

**Town Commission**

**Tuesday • July 14, 2020 • 7:00pm •** *Via Virtual Conferencing*

**Minutes Regularly Scheduled Meeting**

1.Call to Order 7:00pm

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to Flag

3. Roll Call

*Commissioners Attending:*

* Joseph Aufmuth, Mayor Present
* Timothy Parker, Mayor Pro Tem Present
* Troy Blakely Present
* Mike Roberts Present
* Virginia Mance Present
* Debbie Gonano, Town Administrator Present
* Patty Polk, Deputy Town Clerk Present
* Andrea Parker, Town Attorney Present

4. Consent Agenda Approval

 A) Agenda Approval

B) Minutes of Regular & Canvassing Board Meetings of June 9, 2020, Social Media Workshop of June 16, 2020, & Large Retail Store Special Meeting of June 18, 2020

 C) Review and Acceptance of Financial Transactions and Reports

***Motion made and second (Parker/Mance) to approve the consent agenda; Passed 5-0***

5. Guests

 A) Richard Powell, Powell & Jones, CPA – Annual Audit Report

Mr. Powell presented the annual audit resulting in the highest level of assurance and a clean, unmodified opinion of the financial condition of the Town. There are two funds of the Town: General Fund and Enterprise Fund (water). General Fund total assets were $1,623,377, mostly comprised of cash investments and with liabilities of $10,682. The successful year produced total revenues in the General Fund of $792,299, total expenditures of $579,538; and an excess of revenues over expenditures of $212,761. The total of restricted and unrestricted fund balances of cash reserves are $1,612,695, which Mr. Powell summarized was a substantial reserve. The Enterprise Fund ended the year with total assets of $642,337, total liabilities of $39,567, and unrestricted net worth of $602,770, which Mr. Powell pronounced as very adequate. The Enterprise Fund had total revenues of $143,855 and total expenses of $132,757 producing an excess of $11,098. Net Capital assets in the General Fund were $1,104,126, which were roughly 53% used up and slightly older than comparable municipalities. Accumulated reserves will eventually be used to replace depreciated capital assets. It is commendable that the Town has no loans or bond issues and the only long-term liability of $16,383 is the total of employee accrued compensated absences, which are fully covered by reserves. The year was financially very successful with both the General Fund and Enterprise Fund ending stronger than at the beginning of the year. The audit report procedure examining internal control for compliance with laws, regulations, and policies of the Town Commission; the Management Letter; and the Independent Accountant’s Report, each reported no findings. There were no questions from the Commission or citizens regarding the annual audit report.

6. Citizen’s Forum – Public Comment (Use Zoom meeting login or email townhall@micanopytown.com in advance of meeting)

A) Bud DesForges *(554 NW Seminary Avenue)* wanted to know when the Clean Up Day would be rescheduled, and staff will research COVID-19 restrictions and waste partners’ availabilities.

B) Steven Eisenman *(105 NE Bay Avenue)* mentioned food insecurities and the business climate in Town and hoped that the Commission would address these matters soon. Additionally, he had participated in the Willie Mae Stokes Community Center’s Prayer Walk on July 11th and found it inspiring, and he suggested commemorating the triumphs and tragedies of black life in Micanopy.

C) Stoney Slaton *(104 NE Seminary Avenue)* appreciated email notification and was interested in the Clean Up Day.

D) Lorraine Moore *(153 NW Seminary Avenue)* appreciated email notification.

E) Sandy Tyson *(252 NW Seminary Avenue)* was interested in the Clean Up Day.

F) Deborah Kennedy *(251 NW Seminary Avenue)* wanted to know about the LED lights and was answered that the issue had been placed on the Planning & Historic Preservation Board’s agenda for July 28th. Miss Kennedy asked for the meeting to also be *Zoom* accessible. Additionally, Miss Kennedy asked about the chloramine installation schedule, and Town Administrator answered that the project is awaiting DEP approval.

