

**MINUTES OF A TOWN COUNCIL-SPECIAL MEETING
TOWN OF LURAY, VIRGINIA
Thursday, February 21, 2013**

The Luray Town Council met in a special meeting on Thursday, February 21, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. in the Luray Town Council Chambers located at 45 East Main Street, Luray, Virginia at which time there were present the following:

Presiding: Mayor Barry Presgraves

Council Present: Ronald Vickers
Mary Menefee
Leroy Lancaster
Joey Sours
John Meaney

Also Present: Jerry Schiro, Interim Town Manager
Bryan Chrisman, Assistant Town Manager
Mary Broyles, Town Clerk/Treasurer
Danielle Babb, Deputy Clerk Treasurer
Jason Spitler, Town Attorney
Rodger Smith, Legal Counsel

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Barry Presgraves and everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

**Legal Matters, Section 2.2-3711.A.7 – Probable Litigation
Personnel, Section 2.2-3711.A.1 – Candidates for Employment-Town Manager**

Mayor Presgraves requested a motion to adjourn into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Section 2.2-3711.A.7 and Section 2.2-3711.A.1.

Motion: Councilman Sours motioned to recess the regular session and to convene in executive session; Councilwoman Menefee seconded the motion with the following members voting YEA: Council Members Vickers, Menefee, Lancaster, Sours, Meaney. **Approved 5-0**

Motion: Councilman Vickers motioned to adjourn the closed session and to reconvene in open session; Councilman Lancaster seconded the motion with the following members voting YEA: Council Members Vickers, Menefee, Lancaster, Sours, Meaney. **Approved 5-0**

Mayor Presgraves asked members of Council to certify that to the best of their knowledge only matters covered under Section 2.2-3711.A.7 and Section 2.2-3711.A.1 were heard, discussed, or considered during the closed session. **The roll was called with all members certifying “Yes”.**

Budget Status

Interim Town Manager, Jerry Schiro, provided preliminary budget projections for the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Budget. Mr. Schiro said this is only the first draft and will be modified as the budget process proceeds. Council discussed real estate revenues and the impact of a \$.02 increase to the real property tax rate. Council discussed prior rate increases/decreases over the years and also the affect of property reassessments. Council and Staff discussed departmental budgets and capital improvements. Council members discussed the budgeted figures for revenues for the current year and feel they were over-stated in many areas. Mr. Schiro advised that the town will also incur new expenses for airport operations in the upcoming budget. Mr. Schiro stated that he would like to include provisions for a water loss study in the proposed budget, due to the amount of water that is being produced versus the amount that is billed for. Mr. Schiro noted that the final budget document will be in a more user friendly format and will provide the graphics that Council is requesting. Councilman Sours inquired if there has been any consideration about the town's health insurance policy. He said that many businesses are reducing their policies. Mr. Schiro advised that while it is an expensive insurance; the town is part of a very large pool of municipalities for this coverage. He said that going outside of this pool would likely result in less coverage at higher rates. He said that there are several approaches to reduce the cost if this is something Council feels is necessary. Regarding budget deadlines, Mr. Schiro advised that the deadline to advertise for a public hearing on a tax rate increase is March 6th. This would allow for a public hearing at the work session on March 26th. Councilman Lancaster expressed concerns over contributions. Mr. Schiro said that he and Councilman Sours had also discussed this issue and members discussed the role of local government in assisting these organizations.

Adjourn

There being no further business, Mayor Presgraves adjourned the special meeting of the Town Council at approximately 7:49 pm.

Barry Presgraves
Mayor

Danielle P. Babb
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer