

**TOWN OF FORESTPORT  
BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES  
FORESTPORT TOWN HALL  
OCTOBER 21, 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.

Supervisor Snead opened the meeting asking if there was anything in particular the board or the audience would like to begin with. Elizabeth Hasenauer inquired about vouchers approved at the October 15, 2014 regular town board meeting. Councilwoman Kardash and Supervisor Snead were able to answer her question.

Supervisor Snead stated that Bill Gall from Northwestern Mutual would be appearing at today's meeting to review a potential new health plan from Excellus. He reported that Excellus is a more favorable choice over MVP as the MVP plan has some network issues and is only slightly less expensive than Excellus.

The plan is called "Gold 5", and the proposed premiums would be \$561.93 per month, per person for an individual plan. This opposed to the current premium of \$771.54 per month per person. Additionally, Excellus offers several options for members with regard to family situations. Employee/"Plus 1", Employee/Children, and Family are all plan options.

Supervisor Snead also reported that the retirees currently receiving health insurance would move to the Medicare PPO1 plan, with the town continuing to provide the Part B coverage. There is not a family option under this plan. He stated that all employees and retirees would continue to contribute 5% toward health care, and there would be no town funded family health care.

Discussion followed amongst the board regarding questions for Mr. Gall, and Councilwoman Kardash inquired as to the status of the overall budget assuming the

change in health care to Excellus. Dawn Campbell stated she has not adjusted the budget numbers to reflect the most recent workshop changes (October 14<sup>th</sup>), except for removing the 3% raise from all salary numbers. Potential savings from the health care switch, along with projected sales tax revenue, and a transfer from savings will ensure there will be zero town tax. Supervisor Snead agreed.

## **HEALTH CARE PRESENTATION**

Mr. Gall arrived and provided an overview of the Gold 5 Excellus plan. Higher co-pays will provide for lower premiums, with a maximum out of pocket ceiling as well. The board inquired about potential pitfalls in the future due to increased regulations in health care, as well as fluctuating premium rates.

Supervisor Snead stated the town would like to move forward with the shift to Excellus as soon as possible. Mr. Gall stated he can mail out information to retirees as well as host two meetings for signup and informational purposes. The board scheduled the two meetings for October 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm at the Town Hall. Additionally, the Public Hearing for the 2015 Budget will be held November 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall. The board thanked Mr. Gall for his time.

## **PLANNING**

Planning Secretary Kim Kratzenberg spoke regarding the proposed cuts to the planning budget made at the October 14 workshop. She presented alternative options to reduce the budget, as well as options to save money across departments.

Codes Officer Brad Smith also spoke, reviewing the revenue brought to the town through the Codes office, and the importance of maintaining the department as it exists.

Supervisor Snead stated he will defer to the board regarding revisiting the cuts made in these departments. He also stated he is interested in having Kim Kratzenberg handle some of the grant applications that the town handles. After some discussion the board agreed to keep the planning department's budget the same and not approve the new proposed budget.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Supervisor Snead and seconded by Councilwoman Kwasniewski to adjourn the budget workshop. Roll call vote:

Councilman Ronald Scouten – yes  
Councilwoman Nancy Kardash – yes  
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski – yes  
Councilman Charles Scott – yes  
Supervisor Parker Snead – yes

With no further business the workshop was adjourned at 5:45pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Shelley Entwistle- Forestport Town Clerk