

TOWN BOARD BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING

September 23, 2020

A Town Board 2020 Budget Workshop Meeting was held on Wednesday, September 23, 2020 in the Town Hall, 1 Town Hall Way, Ulster Park, New York at 9:00 AM with the following people in attendance:

**Supervisor Shannon Harris
Councilperson Evelyn Clarke
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 9:00 AM.

- The meeting was noticed and the Public was allowed to attend the meeting in person if desired. No public attended.

2021 Budget (meeting 2)

Brian Pickard reviewed highlights of the 2021 Budget

\$288,000 shortfall in budgeted revenues to date

Saved money with spending freeze and staff work share

We had a light winter - less expenses for work force and supplies

Town acted to cut back and decrease hours early with COVID. Employees participated in the work share program and many employees are still on it.

Did not do drainage project

Spending freeze on equipment and supplies

Option of spending down the surplus was discussed

Supervisor Harris said we are figuring out how to work with less people/hours

Councilperson Kathie Quick said the community is getting restless with having Town Hall closed, Supervisor Harris said as soon as construction is complete Town Hall will reopen.

The Town is unsure what next year will be like and if we continue to cut costs we will be ok.

Councilperson Geuss said it makes sense to spend the money on materials this year for projects that will be completed in 2021.

Items that were budgeted for but not authorized earlier in the year because of the spending freeze can now be considered.

Options for surplus include:

Dav Vedder's Front End Loader request

\$80,000 was budgeted for materials for drainage but only used \$3,000

Extra money can also be put in reserves to be used next year

Councilperson Geuss said they can consider a 2% increase for non union staff. Supervisor Harris asked to hold off on that discussion because many who have been on the work share program have benefited quite a bit; more that what an annual raise would have been. She is in favor of 2% for those not on the work share program who did not receive the additional funds.

Parks and Recs Department – Landscaping & top soil for parks

Tennis courts need to be resurfaced

Skating rink removed and seeded with grass

Sleightsburgh Spit fishing area repairs near picnic benches

2 new pavilion pads for Lighthouse Park and Freer Beach

Park Program goals will be shared with the Board and volunteers will assist Supervisor Harris Projects 3 trailers of top soil will be needed.

Bookkeeper Deb Kain made a recommendation for installing the gate at Sleightsburgh Spit and purchasing the top soil and other materials for 2021 jobs. Materials can be paid for and stored.

Speed trailers \$5,000 - \$6,000 each

Brian Pickard said we are in a good place for 2021; scaled back in labor

He explained we are building back the surplus and there are two options:

- A. Increase taxes up to \$1.56% -Town gets the revenues and Town residents get a check reimbursed by the state
- B. Don't raise taxes Town receives nothing and the tax payers will not receive a check

Summer Camp

Potential savings if YMCA takes over the Ross Park Summer Program

Program runs 2 weeks longer, more expensive per child, offers before and after care Councilperson Geuss is working on more details. If the YMCA takes over \$54,000 will be removed from the budget and \$10,000 increase in contractual. The revenue line will also need to be removed. It will also save the Town money in many areas including retirement since every counselor that joins the Town needs to make a contribution to their retirement.

Potential List of expenditures for 2020

Highway Truck	\$37,000
Building Department Software	\$18,000
Pave Freer Park	\$50,000
Dan Front End Loader	\$10,000 Lease / \$40,000 purchase
Drainage pipes	\$35,000
Top Soil	\$10,000
2 Speed Signs	\$12,000
Sleightsburgh Spit Gate	\$13,000
Raises non union	\$14,000
2 pads for new pavilions	\$5,000

Sleightsburgh Spit blacktop/picnic table area; excess material from Freer and paving

Deb Kain reported there is \$20,000 in Escrow for additional improvements to the parks from the recreational fees collected from Planning that can be used next year.

Brian and Debbie will work on revising the budget and a meeting will be scheduled for next week.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SUPERVISOR HARRIS TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 10:35 AM FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING PARTICULAR PERSONNEL IN THE HIGHWAY, BUILDING, ASSESSOR AND TOWN CLERKS OFFICE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON JARED GEUSS. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 11:35 AM BY COUNCILPERSON CHRIS FARRELL AND WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

ACTIONS:

- Post Junior Assessor Trainee job
- Permission given to Supervisor Harris to have discussions related to employees' schedules with Highway, Water Sewer and Buildings and Grounds Department Heads

**** Town Board scheduled the next Budget workshop for October 2, 2020 at 10 am in the Esopus Town Hall located at 1 Town Hall Way, Ulster Park, NY. Notice will be given to the Daily Freeman and posted on the Town website**

ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 11: 40 AM BY SUPERVISOR HARRIS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILPERSON KATHIE QUICK. ALL MEMBERS WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectively Submitted,

Holly A. Netter
Town Clerk, RMC