

TOWN BOARD BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING

September 28, 2017

A Town Board Budget Workshop Meeting was held on Thursday, September 28, 2017 in the Town Hall 284 Broadway Ulster Park, New York at 9:00 AM with the following people in attendance:

**Supervisor Diane L. McCord
Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet
Councilperson Kathie Quick
Councilperson Wayne Freer
Councilperson Jared Geuss**

**Recording Administrator Holly A. Netter, Town Clerk
Brian Pickard, CPA**

Supervisor McCord called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM.

Preliminary 2018 Budget changes were reviewed by Brian Pickard, CPA.

RECREATION

The Board questioned why PEAA only got \$1,000 when they were budgeted for \$2,000. This year they asked for \$2,500. Kathy Discuillo, Recreation Director was unavailable due to injury. Recreation Board member, Bernice McNierney, will be asked if she knows the purpose for the additional \$500 request.

Solar

Brian Pickard discussed the difficulty in projecting the solar calculations. There is a possibility the Town will have revenue if they enter into a lease agreement with BQ energy for the use of the 20 acres at the Transfer Station. Brian said he hesitates putting in an unknown revenue line into the budget, since we will be negotiating with BQ in the future. There is no guarantee at this time that the project or income will happen in 2018.

Street Lights

The Board will look into installing LED street lights which will use less energy and save the Town money. Data is available from a report made by Jen Metzger which needs to be analyzed. Further discussion on this matter is needed.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR MCCORD AT 9:35 AM TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING A PERSONNEL ISSUE RELATING TO THE EMPLOYMENT HISTORY OF A COURT CLERK. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON GLORIA VAN VLIET. CPA, BRIAN PICKARD, WAS INVITED INTO THE SESSION. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS AT 9:55 AM TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON WAYNE FREER. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

A request to make the Court Clerks position full time was made.

Supervisor McCord, Councilperson Van Vliet, Councilperson Geuss and Councilperson Quick were not in favor of the request. Councilperson Freer said he would like to know if one Judge may have a heavier case load, hence the request. The cost of benefits per individual is approximately \$26,000 each in addition to the increased salaries. The judges have a difference of opinion on the need for additional hours in the office to handle the work load. A suggestion will be made to have a staggered work schedule to cover the hours of 9 am – 4 pm during Town Hall operation so the office is always manned. There is speculation the part time clerk, Karen Bitonti, may be leaving. Karen works for Judge Grieco on Tuesday evenings only. In lieu of a full time position, the Board discussed the possibility of an additional part time court clerk. This person would train and cover the day time hours and would have the ability to replace Karen when and if she decides to retire.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR MCCORD AT 9:55 AM TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING A PERSONNEL ISSUE RELATING TO THE EMPLOYMENT HISTORY OF THE BOOKKEEPER. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON WAYNE FREER. CPA, BRIAN PICKARD, WAS INVITED INTO THE SESSION. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR MCCORD TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 10:10 AM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED

The Board would like to have a person trained as the backup Bookkeeper. The Board instructed Supervisor McCord to call the County for rates on a part time Accounting Clerk.

TRANSFER STATION

The Transfer Station is under budget for their projected revenues. Although the Transfer Station is operating at a loss it is running more efficiently. Improvements continue to be made

and the recycling center looks inviting. The Transfer Station is offered as a service to the Town residents but they will continue their efforts to improve the revenue.

Cable Franchise – Spectrum wants to schedule a meeting with the Supervisor.

TUGFEST

The Board and CPA had a discussion on how to transition the operations of the Tug festival to the Esopus Business Alliance. Bernice McNierney, Tugfest Chairman, and Howie Slotnik, President of the Esopus Business Alliance, will be asked to attend the workshop meeting on October 17th to discuss the matter further.

A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 11:04 AM BY SUPERVISOR MCCORD AND SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON WAYNE FREER. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR MOTION CARRIED.

Respectively Submitted,

Holly A. Netter
Town Clerk, RMC