

**PUBLIC HEARING  
MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016  
7:00 p.m.**

The Stevensville Town Council came together for a public hearing at Town Council Chambers for the purpose of hearing public comments on the Preliminary FY16/17 Budget for the Town of Stevensville.

Mayor Crews called the hearing to order at 7:00 pm. Present were Councilmember's Barker, Holcomb, Freeman, and Michalson. Also present were several members of the public. (See Sign-in Sheet)

Mayor Crews reviewed the Preliminary Revenue and Expenditure Budget.

Mayor Crews then read a letter from Janice Lee, Volunteer Coordinator for Ravalli County Recycling, submitting signed petitions to continue the recycling service in Stevensville. Mayor informed the public there were 63 total signatures, only 23 of which were Town residents. Mayor also read an email from John Schwarz, Treasurer of the Ravalli County Recycling Center, proposing to keep the current contract with the Town continuing yardage fees or to terminate the contract. Mayor then gave a summary of the history of the recycling costs and discussions with Ravalli County Recycling to terminate the contract due to the venture not being cost effective for the Town or Ravalli County Recycling. Mayor informed the public that the recycling costs are still in the budget as Council was waiting for this information from RC Recycling prior to making a decision and due to this being a matter of significant interest to the public Council was going to hold a public hearing to hear from the Town residents.

The hearing was then opened for public comments on the FY16/17 Budget.

**Public Comments**

Bill Perrin, Charlos Street, inquired about the general fund beginning balance, cash reserves, revenues and expenditures, and ending cash balance. He then recommended moving the excess cash reserves (approximately \$67,000) into the Capital Improvement Fund leaving the 25% of appropriations (\$150,000) in the cash reserves recommended by the State. There was further discussion held on transferring excess reserves into the Capital Improvements Fund.

Nancy Lowell commented in favor of keeping the excess in the cash reserves versus transferring them into the Capital Improvement Fund. She also commented on the imbalances with the Court and Airport funds with expenditures being more than the revenues.

Bill Perrin commented on the projected Capital Improvement expenditures being \$166,754 with a total of fund balance being approximately \$220,000 total funds, leaving

the fund approximately spent down 75% with no funds coming in. He commented on the importance of seriously looking at funding the Capital Improvement Fund. Mayor responded the Council would take this under advisement.

Jeff Motley commented on leaving the excess cash reserves in the general fund and transferring them into the Capital Improvement fund at a later date if determined the cash reserves remaining will be adequate.

Discussion ensued regarding the Capital Improvement fund and the excess cash reserves.

Bill Perrin commented on moving the Intergovernmental Transfer for the Fire Relief Fund into the Fire Department Budget. Discussion was held whether state statute would allow this.

Bill Perrin commented on the Airport Fund, project grants and loan, tax and TEDD revenues, history of the airport including funding and historical controversy over the airport funding and taxation.

Mayor Crews commented on the Airport needing approximately \$73,000 additional funds for the project and Airport Board looking at raising their rates and fees, a special assessment at the Airport, and loan to cover the additional funds needed. Mayor also referred to the Airport Fund Ordinance Section 3-35.

Nancy Lowell commented on the documentation filed with Ravalli County regarding the Town of Stevensville not contributing any money to the Airport and this filing superseding any Resolution or Ordinance passed on the issue. She also commented on the Airport always being self-sufficient, but the Town may be in trouble now.

Discussion ensued with regard to the Airport fund and ways to mitigate the issue including contacting RCEDA Director Julie Foster regarding possible grants.

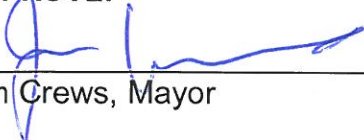
Jeff Motley commented on the budget being out of balance as presented tonight. Finance Officer April VanTassel responded stating the budget is balanced with the exception of the Airport Fund.

There was no further public comment

**Councilmember Holcomb made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Freeman seconded the motion and all voted "aye". Motion carried 4-0.**

The hearing adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

**APPROVE:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Crews, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stacy Bartlett, Town Clerk