

Town of Meridian Hills
Minutes of Special Town Meeting
September 13, 2004

President O'Brien called the special meeting of the Meridian Hills Town Council to order at 7:18 pm. The meeting was held at the Hilbert Early Learning Center at Park Tudor School. The purpose of the meeting was to review and approve the 2005 budget proposal for the Town of Meridian Hills.

In attendance: Terry O'Brien, President
Abbe Hohmann, Councilor
Councilor Attorney
William Nunery, Clerk-Treasurer
Mathieu Nunery, Deputy Clerk
Treasurer
Mike Russo, Town Marshall
Toby McClemrock, Deputy Town Kay Ivcevich,
Cecil Whitaker, Town Engineer

President O'Brien provided an overview of the proposed 2005 Town budget. This view differed from the proposed budget submitted by the Clerk-Treasurer's office in that it contained no salary increases for the Town Councilors or the Clerk-Treasurer's office, and it eliminated the salary for the deputy clerk-treasurer's position. The Councilors' version of the proposed 2005 budget was moved to be accepted as submitted by Councilor Ivcevich. Councilor Hohmann seconded the motion.

During the discussion, William Nunery, Clerk-Treasurer noted that salaries have not been increased for the past two years for town councilor or clerk treasurer positions. He also presented results from a comparative pay study for elected officials from 79 other towns in Indiana of similar size to Meridian Hills. These data show the town councilors in 2005 will be compensated at approximately 60% of the 2003 average for similar-sized towns. The Clerk-Treasurer position will be compensated at approximately 25% of the 2003 average for similar-sized towns. With the elimination of the deputy clerk-treasurer position, total compensation for the Clerk-Treasurer's office for Meridian Hills will be approximately 10% of the average paid to similar positions in similar sized towns in Indiana for 2003. The Clerk-Treasurer expressed concern that the continued falling behind in salary schedule for these positions will devalue them, and move the Meridian Hills municipal government toward a volunteer community organization model. He also expressed concern that the smooth functioning of the Clerk-Treasurer's office cannot be achieved without a deputy clerk-treasurer position, and that the Town's services may be jeopardized.

President O'Brien announced the Council's intent to form an independent ad hoc Salary Review Committee to review the salaries of the elected officials, the stipend for the office of the president, appropriations for the deputy clerk treasurer position, and to make recommendations to the Council.

The budget as proposed was approved by a vote of 3-0.

President O'Brien adjourned the special meeting of the Meridian Hills Town Council at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

William R. Nunery, MD
Clerk- Treasurer
Town of Meridian Hills

The September minutes were approved with the following amendments:

- 1) In the third paragraph, fourth line, strike the word "salary" and replace with "amount budgeted in 2003 by the previous Town Council."
- 2) In the fourth paragraph, seventh line, strike the phrase beginning with "With the elimination..." and start the sentence with the word "Total..." in the eighth line.

William R. Nunery, MD
Clerk-Treasurer

Terrence W. O'Brien
Council President