

TOWN BOARD BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING

September 24, 2019

A Town Board 2020 Budget Workshop Meeting was held on Tuesday, September 24, 2019 in the Town Hall 284 Broadway Ulster Park, New York at 4:30 PM with the following people in attendance:

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

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

Supervisor Harris called the meeting to order at 4:30pm (Fourth budget workshop)

The adjustments were reviewed. A total of \$274,895 was taken from the general fund balance, Highway will give back \$145,102, Water/Sewer will give back \$52,994 to help balance the budget.

Judges Salaries were increased to \$30,000 each.

Franchise fees of \$30,000 were put into the revenues with the assumption we would be able to negotiate charging a franchise fee. An amendment to the Altice contract will need to be agreed upon before Spectrum will consider implementing the franchise fee to the Town.

Karen Winkle Gorsline Request for Benefits – Confidential Secretary to the Supervisor requested the Board to consider making her position full time with benefits. Currently Karen already works 34 hours a week and does not have benefits. Fulltime is 35 hours per week and the cost of the benefit package is \$12,999, Karen’s portion to pay would be 15%/ \$1,950. Karen explained her husband retired from the city of Kingston in June and is no longer eligible for his benefits; the insurance option would now cost \$660 and is cost prohibitive. She only needs an individual plan. The question was asked how it would affect the budget and where can we cut the fund. Councilperson Van Vliet said if we consider one employee does that open us up to any other employees who are working the same number of hours. Deb Kain said no she is asking to go to full time status and not getting benefits as an intermediate employee. Councilperson Quick said is there anyone else close to those hours that may want it. Debbie replied no one came forward everyone else has benefits through their spouse. Councilperson Jared Geuss recalled Marianne asked to be made full time a few years ago. Deb replied she wanted the buyout, she did not need the benefits.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON KATHY QUICK AT 4:40 PM TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING A PARTICULAR INDIVIDUALS EMPLOYMENT HISTORY. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON GLORIA VAN VLIET. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON GLORIA VAN VLIET TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 4:55 PM AND WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

NO ACTION TAKEN –Topic will need to be discussed further with a full Town Board

Sleightsburgh Park Coverage - Originally the plan was to have Dan Vedder open and close Sleightsburgh Park and adjust his hours accordingly so there would be no overtime. Because his department was short staffed and overtime was being accrued, the Bailiffs are now closing Sleightsburgh Spit in the evenings, \$25/day. The question was raised whether it was accounted for in the budget. Bookkeeper Deb Kain said it would be available out of the parks and recreation budget. A question of when does the spit close was raised. The hunters were promised access during duck season, there will need to be clarification when the different hunting seasons end.

*Supervisor Harris excused herself from the meeting at 4:55 pm, Deputy Supervisor Kathie Quick took over.

Brian Pickard said we are under the 2 % cap, which would allow the Towns people to get a reimbursement from the State. If we had a zero increase no checks would be received. With a 2 % increase everyone benefits.

Brian reviewed the revenue increases:

Franchise fees \$30,000

Filming Fees \$2,000

Park Rentals \$2,000

Don Kiernan Sewer District proposed the following increases for 2020:

Sewer \$4.79 to \$4.99 /1000 gallons 4.18%

Water \$4.19 to \$4.49/ 1000 gallons 7.16%

The new minimum bill would increase approximately \$2 per quarter/ \$8 per year (\$37.92)

As discussed in prior minutes the new Water Tank, our percentage/responsibility of the cost of Kingston’s Sewer Treatment improvements and Peter Koelli’s buyout for retirement and benefits are the main contributing factors for the increase.

We need to increase the usage of water so we reach the revenues projected.

Once the Final Budget is adopted, Don will provide the necessary resolutions to raise the rates.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON GLORIA VAN VLIET AT 5:19 PM TO HAVE A BRIEF RECESS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON KATHY QUICK AT 5:29 PM TO HAVE A BRIEF RECESS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

ADOPTION TENTATIVE BUDGET

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK TO ADOPT THE TENTATIVE BUDGET AS IS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Recap:

October 1st review budget again make changes if necessary. If budget is ready, set the Public Hearing for October 22nd at 7 pm regular Town Board meeting will start 7:30. If no changes are needed the adoption of the final budget can take place that night.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 5:46 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS PRESENT WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectively submitted,

Holly A. Netter
Town Clerk, RMC