

Here is my public comment on the 2026 Budget Please determine the best action to make the Commission aware and make it part of minutes.

Pg 4 or 7 Workforce

Town Hall:

Q. Salary expense is \$63,220. Higher for 2026 over 2025. Is that due to new clerk position? What is the salary of that position?

Building Dept.:

Q. If you add in code enforcement officer back to compare numbers to 2025 there is an increase of \$14,747. Is that due to losing our Building Official and higher costs now associated with that position?

Half of the Code enforcement expense were paid by Bldg. Dept. enterprise status for expenses. Now code enforcement is costing tax payers \$41,600. Plus, benefits and expenses.

Pg 5 General Fund Legislative:

Line item 510.40.00 now has 2 new expenses for National League of Mayors Annual Fee \$2,257.00 and \$725.00

This expense has never been requested in the budget as a tax payer expense. The mayor should pay this if she has not planned too already. The tax payers are not benefiting from this expense.

Line item 510.49.50 Election Expense increased \$10,00. for charter review

Summary: Town Melbourne Beach work force has lost a police officer for a Dept. \$70,000. Decrease. Then Executive Dept added a clerk. Now that department has a salary increase of \$63,220. Plus, benefits. No savings to the tax payers.

Short Term Rentals it seems are costing tax payers about \$54,000. plus benefits after fee revenues are deducted from expenses to monitor for unlicensed activity. Is that what the majority wants their money spent on?

Revenue: Fees \$23,600. Only cases in our favor pay legal fees back the Town. No estimate on revenue.

Expense Total: \$78,140. (Salary \$41,600 plus benefits a \$35,000. Increase from 2023. Legal Services \$23,040. Deckard software \$13,500.)

Legal costs: 2024 to 2026 \$30,000. Increase 2025-2026 \$21,200. Increase.

Fire Control:

This a big increase but the Fire Chief has been educating us on the reasons why we are looking at the increases. The Fire Department has been a major part of our community with all kinds of events that bring the community together to celebrate. Our Santa stops on Christmas eve bring people from all over to the Santa experience for their children after dropping off a gift day's in advance. The residents need to decide if they do or do not want our own fire department and the expense that goes along with it. This I believe should be a mailed survey and or ballot vote. Not just an attendance of who shouts the loudest.

Sherri Quarrie

701 Pine St

Melbourne Beach FL 32951

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