G) Holly Morris *(712 NE Cholokka Blvd.)* complained about the background noise on *Zoom* from telephone callers breathing into their receivers.

H) Carolyn Wallace *(Micanopy Librarian)* reminded patrons that the library is holding curbside service Mondays - Saturdays from 9:30am-5pm.

I) Grace Fuller *(751 NW Seminary Avenue)* who is a P&HPB member questioned why a large container is located in the yard at the house at 202 Tahota Street and Town Administrator Gonano answered that the P&HPB *(May 2019)* approved a variance for an accessory building with the condition that the owner remove all existing structures in the front yard within six months of receiving a final permit inspection.

7. Town Attorney Report

 A) Attorney Parker reported that, despite the Town’s efforts encouraging Governor DeSantis to sign SB410, the governor had vetoed the bill which promoted municipal home rule powers and opposed the County’s ability to control future land use for annexed property.

B) George F. Young’s Micanopy Fire Station Proposal

Jacob Nussel, Project Engineer from George F. Young, Inc. presented a proposal for renovation of the Micanopy Fire Station. Attorney Parker had reviewed and approved the contract. Town Administrator Gonano had been working with Mr. Nussel to clarify proposal details. The engineer’s fee for professional services is $58,700, and the $300,000 opinion of probable cost would add 256 square feet and renovate the existing area, not including a new septic system or temporary living space for fire department personnel while work is being completed, which Mr. Nussel said hadn’t been discussed.

Mayor Pro Tem Parker had questions about the septic system, and Commissioner Mance had some additional information about that issue.

Commissioner Mance was concerned about the current Florida minimum wage initiative whereby the current Florida minimum wage of $8.25/hour would increase to $10 *(on 9/30/2021 and by $1/hour each year until reaching $15/hour by 2026)*. Additionally, Mance reminded the Commission about new ISO requirements a few years ago and their impact on the Town’s plan for the fire station.

Commenting to Jacob Nussel, Mayor Aufmuth wanted the fire station renovation proposal to be all inclusive concerning costs, and he did not feel that the Commission had been fully informed of all details of the project. He was disappointed that the engineer had expected the Commission to get proposals for temporary living quarters and other aspects of the project.

Commissioner Roberts did not feel that it was prudent to spend $300,000 until we know the outcome of the minimum wage initiative.

Mayor Pro Tem Parker reminded Jacob Nussel that in February, Matt Walker, from GF Young, had offered to investigate possible grant funding sources for the fire station renovation project. He would like some grant funding opportunities sent to the Town Administrator, and he felt that improvements to the building would increase its value.

Bud DesForges agreed that it would be best to table the discussion until the outcome of the initiative is known.

Steven Eisenman questioned the future of the fire station, and Mayor Aufmuth explained that the increase in minimum wage would put the future of the fire station in jeopardy because of the projected increased wage costs, and therefore a related increase in the Town’s millage rate. It could be that the Town gives up the fire department and contracts with Alachua County for fire services, who would increase the millage rates to accommodate the extra costs.

***Motion made and second (Roberts/Blakely) to table the discussion; Passed 4-1 (Parker opposed)***

8. Town Administrator Report

 A) Preliminary Annual Budget

 1) Vote on Rollback Rate 5.5260

 2) Tentative Millage/Budget Public Hearing September 14, 2020

 3) Final Millage/Budget Public Hearing September 28, 2020

Town Administrator Gonano presented a current and four year comparative budget for fiscal year 2020-2021. The proposed budget produced an excess of $114,767. Some notable highlights of the FY 2021 budget are acceptance of the 5.5260 mills rollback rate (which produces the same property tax revenue as the previous year), an increase of the Alachua County Fire ILA by $18,165, continued 10% reduction of fuel tax revenue *(as a result of Alachua County’s 2018 ILA)*, completion of the new well with over $500,000 from a combination of CDBG grants and Town funds, completion of ballpark improvements with Wild Spaces/Public Places (WSPP) funds, and fire house playground park improvements with FRDAP grant funds supplemented by WSPP funds.

