

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
MINUTES – BUDGET MEETING – October 12, 2021
9:00 am Constantia Town Hall

Present: Kenneth Mosley - Supervisor
John Metzger, Thomas Moran, Frank Tomaino – Council Members
Clare Haynes – Town Clerk
Nancy Butler- Bookkeeper
Absent: Richard Colesante – Council Member

CALL TO ORDER:

At 9:00 am Mr. Tomaino called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Mosley, Supervisor is having Mr. Tomaino run the meeting as he will be the Supervisor next year.

2022 BUDGET:

At the last meeting we left off at park and recreation, as Mr. Colesante is not here we will by-pass this portion of the budget.

Ms. Butler made some changes to the following accounts to cover new employees:

A9010.8 State Retirement	Increase from	\$47,000	to	\$50,000
A9030.81 Social Security	Increase from	\$20,000	to	\$21,000
A9030.82 Medicare	Increase from	\$ 4,200	to	\$ 4,300
A9060.8 Hospital & Med Ins	Increase from	\$47,100	to	\$49,500
A9060.9 Disability/Life	Increase from	\$ 3,000	to	\$ 3,100

A new line was added into the budget, it is not in the right area Mr. Baxter will move to the proper area, A5182.4 Street Lighting. This is the direct result of dissolving the lighting districts in the Town. It is expected by the end of the first quarter both lighting districts will be able to be dissolved.

A5182.4 Street Lighting was added and funded with \$10,000

A8160.4 is the line for dumpsters, as stated at the last meeting Mr. Tomaino believes this money could be put to better use. Mr. Metzger asked how the board felt if the program was paired down to 1 or 2 days or even leave it in the budget to see what the public response is to canceling the program. Cleaning up the Town is and was the objective, maybe it would be better to put this money towards code enforcement. After discussion it was decided to leave it in for now, speak to Mr. Woolridge to get his opinion on how he feels it went.

Revenues General Fund:

Ms. Butler reviewed a four-year history for revenues and thought some changes would make sense, some of the accounts have been under reported for quite some time.

A1081 Other Payment in Lieu of Taxes	\$5,703	Increased to	\$ 5,800
A1255 Clerk Fees	\$ 400	Increased to	\$ 600
A1603 Registrar Fees	\$1,000	Increased to	\$ 1,500
A2401 Interest & Earnings	\$1,000	Increased to	\$ 1,500
A2450 Commissions Cable TV	\$7,300	Increased to	\$ 8,300
A2590 Other Permits (Building)	\$15,000	Increased to	\$18,000
A2610 Fines and Forfeited Bail – Ms. Butler increased this to \$7,000 but after discussion it was decided to leave at \$5,000			
A3005 Mortgage Tax	\$35,000	Increased to	\$50,000

B Fund:

Discussion on stipend for board of appeals and planning board, Mr. Mosley believes this is an area that could use some increases. After discussion it was decided to increase as follows to cover possible increases in stipend:

B8010.4 Board of Appeals	\$1,575	Increase to	\$4,000
B8020.4 Planning CE	\$2,660	Increase to	\$5,000

10:25am Mr. Metzger left for a fire call

HIGHWAY:

Mr. Tomaino was reviewing the highway budget and is concerned with the relatively small increase in the payroll account DB5110.1 \$30,000. Mr. Mosley called Mr. Woolridge on his cell phone to answer the questions about payroll. Mr. Woolridge reminded the board that he has multiple PS accounts that he uses. Mr. Woolridge for the first time this year used DB5112.2 Improvements CO for payroll, this account is where CHIPs funding goes. Payroll is an acceptable charge under the CHIPs rules.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Moran would like to verify how much liability coverage the Town has for each employee. Ms. Butler will review the insurance policy.

At 11:00 am Mr. Wheeler, Assessor for the Town came into the meeting to answer some questions. Mr. Moran asked about our current status of assessment. Mr. Moran believes it is 91%, and further asked if Mr. Wheeler is

getting pressure to re-assess the Town, Mr. Wheeler responded he is not. If you asked Mr. Wheeler this same question 15 years ago, he would be encouraging the Town to re-assess, today this is not the case. The reality is when valuations drop further away from 100% there are disparities but 75% of the properties will be ok. Of course, he will do what the Town wishes, but there is really no advantage to keeping the 100% valuation. At the current time values are unreasonably high, because of this Mr. Wheeler believes the Town assessment will dip into the 80s that must be taken into consideration because this balloon will pop. Mr. Wheeler believes the Town assessment will dip into the 80s. The State is no longer offering incentives to stay at 100%, the problem is this is not a money maker, you are just making sure everyone is paying their fair share.

Mr. Moran asked about short-term rentals, how are they handled, are they classified differently. Mr. has been asked this in other Towns, but no, the property is of the same value. The only option would be a homestead vs non-homestead classification, non-homestead classification would pay more. This is not a great option; it would look like you do not want or encourage businesses.

Mr. Wheeler was asked about A1355.12 Assessor's Clerk – this line was \$6,000 but was put to zero in the 2022 budget. Mr. Wheeler believed it was left in the budget to see how his office would work without a clerk. He does not believe there has been an issue and has no problem removing it from the budget. If the Town would like to do a re-vail then this line would need to be revisited.

ADJOURN:

At 11:30am the meeting adjourned.