

The Seneca Falls Town Board held a Budget Workshop on Thursday, October 18, 2018 in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 130 Ovid Street.

Present were Supervisor Gregory Lazzaro; Councilmen Louis Ferrara, David DeLelys, Douglas Avery and Vittorio Porretta. Also present was Beverly Warfel, Principal Account Clerk.

Supervisor Lazzaro called the Budget Workshop to order at 5:00 P.M. A roll call of Board Members was taken and all were present; the Pledge of Allegiance followed.

BRIDGEPORT SEWER DISTRICT

Under Electricity (SS1-8110.400), \$22,000 is budgeted, the same as this year. Telephone (SS1-8110.402) remains the same, and Pump Station Supplies (SS1-8110.403) was increased to \$15,000. Mrs. Warfel explained that they put in as much as they can to purchase parts so that when the District dissolves at the end of 2019, they will have the spare parts. Joseph Peone asked what will happen when there is no money; Mrs. Warfel replied once it dissolves, it becomes the Town's responsibility to pay for everything. Brief discussion followed.

Mrs. Warfel stated the last payment of the Bond (SS1-9720.600) \$25,000 and Interest (SS1-9720.700) \$1,500 is next year. The total BSD Budget for next year is \$81,750.00. Dick Laude thanked the Committee for being with them since they started in 1969, and the Board for helping them.

It's a Wonderful Life Museum: Mr. Lazzaro read a letter from Francis Caraccilo, Treasurer of It's A Wonderful Life Museum, which requested \$5,000 to help get the actors from the film here and \$10,000 in support of implementation of their five-year plan to further plan and develop the Museum. Mr. DeLelys said he thinks the Board should support it as it brings in a lot of business to the town. Mr. Lazzaro requested that the Board think about this - it will be discussed further.

Mr. Lazzaro stated there is a letter from Kathryn Lankford relative to video services; the rate is the same as last year.

COURT

Judge Lafler stated the line item for Clerk Part-Time (A1110.105) is for Eileen Schmidt who takes care of business in the Court when the Judges are not here. He added she performs the type of duties as Office Manager, and he would like to propose a small .50 an hour increase. Mr. DeLelys stated that he and Mr. Avery are on the Court Committee and have discussed this with the Judge - it's already in the Budget - it's budgeted for \$39,520. Judge Lafler stated once Courtney Adams gets up to speed, Eileen will be cutting back her hours, so it may be a wash. Court Clerk longevity (A1110.106) was zeroed out.

Judge Lafler referred to Court Security (A1110.107) and said it looks as though it has been removed from the Budget. He and Judge Laquidari do not agree with that. He said over the last year or two, they have worked with the Chief to try and rein in on the Budget as requested. They have cut back on their Court days - Judge Lafler eliminated two days a month and Judge Laquidari eliminated at least one day. Judge Lafler said they are requesting \$18,000 be put back into this line item so they can have the SF Police perform security as they do need them. Judge Laquidari said it's so important to have Police security in Court (he referred to the Individual who was just arraigned by him who was very unruly). Mr. Ferrara said he doesn't want to jeopardize public safety, and agreed with keeping \$18,000 in that line item - he thinks Police presence needs to stay. Brief discussion followed.

Mr. Lazzaro stated since we have a Police force, he feels these services should be provided in kind instead of paying people from a different line item. Judge Lafler said - to come in on their time off? Mr. Lazzaro responded he would try not to have people come in on their time off - work it into their regular schedule. Judge Lafler stated the perfect example as to why it's important to not have to take people off the road that are working to cover the Town was the situation that happened in Court the other day - they needed everybody. After further discussion, it was agreed to leave \$18,000 in the budget. All line items under Contractual Expenses (A1110) remain the same.

TAX RECEIVER

The Town Clerk said under Personal Services (A1330.100) the \$3,190 is her salary. When she took over as Tax Collector four years ago, she requested \$3,000 which saved the Town \$4,000; her salary since then has only gone up \$190. She referred to the line item for Deputy Tax Receiver (A1330.101) which the Supervisor zeroed out, and said she works full time three months out of the year. There is no way that position can be eliminated and for her to collect taxes for three months and try to keep up with her regular duties. After discussion, it was agreed that the Deputy Tax Collector position be kept in the Budget.

