

October 13, 2016

2017 General Fund Budget Wkshop

Schultzville, NY

A workshop meeting was held on this day in the Clinton Town Hall. Present were Supervisor Oberly and Councilmen Dean Michael, Eliot Werner, Mike Appolonia, Councilwoman Nancy Cunningham and Town Clerk Carol Mackin. There were 3 audience members.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

At 7:00 PM, Supervisor Oberly called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

BUSINESS

Supervisor Oberly explained that this is a Town Board Workshop on the General Fund and Related Capital Projects budget in preparation of the 2017 Budget. Sup Oberly asked the audience members to speak and then we will proceed with the rest of the budget. The following comments were made:

Justice Court:

Russ Tompkins – Town Justice, asked about Court Attendant and hopes it becomes Court Officer with a higher rate of pay for 2017. He is a Constable and is a Court Officer with all of the proper training and qualifications for the position and is considered a Peace Officer. He knows of a qualified person who will work for \$20 per hour and has all of the required training. Important to have armed security.

Barbara Seelbach – Town Justice. Did due diligence on the matter of security, started with the Sheriff's dept. and the cost was very high. Looked at NYS Court Officers who wanted more money and looked in retires state troopers, who are also expensive. Had two incidents here at the Court where she needed protection. The threat is real these days. Always trying to get grants, and they are looking at one for a magnetometer which needs two people to man it. Grants do not cover personnel costs. Dean and Nancy agree with this cost, safety is number one. The others agree as well.

Add \$5200 to the 1110.130 for Court Attendant

Both Justices request an increase in pay for the Clerks – feels they are underpaid. The world is changing, they have to more detailed work, monitor warrants, be responsible for all funds that come into court, do adjournment requests, etc.

Tax Collector

Colleen McGarry – Tax Collector, request payment to deputy. Every official has a clerk or a deputy. Can't do job alone. We have a tight timeline and the deputy currently serves without pay, request \$1300. Eliot agrees with it. Dean said that not every department has a deputy, building and Hwy do not have deputies. More important to Dean is concerned about risk, he has a problem with the Tax Collector working from the house. It is by all standards not a good thing. The Town takes on a huge responsibility. He does not support the position of deputy. Eliot said they are apples and oranges, one is the deputy and the other issue is working at home. Ray called the insurance company and they said her house is covered under the Town's insurance; all we do is add her house as another facility it will cost us nothing more. Dean said there are other liabilities, including if the driveway plowed and for worker's compensation. Nancy does not think it is professional nor should she be working out of her home, she should be working here during regular hours. That is difficult for Colleen. The mail comes every day; she feels she would be at the Town all hours of the night here vs at home. Dean said that we need to investigate online payment. Colleen said that she feels it would not lessen the paper workload. He looked at Hyde Park school district and they have a system that is streamline, suggests that Colleen look into it. By consensus 4 in favor of the deputy \$ and Dean no. Nancy wants to review it more and look into a more efficient way to collect taxes for next year.

Add \$1300 to 1330.130

Colleen: Looking into payment by echeck, debit card or credit card. She discussed the costs related to each. The fees fall on the payer, so she does not think there is another cost. She will continue to gather information and get back to Ray with that. Ray asked about software or hardware needs and their related costs.

The Library

Asks to increase grant by \$10,000.00. In 2010, the Library received \$65,000. Looking at a \$35,000 shortfall for 2017. The programs are expanding and they are trying to be a community center and they need the funds to continue to offer programming. They also need the income for an audit, which is optional but necessary because they need to go forward with a 414 in 2017. It is illegal to charge for library programs. They can ask for donations only.

Dean said we give a lot in kind service to the Library, we pay for electric, heat, etc. so our contribution is more than the monetary donation. We made cuts across the board 6 years ago to staff, salaries and hours when the Library was cut.

Ray Oberly said our cap is .68% we are trying to hold the line. Ray does not support and increase of \$10,000. Eliot wants to give \$5000. Mike agrees at \$5000, Dean said \$2000, Nancy agrees with \$2000.

Add \$2000 to 7410.4

The Board reviewed the budget by line item.

- Arlene Campbell – reviewed her job, the work she does and the amount of work she does for three departments, building planning and zoning with three meetings a month with minutes. The Town Board needs to find out if she can go over 30 hours per week with the County. The Board will consider a clerk to take care of the clerical aspect at 8 hours per week. Or they will consider making her a full time.
- Money added to the budget to stream the video through Facebook.
- Adding back in longevity adding \$6750.00. Nancy feels that this may not be the year to do it. Ray feels strongly about it. Dean like more hours to make jobs more lucrative rather than increased pay. Let's compare our pay scale to other towns. Nancy does not support this in this year. Bonuses are for lucrative years. Eliot likes the principle, but suggests cutting the numbers in half, which the Board did.

Other items to consider

- General Code update – consensus not to do.
- Masonic Hall window sealing – can be delayed
- **Library facia – may become a safety issue, keep in budget**
- **Zoning revision – keep in budget**
- **Cemetery expense at \$1000 – keep in budget.**

At 10:45 PM, MM Supervisor Oberly, 2nd Councilman Michael to adjourn. All aye.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol-Jean Mackin

Town Clerk