

**TOWN OF FORESTPORT
BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES
FORESTPORT TOWN HALL
SEPTEMBER 30, 2014 @ 4:00 PM**

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MEMBERS PRESENT

Councilwoman Nancy Kardash
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski
Councilman Ronald Scouten
Councilman Charles Scott
Supervisor Parker Snead
Town Clerk Shelley Entwistle
Bookkeeper Dawn Campbell

MEMBERS ABSENT

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by Supervisor Snead.

PLEDGE OF ALLIEGENCE:

Recited.

BUDGET ITEMS:

Supervisor Snead stated that the board would review line items as laid out within the tentative budget packet.

GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS:

TOWN BOARD:

Supervisor Snead stated he feels the budget should be cut. The possibility of receiving either health insurance or salary is an option. Councilwoman Kardash replied that she feels health insurance is a perk that attracts qualified candidates. Councilwoman Kwasniewski added that the Association of Towns has confirmed that health insurance cannot be rescinded from a sitting elected official. She also stated that she does not feel it's appropriate that she receives twice the compensation Councilman Scouten does, as he does not take part in the health insurance. The board agreed to revisit this item.

JUSTICES:

The board agreed the proposed budget is acceptable.

BOOKEEPER TO THE SUPERVISOR:

The board agreed the proposed budget is acceptable.

TAX COLLECTOR:

Supervisor Snead questioned \$6500 in contractual expenses, and also suggested the possibility of eliminating the position entirely. According to town law, the board has the ability to do so. Councilwoman Kardash and Kwasniewski, along with Councilman Scott stated the matter should go out to the public for referendum. Supervisor Snead said he feels the health insurance for the position is too costly.

BUDGET OFFICER:

Supervisor Snead stated he thinks the salary for the position should be cut. Discussion followed about moving some of the salary to the Bookkeeper as she is a major part of the budget process. Supervisor Snead said he feels it is a duty of the Supervisor and that \$4000 should be cut from the position, making the tentative salary for 2015 \$4693.49. The board concurred.

ASSESSOR:

Supervisor Snead stated that the current assessor is also working for the town of Trenton for the sum of \$22,000 with no insurance or retirement. He feels the assessor's salary should be cut somewhat in an effort to reduce the overall budget. Councilwoman Kardash stated the previous board approved and voted on a 6 year contract with Assessor Brown and to change the terms of the contract at this point would be to go back on the board approval. She feels when the contract is up, new arrangements can be negotiated.

Assessor Brown spoke on her own behalf, stating that she has made every effort to conserve town funds and keep her budget down. She believes other health care options will be the key to reducing the overall budget.

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW:

The board agreed the proposed budget is acceptable.

TOWN CLERK:

The board agreed the proposed budget is acceptable.

TOWN ATTORNEY:

Councilwoman Kardash stated she feels \$20,000 for 2015 is too much. Attorney Earl is staying within his 2014 budget, and she doesn't see the need to double it. Supervisor Snead stated that raising the budget does not mean it has to be spent. Councilwoman Kwasniewski added that she liked the tentative number for the purpose of possible litigation. The board concurred.

ENGINEER:

The board agreed the proposed budget is acceptable.

ELECTIONS:

The board agreed the proposed budget is acceptable.

BUILDINGS:

The contractual expense portion of the budget will be \$70,000 for 2015. The total budget for Buildings will be \$114,923.05. Discussion followed regarding adding hours to the maintenance workers. The board agreed that this could be done as needed in the summer months.

COMMUNICATION:

The board agreed the proposed budget is acceptable.

COPIER SERVICES:

The board agreed the proposed budget is acceptable.

CENTRAL DATA PROCESSING:

The board agreed the proposed budget is acceptable.

SPECIAL ITEMS:

The board agreed the proposed budget is acceptable.

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER:

Supervisor Snead stated he feels the budget is too high. Councilwoman Kardash stated eliminating the 3% raise is a possibility. The board will revisit this item.