***Motion made (Mance) to consider an increase in the millage rate***

There was confusion about the motion, and Commissioner Roberts thought that he was seconding a motion to accept the rollback rate, not an increase. The motion and second were both withdrawn. Commissioner Mance wanted to know if the possible increase in fire department wages would be covered by the current budget. Since the wage increase is phased in over time, the budget would handle any immediate increase, allowing plenty of time to accommodate increases in future years. Mayor Pro Tem Parker thought that people needed to pay more to live here and was in favor of raising the rate in order to retain sufficient reserves. Commissioners Roberts and Blakely wanted to accept the rollback rate. The Commission allowed for citizen comments (DesForges, Eisenman, Fuller) who all questioned and supported acceptance of the rollback rate.

***Motion made and second (Mance/Roberts) to accept the rollback rate of 5.5260; Passed 4-1 (Parker opposed)***

B) Clean Up Day

Staff will reschedule Clean Up Day when COVID-19 restrictions permit such a gathering. Meanwhile Mayor Aufmuth suggested contacting Town Hall for a special pickup, if a resident feels it necessary to do so.

9. New Business

10. Unfinished Business

A) Status Demolition and Construction of Basketball Court at Firehouse Playground

Town Administrator Gonano related that the performance bond had been received from Sport Surfaces, the basketball court contractor, and that the project is being scheduled.

B) Town Meeting Notice Policy Update

Town Administrator Gonano related that pursuant to the Social Media Workshop, email notification had been sent to email recipients. Mayor Aufmuth announced that additional modifications had been made to the website. For future emergency situations, Town Hall is updating water contact information *(and residents are encouraged to update their phone numbers, email, and mailing address information)*.

11. Town Commissioner Reports

* Commissioner (Seat 2) Tim Parker – Commented about various area municipal projects being completed. Sorry that he wasn’t able to participate in the Prayer Walk this past Saturday. The election in November has a lot of people scared. The State is growing by 1,000 people/day, and we need to look at long-range plans for the Town.
* Commissioner (Seat 3) Ginny Mance – Was appreciative of the glowing annual audit report from the CPAs and establishment of the rollback rate. It’s good to hear from Mr. Powell that no financial problems were found, and she was appreciative that the money was managed well by the Commissioners who were making those decisions in 2019. Commissioner Mance complimented the color choices chosen for the ballpark by the Town Administrator and the top-notch work being completed by Public Works. Commissioner Mance commented that she is in the beginning stages of planning parent-organized sports for the ballpark. Thank you to Chris Stokes for the Prayer Walk in response to the current conditions in the Nation.
* Commissioner (Seat 4) Troy Blakely – Was looking forward to physical meetings again. He was pleased to hear the budget report and was confident that the Commission would financially protect the Town with the upcoming budget.
* Commissioner (Seat 5) Mike Roberts – Agreed with Commissioner Mance that the ballpark is looking good and wanted to thank Town Administrator Gonano, Clay Sanders, and David Holton.

12. Mayor (Seat 1) Aufmuth Report - Mayor Aufmuth questioned where else do four staff members serve 615 citizens and operate with such low administrative overhead costs? He summarized that Town staff is the “best of the best.” The Mayor had spoken with Bishop Stokes about community unity. Bishop Stokes had some ideas for community participation; and he recommended that interested citizens contact Bishop Stokes with ideas. The Mayor had participated in the Prayer Walk and related that Bishop Stokes wanted to make the Walk an annual event. Micanopy will be missing the Fall Harvest Festival this year. The Mayor’s friends in the medical community report that the coronavirus is bad and that you wouldn’t want to catch it. Stay healthy.

13. Adjourn 8:28pm

**MINUTES APPROVED:**

**As submitted \_\_\_\_\_\_ as amended \_\_\_\_\_ at Town Commission Meeting \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Joseph L. Aufmuth, Mayor Debbie Gonano, Town Administrator/Clerk**