Equipment (A1330.200) remains at \$200, as well as Office Supplies (A1330.400) remaining at \$450. Postage (A1330.401) was reduced to \$2,500, and Education (A1330.402) was increased from \$500 to \$600. All other line items remain the same.

TOWN CLERK

Under Deputy Town Clerk 3 (A1410.102), Mr. Lazzaro has eliminated that from the Budget. The Town Clerk stated Mr. Lazzaro made the remark that the County Clerk has only one full time person and I have 3 people in my Office. I have two part-time Clerks and one Clerk for 2 hours a day, which equates to one full time person and one for 2 hours a day. After brief discussion, Mr. Lazzaro stated if the Town Clerk advocates for that at this point and the Board agrees, then it stays in. The Board agreed to leave that position in the Budget. The Town Clerk stated her other two Deputies are part-time which saves on benefits.

Equipment (A1410.200) was reduced to \$1,000, and Office Supplies (A1410.400) was reduced to \$1,000. Postage (A1410.401), Ads & Legal Notices (A1410.402) and Education (A1410.403) remain the same, as well as Maintenance Contracts (A1410.404) and Publications & Books (A1410.405). Dues & Fees (A1410.406) decreased to \$100, and Miscellaneous (A1410.407) remains the same.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT

The Town Clerk stated Personal Services (A1460.100) is her salary of \$1,660 which Mr. Lazzaro eliminated. It was agreed to put this back in the Budget. Office Supplies (A1460.400) and Restoration of Books/Records (A1460.401) remain the same.

BUILDINGS

Laborer (A1620.102) was zeroed out, and Equipment (A1620.200) remains the same. Custodial Supplies (A1620.400) was reduced to \$2,250. Gas & Electricity (A1620.401) is at \$30,000 as it is uncertain as to what this will be. Garbage Removal (A1620.403) remains at \$1,400, and Maintenance Parts & Repairs (A1620.404) was increased from \$1,000 to \$2,000. Service Contracts (A1620.405) was increased to \$2,500 and Miscellaneous (A1620.406) increased from \$750 to \$1,000.

CONTROL OF DOGS

Dog Control Officer (A3510.100), Office Supplies (A3510.400) and Postage (A3510.401) remain the same. Dog Kennel Fees (A3510.4403) was reduced to \$1,200, and all other line items remain the same.

REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS

Personal Services (A4020.100) is \$1,660, and is the Town Clerk's salary. The Town Clerk requested that this be kept in the Budget. Some Clerks are given a stipend, and others just keep the fees from the issuance of certified copies which is \$10 each, and would amount to much more than \$1,660. The Board agreed to keep this line item in the Budget.

DEBTS

Mrs. Warfel referred to the list of debts that need to be budgeted for next year. Bridgeport Sewer District has \$25,000 debt remaining; \$25,000 and the Interest will be paid next year, and there will be nothing left to pay after next year.

Bridgeport Water Bonds – (2019 payment is \$5,000 plus Interest) \$142,000 will be remaining after next year; 18 years remain after 2019, and these are non-callable bonds.

Former Village Obligation (Public Improvement Serial Bonds) – (2019 payment is \$45,000 plus Interest) \$270,000 remains after next year, and 6 years remain after 2019. Mrs. Warfel explained that this is paid out of the Village Obligation District which includes the residents of the former Village.

EFC – Sewer Bonds – (2019 payment is \$405,000 plus Interest) remaining debt after 2019 is \$1,245,000, and 3 years remain after 2019.

Public Improvement Refunded Water & Sewer Bond – (2019 payment is \$265,000 plus Interest) \$1,205,000 remains after next year, and 6 years remain after 2019. Mrs. Warfel noted this is split between water and sewer.

