

**TOWN OF WESTERLO  
TOWN BOARD  
BUDGET REVIEW  
WORKSHOP  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2016**

The Town of Westerlo Town Board met on Thursday, September 22, 2016 at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall to review the submission of estimates by department heads for the 2017 Budget. Supervisor Rapp opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ATTENDING WERE: Supervisor Richard H. Rapp  
Councilman Joseph Boone  
Councilman Anthony W. Sherman  
Councilman William F. Bichteman Jr.

ABSENT WERE: Councilwoman Burnside

Also attending: Highway Superintendent Keith Wright, Deputy Highway Superintendent Jody Ostrander, Clerk to the Supervisor Patricia Boice, Clerk to the Assessor Claire Marshall, ZBA member John Sefcik and Town Clerk Kathleen Spinnato.

Councilman Sherman stated that no questions would be entertained from the audience tonight but to bring all questions/comments to the regular Town Board meeting on 10/4/2016. He added that an exception would be that the Board may have specific questions for some of the Town employees who are present.

Supervisor Rapp advised the Board members who were present, he will start with the items he has proposed and believes should be raised. He stated that the 2017 Tentative budget will be prepared by Pattison, Koskey, Howe, & Bucci and provided to the Town Board by the 9/30/16. The public will have the opportunity to voice their opinion on the budget November 9<sup>th</sup>.

- **FIRE** Company 2017 Budget- Remains same as last year \$225,863.00. Councilman Bichteman proposed and volunteered to meet individually with the Fire Co. and review their budget line by line as they did last year. Councilman Sherman also had some questions which he will discuss with Councilman Bichteman before meeting with the Fire Co.
- **LIBRARY** 2017 Budget- Proposed an increase from \$80,116.00 to \$81,234.00 an increase of 1.4% from previous year. –The Library supplied a detailed summary explaining the increase.
- **RESCUE** Squad 2017 Budget remains same as previous yr. \$100,000 –Councilman Bichteman from his recollection and a conversation he had with Debbie Mackey last year, she agreed that the Rescue Squad would go to a soft billing method submitting claims for those who have insurance coverage and that the Town would approve the budget in total. In return a portion of that billing would be refunded to the Town as similar in the Town of Rensselaerville however, this was never done. Councilman Bichteman will speak to her about this for 2017 and may be a condition in approving their budget. Councilman Bichteman would like to speak with Debbie Mackey to discuss the matter, the Board agreed. Supervisor Rapp advised the Town may need to budget \$22,000.00 for new radio equipment. The Rescue Squad didn't want to add this to their budget as they may not need it. Supervisor Rapp confirmed that there will be a line item created in the Town Budget for this, possibly under maintenance, but will need to ask the accountant. Proposed new radio equipment was discussed. Councilman Sherman indicated this is due to Albany County changing

their frequency and raising the height on cell towers. New radio equipment will be needed to operate on the frequency. Some towns have had an issue with the additional height. The County had hoped the new system would happen by approx. fall of 2016, it has not.

- **TOWN CLERK**

The Town Board reviewed with the Town Clerk the proposed 2017 budget request for the Clerk's Office.

A-1410.1 Town Clerk – Salary increase from \$40,700 to \$42,260. No raise in 2016.

A-1410.11 Deputy Town Clerk- Salary increase of \$0.50 from \$18.08 to \$18.58 with a reduction of hours starting in January.

Deputy Town Clerk II- Salary increase of \$0.75 from \$15.75 to \$16.50 with an increase in hours starting in January.

A-1410.2 Clerk Capital Outlay-Unchanged

A-1410.4 Contractual changed from \$7,500.00 to \$8,200.00. The cost rose due to placement of property taxes online starting in 2017. This will decrease the following year by approximately \$1,980.00 per BAS for the onetime setup cost for program. Currently, no one in the Town Clerk's office has health insurance coverage through the Town.

- **MUSEUM** 2017 Budget remains same as previous yr. \$12,460.00. The Town Board discussed changing gas companies for cost savings on heating. Supervisor Rapp reported the potential cost savings was not included in the budget submitted by the Library. Discussion of the Museum Budget items followed. Councilman Bichteman will follow up with the Alicia Malanga the Museum Director. It was suggested to have a representative from the Museum come to discuss their budget at the next Town Board meeting. Discussed the possibility of proposing Sue Fancher as a Co-Curator.

#### **GENERAL FUND**

Supervisor Rapp provided the Town Board with Budget Workshop listing of 9/22/2016. The Supervisor and Board members reviewed the following codes:

- A-1440/Engineer-increase \$10,000 from \$30,000 to \$40,000.
- A-9010/State Retirement (General) increase \$5,900 from \$59,100 to \$65,000.
- A-9060 (General Hospital/Medical Ins.) The 2017 Health Insurance Rate figures are not available yet. Proposed an estimated increase of \$25,694.00 from \$104,306 to \$130,000.

#### **HIGHWAY FUND**

- DA-5110.1 (Hwy-Summer) increase of \$10,000 from \$170,000 to \$180,000.
- DA-5142.1 (Hwy-Snow removal) increase of \$10,000 from \$170,000 to \$180,000.
- DA-9010 (NYS Retirement) Hwy. increase of \$6,295 to \$80,000.
- DA-9720.6 Indebtedness (Principal) decreased \$16,000 from \$71,100 to \$55,100.
- DA-9720.7 Indebtedness (Interest) decreased \$2,497 from \$10,432 to \$7935.
- A-7620.4 (Adult Rec/Sr. Bus) increase of \$2,000.00 from \$7,000 to \$9,000.
- SL-5182.4 (Special Lighting) increase of \$3,000.00 from \$7,268 to \$10,268.

Account codes also listed but not discussed were:

A-5010.1 Highway Admin. increase \$1,930 from \$58,100 to \$60,030.

DA-9010 State Retirement (Hwy) increase \$6,295 from \$73,705 to \$80,000.

DA-9060 (Hwy Hospital/Medical Ins.) increase \$50,000 from \$120,779 to \$170,000  
2017 Health Ins. Rates have not been received.

#### **WATER FUND**

Councilman Bichteman proposed an increase of \$5,500. Increase based upon an estimate for the Water District annual software support/maintenance fee of \$550 and a roof at the Transfer Station housing some of the water district equipment which is in need of repair, estimate a cost of \$5,000.

The Town Board discussed upcoming dates for scheduling meetings. Deadline for the Tentative Budget is September 30<sup>th</sup> and Supervisor Rapp informed the Board the accounting firm is currently working on it and the Board will receive before or by then. They discussed the next Town Board Workshop scheduled for October 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM, ZBA Chairwoman Virginia Mangold will be discussing Solar and they can review the 2017 Tentative Budget.

There being no further discussion, Councilman Bichteman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Sherman, motion carried by those present. Meeting adjourned at 7:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Spinnato, Town Clerk