

**TOWN OF FORESTPORT**  
**2022 Budget Workshop Minutes**  
**September 27, 2021 @ 6:30 PM**

**Members Present:** Supervisor Entwistle  
Councilman Scouten  
Councilwoman Abrial  
Councilwoman Kardash

**Members Absent:** No members were absent.

**Other Town Officials Present:**

Tracy Terry, Town Clerk  
Dawn Campbell, Bookkeeper to the Supervisor

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The workshop meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Supervisor Entwistle.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and Supervisor Entwistle legal notice was read aloud.

**3. BUDGET DISCUSSIONS**

- Supervisor Entwistle stated this has been the easiest year doing the Budget. The County will not put the Ambulance on an ambulance line. It is on the general line.

**Wages-** Everyone is getting a 3% raise across the Board, with exception to the Codes Department. Supervisor Entwistle stated there is someone who is conscientious and is doing a great job and he would like to keep him. In 2014, the Codes office ran for \$55,000 a year between the Code Enforcement Officer, Secretary, and the health insurance. Councilwoman Kardash stated maybe next year, and he'll be certified and have a year under his belt. It could be a couple years until Tony is certified because everything is online now. His current salary is \$22,535.37 and he's working almost 40 hours a week on top of doing classes to get

his certification. This year there were not going to be any raises. There aren't any other Towns that give raises across the board or health insurance. Councilwoman Abrial stated they have kept the job local. The Board agreed to give the Code Enforcement Officer a 5% raise. Councilwoman Kardash stated the Code Enforcement officer is doing a wonderful job.

**Senior Recreation Director:** Councilwoman Kardash stated they are at the point to eliminate the Senior Recreation Director position. The position will run until the end of the year, and they will not have one in 2022. Councilwoman Kardash suggested giving Sandy Miller a free ticket on a trip or something for spearheading trips and doing the senior Bingo. Supervisor Entwistle will be speaking with Sandy. Discussion took place.

**Buildings & Grounds:** This has increased. Supervisor Entwistle and Dawn have discussed doing a curb cut at the end of the building near the DOT field office. They would be able to drive from the front parking lot to the rear parking lot. They would like to put a sidewalk in the back for court and seal the driveway. Supervisor Entwistle will be looking at getting a quote.

**Highway Garage:** The Highway is getting a new furnace.

**Youth Recreation:** Supervisor Entwistle stated he hopes they can get back to a Summer Rec or stem program this year. This went up to \$12,000.

**Celebrations:** Fireworks \$2,200 and flowers are \$1200.

**Adult Recreation- Snowmobile Groomer:** This was cut back last year. Councilwoman Kardash thinks the Town should sell the groomer to Trackside Blazers for \$1. Supervisor Entwistle confirmed the grant life has been exceeded. Trackside blazers wanted the Town to do another grant for them but with the grant it was limited on what groomer they could get. Trackside Blazers is trying for a grant for two snowmobile counters and a new drag. Councilwoman Kardash stated the town pays \$100 an hour for a grant writer. The town might be getting other organizations coming to them to get grants.

**Community beautification:** Pete Webster just redid the Otter Lake "Welcome to Forestport" sign. There is money in the budget to redo the other 6 "Welcome to Forestport signs". Pete gives the town a 50% discount.

**Health Insurance:** The Town is getting \$156,000 for 2021-2022. The Town insurance is going up quite a bit. The Town currently pays \$600/ month for the Town insurance for eligible employees. They can put the Town's contribution to \$650-\$700 a month. Councilwoman Kardash said they can do it for one year. Supervisor Entwistle stated this is something to be evaluated on a year-to-year basis. Councilwoman Abrial asked if they can do upgrades to the buildings. Supervisor Entwistle stated it's for protecting employees from a public health crisis. Supervisor Entwistle said he would hate to give the money and then take it back next year. Forestport taxes are \$2.21 per assessed thousand and the Board is

better off raising a little every year instead of heavily every ten years. Councilwoman Kardash stated people who do not have healthcare, their raise should go up a certain percentage. If the Board raised it \$100 it'd be \$12,000. Right now, it's \$10,500 a month including the retirees. Supervisor Entwistle asked the Board to think about \$50 or \$100. Supervisor Entwistle's concern is if someone doesn't take the health insurance, but they get extra money, you end up compounding the salary down the road for raises. Councilwoman Abrial asked about giving employees that do not have health insurance a bonus. Supervisor Entwistle said he would look into that.

**Tax rates: Highway \$1.15/1,000, Ambulance .79 cents/thousand  
Fire .79 cents/thousand.**

#### **4. ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Kardash and seconded by Councilwoman Abrial to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote:

Councilman Scouten – yes  
Councilwoman Kardash – yes  
Councilwoman Abrial – yes  
Supervisor Entwistle – yes

There being no further business, the workshop adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy M. Terry  
Forestport Town Clerk