

The Seneca Falls Town Board held a Budget Workshop on Monday, October 22, 2018 in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 130 Ovid Street.

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

Supervisor Lazzaro called the Budget Workshop to order at 3:30 P.M. A roll call of Board Members was taken and all were present; the Pledge of Allegiance followed.

ASSESSMENT

Mr. DeLelys referred to the line items for Personal Services (A1355.100) - \$55,820, and Real Property Tax Service Aide (A1355.101) - \$38,025, and suggested they be left as is. Mr. Lazzaro asked if they did a Matrix change on the Assessor; Mr. DeLelys replied yes. Mr. Lazzaro said this is the salary from the Matrix change – correct; Mr. DeLelys responded yes. Mr. Lazzaro said he would like to see the Assessor at part-time, but if there is a majority, it stays as it is. It was agreed that the salaries for the two line items - Personal Services and Real Property Tax Service Aide – remain as budgeted.

SALARIES OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mr. Lazzaro stated the Town Supervisor is listed as a raise. He thanked the Board for offering him a raise, but he does not want a raise this year, not because he hasn't done a good job and worked very hard and put a lot of effort into this job. He said if his original budget cut a lot of salaries, gave little or no increments or cut out some staff, he doesn't see how he can take that if he is going to work on that philosophy, and we are still unsure of how much taxes are going up and where are we going to get the money if the Board decides to go through with litigation with Seneca Meadows. He feels the stand it appears that the majority of the Board is going with, we are going against the Host Agreement and violating the Host Agreement. Mr. Lazzaro requested that his salary be reduced to where it was before. Supervisor's salary was reduced from \$11,310 to \$10,775. Mr. DeLelys commented that the Board has not had a raise in almost five years. Further discussion followed.

Mr. Avery referred to the Highway Superintendent's salary and explained that the Personnel Committee met with Mr. Peterson a couple of days ago. They know they cannot apply the same Matrix to him that they have with all of the other Employees, so they looked at his job description in the same terms as if they were going to apply the Matrix. After having done that, his request for an \$82,000 salary seems reasonable; that is why they are recommending that salary. Mr. DeLelys stated that he, Mrs. Warfel and Mr. Avery worked on this and came up with that figure. Mr. Avery stated if he was on the step he worked out to, the range was anywhere from \$61,000 to \$89,000. He said he has been working with the Town for 30 years; all that comes into play. Mr. Lazzaro stated seeing there is a majority of the Board agreeing with it, that's what it is.

Mr. DeLelys stated in looking at the Preliminary Budget and the tax rate, the tax rate was \$9.19 per \$1,000 for 2018, and right now, it is at \$9.19 per \$1,000 for 2019. Mr. Lazzaro mentioned that at a previous Meeting, Mr. Ferrara brought up the fact that we use some Landfill moneys. He doesn't know if it's a good point or poor point. He cannot vote on this Budget like this because people have clamored to lower taxes. Mr. Lazzaro said this is a town and the Board has to be financially responsible – he doesn't think we are being financially responsible if we have an unknown out there. He mentioned several things the Town wouldn't have if it wasn't for Seneca Meadows, such as the Community Center, this Building, growing programs, etc. Mr. Lazzaro stated in the foreseeable future, there is nothing in regard to economic development. He added when we get someone who would like to come into town for some economic development, we have a roadblock put on that. He repeated that he is not going to vote in a positive way on this Budget. Brief discussion followed.

At 3:50 P.M., Mr. Lazzaro declared a 5-minute recess so that the Clerk can get the Legal Notice for the Public Hearing on the Budget and Elected Officials salaries to the Press. The Board reconvened the Budget Workshop at 4:00 P.M.