SAFETY/FIRE CODES:

Supervisor Snead stated there was \$2325.96 in personal services in the 2014 budget which he doesn't feel is necessary. Councilwoman Kardash stated they should remove it for 2015. The board retained \$300 for contractual expenses.

DEMOLITION OF UNSAFE BUILDINGS:

The board agreed the proposed budget is acceptable.

REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS:

The board agreed the proposed budget is acceptable.

AMBULANCE CONTRACTS:

The overall budget for 2015 will be \$12,250. Prospect Ambulance will receive \$8875 and Old Forge will receive \$3375.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDANT:

The board agreed the proposed budget is acceptable.

HIGHWAY GARAGE:

The budget for 2015 will be \$40,000.

STREET LIGHTING:

The board agreed the proposed budget is acceptable.

PUBLICITY:

The budget for 2015 will be \$0.

MEMORIAL PARK:

The board agreed the proposed budget is acceptable.

SCOUTEN FIELD:

Supervisor Snead stated that he would like \$4500 for contractual expenses. He would like to see the town erect roofs over the dugouts, as well as purchase a 20x20 tent to remain up for the summer. He also stated that another option for weather shelter is a pavilion. Discussion ensued regarding the use of Scouten Field versus the use and budget of the Dutch Hill field. Supervisor Snead added that Port-a-Potty will be on site at Scouten Field from Memorial Day through early October. The board tentatively approved \$4500 for Scouten Field.

DUTCH HILL FIELD:

The board agreed the proposed budget is acceptable.

YOUTH PROGRAM:

The board agreed to break down the contractual expense portion of this item into two categories- One will be the Woodgate School (\$2000), and the second will be the Youth Program (\$21,000), for a total budget of \$23,000.

Discussion took place regarding the Camp Nazareth portion of the youth program. Some would like the town to place a limit on the number of children going to camp and accept their applications on a first come, first serve basis. This would include seasonal residents with children rather than year round resident children only.

WOODGATE LIBRARY/WHITE LAKE ED PROGRAM:

The board agreed the proposed budget is acceptable.

TOWN HISTORIAN:

The board agreed to not give a 3% raise, and would like to define the job description more thoroughly. The 2015 budget will be \$795.68.

HISTORICAL PROPERTY/RECORDS MANAGEMENT:

The board agreed the proposed budget is acceptable.

CELEBRATIONS:

The board agreed to put \$1600 toward fireworks. Councilwoman Kwasniewski and Supervisor Snead are looking into flags for the hamlets. The board will investigate this further.

PROGRAMS FOR THE AGING:

Councilwoman Kardash inquired into the number of hours accumulated in 2014 for the director. She was under the impression that the hours would be less as the summer recreation portion of the job has been eliminated. The board agreed the proposed budget is acceptable.

ADULT RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

The board agreed the proposed budget is acceptable.

PLANNING:

Supervisor Snead stated that the planning budget is too much. The gross budget including the Codes Officer is approximately \$48,000, He feels substantial cuts need to be made. Planning Clerk Kratzenberg, Codes Officer Smith and Planning Chairman Entwistle spoke on behalf of the department. Discussion followed, and the board will revisit this item.

PLANNING AND SURVEY/PUBLIC SERVICE:

The budget for 2015 will be \$0.

REFUSE AND GARBAGE:

The board agreed the proposed budget is acceptable.

COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION (BOAT LAUNCHES):

The board agreed the proposed budget is acceptable.

CODES ENFORCEMENT:

The board will revisit this item.

REHABILITATION/CONTRACTORS/GRANTS:

The budget for 2015 will be \$0.

COMMUNITY SERVICES (WEBSITE):

The board will revisit this item.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

The board will revisit these items.

The board scheduled the next workshop meeting for October 7, 2014 at 4:00pm.

A motion was made by Supervisor Snead seconded by Councilman Scouten to adjourn the meeting.

Supervisor Snead – yes
Councilman Scouten – yes
Councilman Scott – yes
Councilwoman Kwasniewski – yes
Councilwoman Kardash – yes

With no further business the workshop was adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Entwistle – Forestport Town Clerk