TOWN BOARD

Mrs. Warfel stated the Board has authorized the Clerks in her Office to start taking some of the responsibilities for Accounting and Payroll, so some of their pay should be charged to the Town. She added some of her wages will be charged to Water and Sewer because she does some of their work as well. The line item for Principal Account Clerk (A1010.120) is budgeted at \$40,000 and Senior Account Clerks (A1010.123) budgeted at \$20,000. Under Water, Senior Account Clerks (F8310.102) is budgeted at \$15,000 each, and Principal Account Clerk (F8310.105) budgeted at \$10,000. Under Sewer, Senior Account Clerks (G8110.101) and (G8110.102) is budgeted at \$15,000 each, and Principal Account Clerk (G8110.105) budgeted at \$10,000. Mrs. Warfel said in order to do it properly, these wages should be split between these three Funds.

CONTINGENCIES

General Fund Contingency (A1990.400) was reduced from \$200,000 to \$150,000. Vince's Park Contingency (CR2-1990.400) was zeroed out. Water Contingency (F1990.400) was reduced from \$150,000 to \$100,000.

Sewer Contingency (G1990.400) was reduced from \$200,000 to \$150,000.

POLICE

Mrs. Warfel referred to the changes that were requested last night at the Budget Workshop, and said the requested changes are in red as opposed to the Supervisor's Budget. Mr. DeLelys recommended that the line item for full time Police Officers (A3120.103) stay at \$449,856. The Board agreed to keep that line item at \$449,856. Vehicles (A3120.200) was already approved by the Board with the Lease. Chief Peenstra stated this was approved at a Board Meeting. He added this won't have to be paid until we take delivery of the vehicle. This line item was left at \$45,000.

Line item for Photo (A3120.415) was left at \$825, and Miscellaneous (A3120.416) was left at \$9,000.

ASSESSOR

Mr. Lazzaro stated under Assessor (A1355.100), he would like to go into Executive Session on the Assessor on a Personnel issue.

The line item for Equipment (A1355.200) remains at \$2,000, and Office/Computer Supplies (A1355.403) remains at \$2,000. Mileage (A1355.407) remains at \$475, and Education (A1355.408) remains at \$2,500, as well as Miscellaneous (1355.413) remaining at \$400.

Mr. DeLelys asked about the part-time Zoning Officer position (A3620.103). Mr. Lazzaro stated he thinks it should be kept in the Budget – at some point, we need to pursue that aggressively. Mr. Avery stated if the Board wants to put increased emphasis on enforcement, then you are going to have somebody out there available to do the job. The Board agreed to leave the part-time Zoning Officer position in the Budget.

Chief Peenstra said he wanted to make sure that all of his line items discussed last night were voted on and approved compared to what the Supervisor's suggestions were compared to what his suggestions were. Mrs. Warfel said they were approved earlier in the Meeting.

Salaries of Elected Officials

Mr. DeLelys mentioned that the Board has not had a raise in a few years. The Board agreed to increase the Town Supervisor's salary to \$11,310; Deputy Supervisor - \$600; Town Councilpersons - \$9,000 each; Highway Superintendent - \$76,723; Town Clerk/Tax Receiver - \$66,443; Asst. to Zoning Officer, Registrar of Vital Statistics, Records Management Officer, Asst. Stenographer for Zoning and Planning - \$5,117.

A motion was made to approve the above listed salaries by Greg Lazzaro and seconded by Doug Avery. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

The Board scheduled an additional Budget Workshop for 3:30 P.M. on October 22, 2018.

Mrs. Warfel said the Board didn't make a decision on the Judge's request to give Eileen Schmidt a .50 raise.

A motion was made to give Eileen Schmidt a .50 an hour increase in pay by Greg Lazzaro and seconded by Lou Ferrara. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

At 6:30 P.M., a motion was made to go into Executive Session regarding a personnel matter by Greg Lazzaro and seconded by Dave DeLelys. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

A motion was made to reconvene the Budget Workshop at 7:00 P.M. by Greg Lazzaro and seconded by Lou Ferrara. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Being there was no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the Meeting by Greg Lazzaro and seconded by Doug Avery. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

NICALETTA J. GREER
Town Clerk