TOWN BOARD

Line item for Computer Software (A1010.200) was reduced to \$500, and Office/Computer Supplies (A1010.400) was reduced to \$1,500. Postage Meter Rental (A1010.402) was lowered from \$900 to \$800. Cable Service (A1010.405) was reduced to \$5,000, and Newsletter (A1010.409) was zeroed out. Grant Application (A1010.415) was increased from \$10,000 to \$15,000, and Miscellaneous (A1010.417) was increased to \$5,000. Mrs. Warfel referred to Microsoft Office 365 (A1010.422) and said if you are going to network the Town, at some point you need to buy that – it doesn't mean that we have to do it this next year. After brief discussion, the Board decided to leave \$10,000 in this line item.

SUPERVISOR

The line item for Supervisor (A1220.100) remains at \$10,775. Mrs. Warfel referred to the line item for Secretary part-time (A1220.103) and said nothing has been done as far as any increase. Mr. Lazzaro stated everyone else in the Matrix is getting 2.75%, so she should be getting the same (2.75%). Education Expense (A1220.404) was increased to \$2,000. All other line items remain the same.

AUDITOR

All line items under Auditor (A1320) remain the same.

LAW

Mr. Avery referred to the line item for Town Attorney (A1420.100) and said he would like the Board to examine whether or not we want a full time Attorney in 2019. He is not sure we have gotten what the Board hopes to get from him. He added it seems like every time we turn, we are going to outside Counsel; some of the mundane things that have been done in the past by the Attorney for the Town are shuffled to the Town Clerk's Office. Mr. Avery said we have done it for a year, so now is a good time to look at it and see if we want to continue on this path. Mr. Lazzaro stated if we are going to speak specifically about that, we should have that Gentleman here to try to advocate for himself. He would advocate for him because he sees a lot of things moving forward that were not being moved forward before. He feels that whenever you talk about personnel it needs to go into Executive Session because it's almost akin to a job performance in public. Mr. Avery stated he is trying to keep it not about the person, but rather about the job. Mr. Lazzaro responded that the job is part and parcel of his job performance – that's why he feels it's not appropriate for here. He added it's going down a slippery slope, and he doesn't think the Board should go down that slippery slope. Mr. Avery asked what Mr. Lazzaro is referring to as a slippery slope – talking about it here? Mr. Lazzaro responded yes, talking about it here – he wouldn't hesitate to talk about it in Executive Session. The Board will go into Executive Session at the end of the Workshop.

The line item for Litigation/Possible Litigation (A1420.402) was increased to \$200,000, and the line item for Negotiations (A1420.404) was increased to \$18,000.

ENGINEER

Under Contractual (A1440.400) that line item remains the same at \$50,000. Mrs. Warfel noted that we also charge for Engineer in some other portions of the Budget as well.

CENTRAL DATA PROCESSING

Mr. Avery referred to Personnel Service (A1680.100) and said he has the same question or concern about our full time IT person. Mr. Lazzaro stated it will be discussed in Executive Session for the same reasons as mentioned before.

SPECIAL ITEMS

Mrs. Warfel stated Unallocated Insurance (A1910.400) is the Insurance charges that are paid to NYMIR; line item remains the same. She referred to the Contingent Account (A1990.400) and said the Board is allowed to have 10% of its Budget in a Contingent Account; this is not 10% of the Budget – it is less than that. She originally budgeted \$150,000; if it's the Board's pleasure, it can remain at \$150,000 or it can be lowered to \$100,000 which was budgeted in 2018. After brief discussion, that line item remains at \$150,000.

Mrs. Warfel stated a potential 2.5% increase for Employees was budgeted for in line item Increases (A1990.401). She said whatever the Board decides, if there is anything remaining, it will come out of the Budget. Mr. DeLelys stated they did the Matrix and got everybody up to where they are suppose to be, so he recommended 1.5%. Mr. Ferrara agreed with 1.5% increase, as well as the rest of the Board.

BAND CONCERTS

The line items for Seneca Falls Community Band (A7270.400) - \$500, and Pageant of Bands (A7270.401) - \$100, remain the same.

LIBRARY

The Seneca Falls Library (A7410.400) remains at zero.

HISTORIAN

All line items under Historian (A7510) remain the same.

