Major expenses are wages, training, and facility lease. Officer Moyars would like to see the department obtain or lease a larger police facility and also provide garage space for two vehicles.

There is hesitation within the council to lease space or allocate budget for renovations to improvements not owned by the town. The council is actively looking for land and resources to build a new town hall/ community center that would accommodate the police department, town clerk, utility office, and public meeting rooms.

Officer Moyars was asked if his department would use shared garage space in the barn at 107 Railroad Street until a new police facility is constructed. Could the police store the cruisers there and also allow for seasonal street department equipment and pipe storage for the sewer department. It was suggested that the current town hall could be modified to provide the types of facilities needed short term.

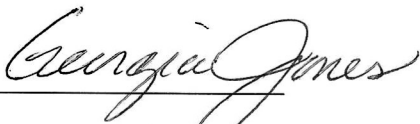
Matt Coppock offered a suggestion to define action items for a plan to move forward: What is the concept we desire for police and town hall facilities; what are the physical parameters that work for new work spaces for each department; where is there building space to accommodate the plan; what will it cost to build and how can the town raise the funds.

The police operating budget going forward must stay within the annual revenue amount \$219,000 outlined by Bill Jones. The town can use resources like Indiana Bond Bank for equipment capital expenditures to support the police department and tap other financing resources for larger capital building projects.

Officer Moyars asked the Council to provide specific expectations for the department. His desire is to meet board expectations as well as modern law enforcement expectations. One expectation is the increase in training budget. This would be included in the new Operating Budget, to supplement the smaller annual revenue contributed through the Local Law Enforcement Education fund.

Guest Joe Kline inquired about IC codes or documents outlining training requirements. Officer Moyars provided IC 5-2-1-9(g) as a reference for Indiana statute pertaining to training. He also recommended resources from CALEA or ILEAC. (These are the acronyms for the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies and the Indiana Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission).

**Motion to adjourn** 7:40 p.m. by Mary Jo Totten with second of Steve Hahn.



Georgia Jones, Clerk Treasurer



James Miller, Council President

Memorandum of Open-Door Law Compliance

4

Battle Ground Town Council

Date:

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Members Present

in Person:

James Miller, Steve Hahn, Mary Jo Totten, Matt Coppock

Also Present in Person:

Benjamin Moyars, Georgia Jones

Also Present virtually:

Guest Present in Person:


Bill Jones, Soo Shin

Guest Present virtually:

Joe Kline

Electronic Means of Communication Used For Members and Public: Zoom.us

Attest:



Georgia Jones, Clerk-Treasurer, Financial Clerk