

TOWN BOARD BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING

October 14, 2021

A Town Board 2022 Budget Workshop Meeting was held on Thursday, October 14, 2021, in the Town Hall 1 Town Hallway, Ulster Park, New York at 6:15 PM in addition to being available via zoom and live streamed on the Town of Esopus Facebook page and TV 23. The following persons in attendance:

Supervisor Jared Geuss
Councilperson Evelyn Clarke
Councilperson Kathie Quick
Councilperson Laura Robinson
Councilperson Chris Farrell

Recording Administrator Holly A. Netter, Town Clerk

Brian Pickard, CPA
Debbie Kain, Bookkeeper

Supervisor Geuss called the meeting to order. No public comment period was held.

The Board continued to review and cut the budget. Suggestions were made where cuts could be made to maintain the 2% increase. Brian Pickard reviewed revenue lines where changes could also be made. In 2021 we expected to receive franchise fees which were not able to be negotiated with Spectrum due to a contract issue with Altice who provides service to approximately 16 homes in the lower portion of town. There is a surplus in the general fund of \$150,000 - \$200,000 which can be used to reduce taxes for the current year. Mike Cafaldo, Highway Superintendent, will purchase \$20,000 supplies of pipe and catch basins at the end of this year to be used in 2022.

The revenue line for Park Rentals was increased \$3,000; new pavilions will be available for rent in 2022. Hoping the APPA money may be used for the concrete at the Pavilions.

Prior to Don Kiernan's retirement he said the water rate will need to increase. Water and sewer infrastructure is definitely on the approved list of expenditures for the ARPA funding. This money will be used where it can to decrease expenses.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR JARED GEUSS TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 6:47 PM FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING PARTICULAR EMPLOYEES' WORK HISTORY. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED. CPA BRIAN PICKARD AND DEBRA KAIN WERE INVITED INTO THE SESSION.

MOTION TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR GEUSS AT 7:25 PM AND WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN EVELYN CLARKE. ALL MEMBERS PRESENTS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION:

MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR GEUSS TO APPROVE THE FIELD ASSESSMENT WORKER'S RATE ADJUSTED TO \$18.25 PER HOUR. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN CHRIS FARRELL. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

ADOPTION OF 2022 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN FARRELL TO ADOPT THE 2022 PRELIMINARY BUDGET WITH THE MINOR MODIFICATIONS TO BE MADE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC HEARING SET FOR THE 2022 BUDGET

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN CHRIS FARRELL TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE 2022 BUDGET ON 10/28/21 AT 1 TOWN HALLWAY AT 7 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

SCHEDULE ADDITIONAL TOWN BOARD MEETING

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR GEUSS TO SCHEDULE AN ADDITIONAL TOWN BOARD MEETING FOR 10/28/21 AT 7:05 PM IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN CHRIS FARRELL. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR: MOTION CARRIED.

TOWN HALL PARKING LOT LIGHTING

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN CHRIS FARRELL TO AUTHORIZE DAN VEDDER TO PURCHASE THE BETTER LIGHTING FOR THE PARKING LOT AT TOWN HALL. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN CHRIS FARRELL TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:02 PM. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN SUPERVISOR GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

*Holly A. Netter
Town Clerk, RMC*