

November 5, 2020

Schultzville, NY

A public hearing on the 2021 preliminary budget was held LIVE on this day in the Town Hall. Present were Supervisor Oberly, Councilmen Dean Michael, Chris Juliano, Michael Whitton, Councilwoman Nancy Cunningham and Town Clerk Carol-Jean Mackin. There were two people in the audience.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

LEGAL NOTICE

The Town Clerk read the legal notice that appeared in the Poughkeepsie Journal.

PUBLIC HEARING

Supervisor Oberly said this is a public hearing concerning the adoption of the 2021 budget. He opened the floor for comments:

Arlene Campbell – supports the Town Clerk getting a raise. Between Carol and Arlene they bring a history to the Town that is valuable. Asked the Board members to do the right thing starting with the ones who were here, underpaid and loyal for many years doing the job for low pay and no raise for many years.

At 7:10 PM, there being no further comments, MM Supervisor Oberly, 2nd Councilman Whitton to close the public hearing. All aye. Motion carried.

The Town Board discussed changes:

Supervisor Oberly gave a summary, we are about \$24,000 over the tax cap. Received the final truck bond interest rates up by 4 dollars.

Had a request from the ZA to lower his budget by \$10,840 in savings if Board agrees to implement his suggestion of appointing him ZA from Acting ZA.

Approved a seasonal full-time highway worker in October for \$30,160 to the budget. There was \$7000 for this employee; there will be a **\$23,160 increase**, not including any benefits for this worker.

We are at 4 to 5 percent increase in the tax rate right now.

Dean Michael– re: Zoning Administrator. Chris Juliano said Acting ZA John Fenton will not put in for travel expenses so that lowers \$1200. He will add hours in the office and do field work for \$20,000 with the elimination of the second position, saving about \$10,000. Chris Juliano is concerned about the additional

work of the STR and Ag Events law, but John believes he can handle the work load with the building inspector as his back up. Nancy does not agree with eliminating the field position as the workload is already a lot on Arlene and the workload will be unmanageable for one in the future with the new laws. Feels one person can't do the office and field work and people in the community comment to her that violations are not being addressed already. Dean feels two people give good fall back, but we have not been able to find someone to fill the second position and now we have someone who will do both jobs. Mike Whitton feels we should support John's proposal and we can look for someone new in the future if we need to. Ray stayed out of this issue as it was Nancy's project, but offered in the past we had a deputy ZA and deputy BI, they were to each other, so each had back up already in the office. We would label an hourly rate for this purpose and there was minimal cost. The person would be the back up when necessary. Chris liked this idea. The Board will add \$500 for each deputy position and create the positions in 2021: **Save \$9840**

Dean – highway, Ray did not add the new full-time employee to the 2021 budget, a projected total of \$30,000 if he takes benefits. Chris said he will not need benefits. Ray did the math and will split the cost for this employee between the highway and the cemetery budgets. \$11,600 for cemetery; for highway it's \$12,528, or \$24,128 total. Ray asked if he is replacing the pt winter person? Nancy said Todd said he will do the winter work. **Add \$17,128 expense.**

Mike Whitton said on Tuesday the STR law is poised to pass, and then in 6 months we start collecting fees, with the conservative potential of income of \$14,375. **Add \$14,375 income.**

These changes leave \$18,000 over the tax cap or 2.5%. **The Board agrees to take the overage from the fund balance to stay under the tax cap.** Ray is concerned about using the fund balance as he needs money in the beginning of the year to pay bills. Mike Whitton said we collect taxes in January, and we can receive weekly transfers. The Board discussed using the fund balance. Ray wants to know if the Board is instructing him to use the fund balance to make sure we are under the tax cap. Chris said yes but wants to start funding long term projects by saving for them. The only other way is to cut elected salaries. Nancy thinks we can use the fund balance. Whitton said we always have a surplus because we underbudget the revenue, so we can expect to have an excess of revenue.

Ray Oberly has to send a memo to Albany before we adopt the budget saying whether we are going to go over the tax cap.

Chris Juliano said we should have a plan for the complex and for highway and different projects. Nancy said Todd is starting to put together a plan.

Chris asked if there is money for a generator, Ray said no, Chris would like to plan for a generator.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:15 PM, MM Supervisor Oberly, 2nd Councilman Michael to adjourn the meeting. All aye. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carol-Jean Mackin".

Carol-Jean Mackin,
Town Clerk