

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
MINUTES - TOWN BOARD BUDGET WORKSHOP – OCTOBER 24, 2019
6:30 pm Constantia Town Hall

Present: Kenneth Mosley - Supervisor
John Metzger, Thomas Moran, Frank Tomaino – Council Members
Clare Haynes – Town Clerk
Nancy Butler – Bookkeeper
Erin Zehr – Park and Recreation Commissioner

Absent: Wayne Woolridge - Highway Superintendent
Richard Colesante– Council Member

CALL TO ORDER:

At 6:45 pm Mr. Mosley called the budget workshop to order with the pledge of allegiance.

PARK AND RECREATION:

Ms. Zehr was at the meeting to answer any questions on the park and recreation budget. The board members told Ms. Zehr that the amount requested for park payroll was not increased from 2019 which was \$52,000 as the last few years the park has not come close to spending this much. The board decided that no increase was needed even with increasing employee's hourly rate to the State minimum wage, this line has enough funding.

Ms. Zehr asked about the purchase of the Automatic Electronic Defibrillator (AED), the board members are in agreement to purchase the AED, Mr. Haynes, Chief of CVFD will call to place the order.

Discussion on the playground equipment and the possibility of it being installed in 2020, Mr. Mosley told Ms. Zehr to come back at a board meeting in the spring and ask, if Mr. Woolridge does not have the time to do the work there is a possibility of hiring the work out to get the playground installed.

*Mrs. Zehr left the meeting.

PRELIMINARY BUDGET:

Ms. Butler gave the board a copy of the 2020 Preliminary Town Budget. Included in the preliminary budget were the requested changes from previous meetings along with the following as per Ms. Butler's memo:

1. Mr. Baxter added the official sewer district page.
2. The sewer contractual in the B Fund (B8090.4) for \$60,000 was removed and put on the new sewer district page.
3. The original amount of about \$126,000 spent over the years for sewer caused us to be over the tax cap about \$59,000. Therefore, the amount was reduced to \$80,000 the amount originally requested.
4. Another cause adding to the tax cap overage was increasing the highway payroll expense line (DB5110.1 PS) by another \$42,750 per Mr. Woolridge's request. This amount reflects the increase on the highway revenue side from the County Ice and Snow Agreement.
5. To get us close to the tax cap or below, I reduced in the A Fund (A1440.4 Engineering CE) by \$10,000, also reduced (A1940.2 Purchase of Land) by \$5,000.
6. We are now under the tax cap by \$5,492 – tax cap paperwork is attached to the budget.

Ms. Butler made these adjustments for the board, but of course all changes are subject to approval by the board.

Mr. Metzger questioned about the sewer district and the tax cap, Ms. Butler said because the district does not have its own board of directors it has to be part of the town's budget it is the same way as the two water districts. Mr. Metzger understands reimbursement must wait until funding is received. The board members agree that as soon as possible the district will refund the general fund back the monies expended. This money should be put in the budget on the first page in the category of "Less Fund Balance" doing this it will directly pay back the taxpayers.

Major topic of discussion was the request of Mr. Woolridge to increase the DB5110.1 PS – Payroll account. During original budget discussions Mr. Woolridge indicated all his budget lines would be able to handle the increase in payroll caused by the board approving a 3% payroll increase. During the discussion, it was explained that Mr. Woolridge increased his revenue for the total amount of the new 3 year Ice and Snow Agreement with the County. With the \$42,750 difference, Mr. Woolridge thought it would be best to include it on the appropriation side so this money could be spent. Mrs. Haynes brought up the fact that the County is going to need to recoup the extra money spent for the Ice and Snow Agreement, the fear is they are going to be increasing their lines on the tax bill, if the Town then does the same it might cause a big increase for the taxpayers. After continued discussion it was decided to call another meeting for October 31st at 9 am to have Mr. Woolridge explain his reasoning.

The public hearing for the preliminary budget will be on November 7th at 6:30 pm.

ADJOURN:

At 8:00 pm the meeting adjourned.