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**Stanley Town Council  
Budget Work Session  
Official Minutes  
Monday, May 21, 2018**

The Stanley Town Council held a budget work session on Monday, May 21, 2018 at Stanley Middle School, following the regular meeting. The following elected officials and staff were present:

Steven Denton, Mayor  
Cathy Kirkland, Council Member  
Rob McMinn, Council Member  
Kerry Hart, Council Member  
Bud Pate, Council Member  
Danny Sparrow, Mayor Pro-Tem

Heath Jenkins, Town Manager  
Catherine Greder, Town Clerk  
Olivia Smith, Finance Director  
Derek Summey, Police Chief

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Budget work session three included the Recreation and General Government budgets.

Mayor Denton welcomed Chief Summey to answer some questions regarding the proposed SRO positions.

Mayor Denton asked if there were any questions.

Cathy Kirkland asked when new cars would need to be purchased for the existing officers. Chief Summey said that next year there would probably be a need for two cars next year. Cathy Kirkland asked if he could give the older vehicles to the SROs. Chief Summey stated that they would give the older cars to the SROs to drive. Bud Pate asked why the SRO needs a car. Chief Summey stated that part of the deterrent is to see the car at the school but that the officers would also need a car during the summer. He stated they would also need it for travel back and forth to the school. Manager Jenkins stated that the SRO would also do the traffic control and would need the vehicle for this. Chief Summey stated that Stanley PD does traffic control at Springfield as a courtesy.

Mayor Denton stated that he has heard question from the Council whether we allow the County to place two of their officers into the school or if we hire two Stanley officers to be in

the two unstaffed schools. Chief Summey explained the need is in communication, as well as accountability. He explained that the County officers would be working an off-duty position and there is no supervisor coming to the school to ensure that they are fulfilling their responsibilities. Chief Summey stated that we would not be guaranteed that the County would station one person at each school, they would likely continue this in an off-duty capacity. Council Member Hart stated that she spoke with the Principal at Stanley Middle and the same County Officer typically works all but a few days per month. Council Member Hart asked if that Officer would be out of a job if Stanley took the schools over. Chief Summey stated that he was unsure of what he would do but there are other schools that will need coverage in the County. Council Member Hart asked if the officers would be hired before the new school year. Chief Summey stated that he would try his best but could not promise that.

Council Member Pate asked about all of the additional entrances at the school, stating that one officer could not cover all of the entrances. Chief Summey stated that the Governor's Crime Commission is looking for funding to make schools safer. Council Member Pate asked if the teachers would have the phone number of the Officer at the school. Chief Summey explained that this would not necessarily be the best method, but Stanley Middle has a state-of-the-art with intercoms. Council Member McMinn stated that Stanley Middle is unique because it has only one access unless someone lets someone in another entrance. Council Member Hart stated that the other schools additional access points are supposed to be locked too. Chief Summey stated that they work to keep schools secure, noting that Kiser has security issues and this was part of pushing the School System to get a new fence.

Mayor Denton asked Chief Summey to share his meeting with Superintendent Booker. Chief Summey stated that he met with Superintendent Booker just after the budget workshop. He stated that he shared the direction of the Council at that time and Superintendent Booker shared that they prefer to have municipal officers in the schools.

Council Member Kirkland asked what the SRO's would be doing during the day. Chief Summey explained that having a routine is not what is taught because that provides less security. Council Member McMinn asked if the Commissioners had approved funding for the next school year. Chief Summey explained that they are waiting on the legislature to approve funding. Manager Jenkins explained that we have seen school shootings far more frequently.

Mayor Denton asked if there were any further questions for Chief Summey. There were none.

Mayor Denton excused Chief Summey who then left the work session.

Mayor Denton asked if each Council Member would please share their current thoughts on whom they would like to see as an SRO in the schools.

Council Member Pate stated he would like a Stanley Officer in the schools.

Council Member Kirkland stated she would like a Stanley Officer in the schools.

Council Member Hart stated she would like a Stanley Officer in the schools. Council Member McMinn stated he would like one Stanley Officer and one County Officer. Council Member Sparrow stated he would like to see County officers in the school. He explained that there had been no prior discussion on needing additional officers and long-term he would like to see Stanley Officers, but not at this time.

Mayor Denton addressed Recreation Director Tug Deason regarding his budget. Mayor Denton stated the budget was straightforward. Mr. Deason stated that the salary figures are calculated by the administration team. He stated that his overtime, part-time, etc. are the same and salaries, fica, 401k, insurance, and retirement are all based on rates provided to us. Mr. Deason explained that he estimated for the proposed utility rate increase to cover any additional charges for electric, etc.

