

**TOWN OF FORESTPORT
BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES
FORESTPORT TOWN HALL
OCTOBER 14, 2014 @ 3:00 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 3:05 pm by Supervisor Snead.

PLEDGE OF ALLIEGENCE:

Recited.

Supervisor Snead opened the meeting with new discussion regarding health care issues within the budget. He stated he has been in contact with WB Payne, and they have laid out several options for health care which may be more cost effective than the town's current plan. Highlights of the proposals are as follows:

- ⤴ Premiums under the new plans would be generally lower across the board, with total proposed savings per individual, per year in the neighborhood of \$1500. This assumes that the “Cadillac Plan” employees receive now is replaced with the same coverage under the new plan.
- ⤴ Total costs to the town for individual health care could be as low as \$145,728, as compared to the current total of approximately \$300,000.
- ⤴ Under the proposed plan, options for coverage levels would be available to employees based on their coverage needs. Differences in costs to the town could represent additional savings.

Additional discussion followed regarding possible employee contributions, availability of family coverage, and impacts on town retirees. Supervisor Snead reported that he is also working with an accountant to ensure the proper language is included in the proposed plans to limit tax liabilities to the employees.

HIGHWAY APPROPRIATIONS:

After adding \$2100 to Garage contractual expense, the board agreed the proposed budget is acceptable.

WATER APPROPRIATIONS:

The board agreed the proposed budget is acceptable.

SEWER APPROPRIATIONS:

The board agreed the proposed budget is acceptable.

GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS:**TOWN BOARD:**

The board members reported that they have discussed the matter and have agreed to take a 20% pay cut in their salary. Additionally, they are willing to contribute 20% toward their health coverage if necessary once the new health plans have been explored and decided on.

SUPERVISOR:

The board feels that the Supervisor should take a 20% pay cut to stay in step with cuts on the town board. Supervisor Snead stated he felt this was acceptable.

BUDGET OFFICER:

To clarify, the Budget Officer position will remain the same as 2014.

TAX COLLECTOR:

To clarify, the Tax Collector position will remain the same as 2014.

ASSESSOR:

Supervisor Snead stated that he feels \$5000 should be cut from the overall budget of the Assessor. Councilwoman Kardash reiterated her commitment to the contract between the board and the assessor. Councilwoman Kwasniewski stated she feels the budget could be cut by \$3000. In a straw poll vote, Councilman Scouten, Councilwoman Kwasniewski, and Supervisor Snead agreed upon the \$3000 cut, while Councilman Scott and Councilwoman Kardash wanted zero cuts in order to honor the Assessor's contract.

After some discussion with Assessor Brown, she stated that she can in fact, work within a budget of \$38,595 as opposed to her proposed budget of \$41,595. Her salary will remain the same. \$3000 will be taken out of her equipment and contractual expenses.

TOWN ATTORNEY:

Councilwoman Kardash stated she feels \$20,000 for 2015 is too much. After some discussion the board agreed that the budget for 2015 will be set at \$15,000.

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER:

Councilwoman Kardash stated the Mr. Gardner is willing to continue in this position for \$5000. The board felt this was acceptable.

SCOUTEN FIELD:

To clarify, the budget for 2015 will be \$4500.

PROGRAMS FOR THE AGING:

The board agreed the proposed budget is acceptable.

PLANNING:

Discussion took place regarding methods to reduce the planning budget. After a straw poll vote, Councilman Scouten, Scott, and Councilwoman Kardash agreed to the following: Planning Clerk Kim Kratzenberg will maintain 24 hours per week in the summer, with 22 hours per week in the winter (October 15 – April 15). She will not receive a \$2000 stipend for attending planning meetings, and she will assist Mr. Smith in the Codes office in addition to other duties to be determined. Councilwoman Kwasniewski abstained and Supervisor Snead dissented.

CODES DEPARTMENT:

The board agreed that Codes Officer Smith will maintain 20 hours per week in the summer, with 15 hours per week in the winter months (October 15-April 15). His hourly rate will be \$14.91. He will also have a mileage cap of 2000 miles for the year.

At this point the board reviewed the possibility of 3% raises for all employees and felt in light of attempts to trim the budget it would not be appropriate. No 3% raises will be given this year. Additionally, in another straw poll vote, Councilman Scouten, Councilwoman Kwasniewski, and Supervisor Snead agreed that the town cannot afford to continue to pay for family health coverage. Councilman Scott and Councilwoman Kardash dissented. Some of the board members also voiced their concerns with insurance buy out programs. Supervisor Snead stated that the town will not do insurance buy outs.

The next budget meeting will be held on October 21, 2014 at 4:00pm.

A motion was made by Supervisor Snead seconded by Councilman Scott 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 6:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Entwistle – Forestport Town Clerk