

TOWN BOARD BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING

September 12, 2019

A Town Board 2020 Budget Workshop Meeting was held on Thursday, September 12, 2019 in the Town Hall 284 Broadway Ulster Park, New York at 5:00 PM with the following people in attendance:

Supervisor Shannon Harris
Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet
Councilperson Kathie Quick
Councilperson Jared Geuss
Councilperson Chris Farrell

Recording Administrator Holly A. Netter, Town Clerk
Brian Pickard, CPA
Debbie Kain, Bookkeeper

Supervisor Harris called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. (Second budget workshop)

Brian Pickard gave an overview of the changes. All requests for raises were omitted and appear in the far right column out of the calculations. Expenditures are up from prior year, the budget is \$744,543 over, includes General, Highway, Water and Sewer.

Last minute changes to the water were given to the bookkeeper and were not reflected in the copy provided; increased \$50,000 in reserves and added \$36,000 for the water tank bond.

General fund is up \$300,000. Brian Pickard, CPA reviewed the reason for some of the problems. Last year's budget for the solar panel expenditure revenue did not come in where it was projected. So far this year we paid out \$144,000 for electric and only received \$118,000 in revenue. We thought it would be a money maker and budgeted as such.

He explained there is a surplus in fund balance, some can be used to offset some of the \$744,543. Other ways to balance the budget include increasing utilization fees, increase revenue, increase tax levy or decrease expenditures or use some of the un-appropriated fund balance.

Justice Court request for health benefits and salary increase would add an additional \$62,000 between the two salaries and benefits for Kyle. Kyle's cost would be \$11,470 which is 50%. Councilperson Gloria Van Vliet said it would not be fair to Peter. Deb Kain said she talked to Kyle and he may only need it for a few years.

Councilperson Chris Farrell said the majority of Justices do not receive health benefits. According to Betty Manicone the judges' salaries need to be equal.

Removed Board software \$5,000

Decreased zoning update from \$35,000 to \$32,000 based on contractual with Laberge

Supervisor

CDGB Survey \$10,000 removed

EDC \$5,000 removed

\$2,000 outreach mail and updates

Supervisor Harris said we need to keep the Grant Writer money \$7,500 because after the Zoning and Estuary update is complete we are going to need the implementation money. The only way to get it is through a grant.

Part time Building Inspector \$25,000 was removed and reverted back to Sal's current rate of \$61,161. Removed \$48,000 for the new building inspector; chances are we will not be able to replace Sal until sometime after the first quarter. When he leaves we have to pay out vacation and sick time, the remaining salary will be split to pay the new Building Inspector and Sal.

Questions regarding the amount of inspection fees, operating fees and clarification of the charges for the safety inspection need to be obtained.

Mikes' salary from highway was decreased to \$42,000

Highway Garage Utilities decreased to \$20,000

ESOPUSOL

Supervisor Harris will follow up on the status of the monitoring and check if the \$10,000 owed to us for this year has been sent. Revenue of \$26,500 was placed in the 2019 budget because they had anticipated breaking ground this past spring. This will also be a loss of \$16,500 for 2019. BQ hopes to break ground spring 2020.

ZBA Legal Contingency was decreased to \$3,000

Planning legal fees decreased to \$2,000

LWRP Grant match \$74,397/ \$61000 comes back in revenue

Gloria pointed out the Storm Water draining costs were \$20,000 over budget for this year.

Storm water drainage \$35,000 covers MS4 drainage; \$8,000 cash would be our responsibility if we get the latest grant we applied for.

Driveway Water Damage \$5,000 removed. This damage was caused by the Highway department due to improper paving of swales. The damage will be paid from the Highway contractual.

Supervisor Harris asked if the employee increase could be 1.5% instead of 2%; savings would be minimal. Brian said the cost of employees unionizing is a lot more costly.

Justice Court

Chris Farrell said the majority of the justice courts do not offer health benefits and courts Kyle had quoted were busier than Esopus. Betty advised that both attorneys need to be paid equally regardless if one takes the health benefits. Supervisor Harris said forget the raise and give Kyle the benefits. Deb Kain explained long ago the Board made a resolution that took all health insurance and buyouts away from elected officials who were not full time. Councilperson Farrell said he did not see a reason to reverse that. Supervisor Harris said health care is a need, salary increase is nice but not a need so give him something he needs. Peter Matera would also have the option of health care if he wanted it.

Gloria said we still haven't balanced this budget yet. Brian said we have \$775,000 in surplus in the general. He explained if you give back \$300,000 this year and next year we could be broke if we have an emergency like the oil spill at the highway garage a few years ago.

Based on today's changes the general fund numbers need to be revised to see where we are.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON GLORIA VAN VLIET AT 6:15 PM TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING A PARTICULAR EMPLOYMENT HISTORY AND 2020 RAISES. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK AT 6:55 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

SUPERVISOR HARRIS MADE A MOTION TO INCREASE ERIN MCNIERNEY'S SALARY TO \$18.00 PER HOUR. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Supervisor Harris reiterated her position to grant no other raises for the employees other than the 2%. Mike Cafaldo and Judges will be raised 2% from their current rate.

Town Board is not taking a 2% raise. Town Clerk Netter had offered her 2% raise up in executive session to help offset Deputy Clerk Erin McNierney's increase.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL TO CONTINUE THE BUDGET MEETING WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 2019 AT 4:30 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

The Board needs to cut more to keep under the 2% cap. Water Superintendent Don Kiernan will need to provide numbers to the Bookkeeper. The Board will also have to make a decision on how to offset the water cost. The meeting ended at 7:10 pm

Respectively submitted,

Holly A. Netter
Town Clerk, RMC