Council Member Kirkland asked if the Town is still paying for lighting at Kiser field. Mr. Deason stated that we are still paying for them. He stated that he is happy to pass that expense on to the Optimist Club if that is how the Council directs him. Manager Jenkins explained that he is looking to work with an LED company to assess potential savings for the Town. The representative will be presenting at the July meeting. Mr. Deason explained that the Kiser Gym is already in the optimist club's name. Mr. Deason explained that August through November is the optimist club's use. Mr. Deason estimated that during this time the bill is approximately \$300-400 a month. Council Member Sparrow asked how much of the \$27,000 line-item does Mr. Deason believe to be the optimist club's use. He stated \$1200-1500 a year. Mr. Deason asked what the Council would like to be done. The general direction was to look into it. Mr. Deason asked Council Member McMinn what he would like to see happen. Council Member McMinn stated that he would like to get advice from Mr. Windham. Manager Jenkins stated that he would be sure to ask Mr. Windham. Council Member McMinn stated that he did not believe paying for the lights for the optimist club would not be for public good.

Manager Jenkins recommended billing the utilities to the optimist for the electricity use that they are responsible for.

Mr. Deason explained that many of his line items remained the same or were reduced.

Council asked Mr. Deason about his vehicle. He stated that it is a 2007 and it drives well. Mr. Deason stated that the vehicle was leaking water and he has seen improvement after using a sealant from O'Reilly's. Council asked how many miles were on the vehicle. Mr. Deason said 168,000. Council Member McMinn stated that the other Recreation vehicle has over 200,000 miles. He asked Mr. Deason what he drives out of town. Mr. Deason said he drives his own vehicle. Mr. Deason said that he would like to go as long as he can without asking the Council for a new vehicle. Council Member McMinn shared concern over Mr. Deason having to drive his personal vehicle. Manager Jenkins explained that other employees drive their personal vehicle and turn in mileage.

Mr. Deason explained that franchise and entry fees are usually between \$750-1000.

Mr. Deason explained that the community building is in need of many repairs. He stated that there have recently been some plumbing problems. He stated that there are also some other issues that will eventually need to be addressed.

Manager Jenkins and Finance Director Olivia Smith covered the General Government budget. Council Member McMinn asked about the cost of the audit. Manager Jenkins explained that the staff was equally surprised by the cost. He explained that the previous audit firm did far more of the reporting and reconciling than the new firm will do. He stated that the way that the new firm conducts the audit is more of the standard. Council Member Sparrow asked about shopping cost for another firm. Manager Jenkins explained that starting over puts an unbelievable amount of work on the staff and may not be cost effective to switch again. Manager Jenkins explained that the company is very reputable and that with the lack of notice that Collis & Associates provided, there was no time to shop firms, we had to go with whomever was available.

Council asked about retirement and 401k expenses. Catherine Greder explained that through the trainings she has attended, she has uncovered that there are employees that qualify for benefits that were not receiving them. The budget includes figures to meet the state requirements. She explained that the 1,000 rule helps sustain the retirement system. Manager Jenkins explained that without the additional part-time staff member, full-time staff would not have lunch breaks, etc. Council Member McMinn questioned the 401k. Catherine Greder explained that Prudential also has a requirement that says LGERS eligible members must receive 401k. Council Member McMinn stated that we could switch plans. Manager Jenkins explained that was incorrect, we could not switch plans. Prudential is the state plan.

Manager Jenkins explained that Chief Keller is eligible under the 1,000 rule and that he works significantly more than 1,000 hours and it would not be feasible to cut his hours back because his hourly rate would be extremely high. Deputy Chief Hullett works 1,040 hours and the Council could provide direction on changing his hours or paying the benefits. The amount budgeted covers both employees for LGERS and 401k.

Olivia Smith explained the contracted services and what items and services are covered under payment in the line item.

Council discussed contribution to the Museum. Council Member Hart asked about Mount Holly's museum. Manager Jenkins explained that is part of the City's historical society and therefore part of the City. Council discussed a blanket policy of not providing funding to 501 (c)(3) organizations. Council decided not to provide any funding to the museum.

Manager Jenkins informed the Council that there are two potential residential developers interested in building in Stanley. This would help the tax base and provide additional revenue for projects and funding other requests.

Manager Jenkins asked for direction on the Fire Department budget. Council Member Kirkland stated that they have the total number of hours being paid now that they could staff one person at a time, for the entire day. Council Member McMinn stated that he reviewed notes from last year that the Council asked the Fire Department to move staffing from day to night. Council Member McMinn asked what would happen if the Town turned the Fire Department over to the County. Manager Jenkins stated that he is not sure how the County would handle turning over the department.

Council Member Kirkland asked about the Fire Department's vehicle request. Manager Jenkins stated that the Fire Department has received old police vehicles in the past.

Council Member McMinn stated that the Town is losing \$40,000 in taxes on the DSM building.

Manager Jenkins stated that he has seen the Council be supportive of the Fire Department and gave credit to Chief Keller for how far the department has come under his direction.

Council Member McMinn stated that there should be a model in the state that shows what the needs are per the number of houses in the jurisdiction.

Manager Jenkins stated that he plans to look at other communities to come up with recommendations.

Council Member McMinn stated that as people are becoming more educated and savvy, there are certain things that they expect that we do not have, yet we have the highest tax rate in the County.

Manager Jenkins and Olivia Smith asked for final direction on the budget, what cuts the Council would like to make and any items they would like to add.

Mayor Denton stated that he supports purchasing a vehicle for the Fire Department. Council Member Pate voted for no vehicle. Mayor Denton stated that the crown vic that they have is extremely old, beat up and disgusting. Council Member McMinn asked about using lights and sirens. Manager Jenkins explained that this was correct, a Chief or Deputy Chief can run lights and sirens and travel above speed. Council Member Hart asked if this was the reason for the vehicle being at their home. Manager Jenkins confirmed. Council Member Hart stated that with that knowledge, she supports the vehicle for Deputy Chief Hullett because he lives in the Town and would respond at night and she would feel more comfortable knowing that he had a vehicle that could get him to a call even if there were not people at the station. Council Member McMinn

stated that he is not in favor of any pay increases for part-time employees. He stated that he understands the reason behind the vehicle but he wants to understand the equipment that will be on the vehicle. He asked if they will be able to go to someone's house to shock them back. He asked if there would be a benefit to them having the vehicle. He said if it is just a vehicle to get them back and forth, to get them a Honda Accord. He stated that if it would have equipment to save lives, he is fine with the vehicle. Manager Jenkins stated that they all have their gear on them. Council Member Pate stated that he wouldn't be able to do anything without the fire truck. Council Member McMinn stated that he didn't care about the fire, he cared about medical calls, if it was someone having a heart attack, would having the vehicle get a better response to a heart attack call. Council Member McMinn asked what call would take priority for police. Manager Jenkins stated a cardiac arrest call would take priority but the police are not medical professionals.

Council Member Sparrow asked about giving the fire department the Recreation Explorer. He stated he wasn't sure if that would put them in better or worse position. He voted against a new vehicle for the fire department.

Manager Jenkins stated that he understood the Council's direction.

Mayor Denton asked for a vote. Manager Jenkins stated that he believes the Council supports the Manager recommendation on staffing and no vehicle.

Manager Jenkins stated he believed there was clear direction on the SRO positions, as well. There were three votes for Stanley Officers in each school and two votes for no. Council Member McMinn questioned the vote. Council Member Hart explained that she talked to the principals and that they like the consistency of the same officer in the school and there is no guarantee with the county that it will always be the same person.

The vote stood at three to two in support of Stanley officers in each school, contingent upon funding support from the County and/or State.

The Council explained that if the positions were not funded and were removed, that the vehicles would need to be removed for the Police Department, also.

Mayor Denton asked again about the fire department vehicle. The Council confirmed it was a no. Mayor Denton stated that he understands he does not get a vote but would like the record to reflect that he is in support of a vehicle for the fire department.

Council Member Sparrow stated that he understood there was division in opinions this evening, but times have changed greatly since the Council was in school.



Olivia Smith asked for final direction on the museum. Council confirmed they are not providing funding to the museum.

Olivia Smith asked if there were any changes to streets. There were none.

Olivia Smith asked if there were any changes to water and sewer expenditures. There were none.


Manager Jenkins informed the Council of the passing of Jim McGinnis. The Clerk will send an arrangement.

Council Member McMinn asked about SRO funding again. He said it should be clearly defined. Manager Jenkins stated that if the state comes out and funds 100%, the Town does not want the county to administer that money, the Town would want the 100%. Council Member McMinn stated that the County Schools website states that every high school and middle school has an SRO already. He stated that they are trying to say that every school has one. Council Member Kirkland said that Kiser and Springfield share one.

Council Member Kirkland asked about the D.A.R.E program. Manager Jenkins stated that the D.A.R.E. program has changed over time but the Eddie Eagle program is a good program that the Stanley Police Department will continue.

Council Member McMinn asked about the tax increase per vehicle. Mayor Denton stated that he believed the Council was in favor of that fee. He explained that other municipalities are also increasing. The change would be from \$5 to \$15. Council Member Sparrow asked what the increase would be in total. Manager Jenkins stated around \$40,000. He explained that when you pay your registration it is included online. The Council supported leaving the fee at \$15 as recommended by the Manager.

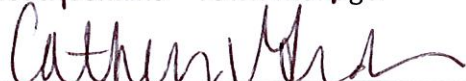
Respectfully Submitted:

  
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Steven Denton – Mayor

  
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Heath Jenkins – Town Manager

  
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Catherine Greder - Town Clerk