HISTORICAL PROPERTY

Mrs. Warfel stated it is allowed to give to the SF Historical Society (A7520.400); Mr. Lazzaro took it out of the Budget. Mr. Lazzaro said as long as we are allowed to give to the Historical Society he would recommend we put it back in. \$7,000 was put back into this line item.

CELEBRATIONS

Mrs. Warfel stated the same amount budgeted for It's a Wonderful Life (A7550.401) - \$4,000; and St. Anthony's Festival (A7550.402) - \$2,500 this year is budgeted for next year. She is not sure the Board is allowed to give to either one of those. Mr. Lazzaro said he thinks the Board should abide by those rules. Mr. Avery asked if it is budgeted, does the Board have to give it; Mrs. Warfel responded if it's budgeted, you don't have to give it. Mr. Avery suggested that they be left in the Budget if we can give them. Mr. Porretta requested that Mrs. Warfel contact the Auditors to see if we can donate to these organizations. Mrs. Warfel said she would contact the Auditors.

OTHER CULTURE & RECREATION

Mrs. Warfel explained the Other Culture & Recreation is the Boaters Facility and Seneca Museum of Waterways. Visitors Center/Boaters Facility Equipment (A7989.200) was reduced to \$1,000, and Gas & Electricity (A7989.400) was increased to \$14,000. Maintenance Parts & Repairs (A7989.403) remains the same as this year, and Service Contracts (A7989.404) was lowered to \$3,200. Mrs. Warfel stated the Town has a contract with the Museum to be the Visitors Center (A7989.405) - \$65,240. Miscellaneous (A7989.406), Condo Fees (A7989.407) and Summer Staff (A7989.408) all remain the same as this year. Mrs. Warfel noted \$5,000 was budgeted for Summer Staff, but they are asking for an additional \$33,000. Mr. Lazzaro stated the Visitors Center does a lot for Seneca Falls, and it is a very positive place for people to go; it sells Seneca Falls. He added \$33,000 seems like a lot for one time. He thinks the Board can help and assist them with some more because their budget has not gone up for a number of years. Mr. Avery suggested putting an additional \$20,000 in the Budget. Mrs. Warfel noted it will be a continuing thing because once you begin giving it they are going to need that to continue to support those people. Mrs. Warfel suggested adding another line item for whatever they feel is necessary. A line for Other Needs (A7989.409) was created and \$20,000 was put into that line item.

OTHER HOME & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Finger Lakes Television (A8989.400) - \$2,100; and Miscellaneous (A8989.405) - \$2,000 is all that is budgeted in this part of the Budget.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Mrs. Warfel stated Retirement contributions to New York State have gone up slightly. She noted on Page 26 of the Budget, we have Social Security/Medicare, Workmen's Compensation costs, Unemployment, Disability Insurance, Hospital/Medical Insurance, Dental Insurance, Town's portion of Retirees assistance, and Employee Assistance Program.

DEBT SERVICE

Mrs. Warfel stated we still have a couple of years left on the Bond Anticipation Note (A9730), paying back the Tax Stabilization Fund - \$177,000 for the Principal.

INTERFUND TRANSFERS TO OTHER FUNDS

Mrs. Warfel noted these are transfer of funds to the Community Center and Vince's Park to run their programs.

REVENUES

Real Property Taxes (A1001) was reduced from \$4,040,100 to \$3,815,500 (before making changes). This translates into a tax rate again of \$9.19 per \$1,000. Payments in Lieu of Taxes (A1081) is budgeted for \$153,585, and Interest/Penalties on Taxes (A1090) is budgeted at \$10,000 which pays for the Clerk's services.

DEPARTMENTAL INCOME

Clerk Fees (A1255) \$1,000; Fees Collected by Police Department (A1520) \$750; Dog Control Fees (A1550) \$300; Vital Statistic Fees (A1603) \$1,600; Zoning Fees (A2110) \$1,250; and Mowing Violations (A2110M) \$1,000. Mrs. Warfel said for Refuse & Garbage Charges, Landfill Revenue, (A2130) she budgeted \$145,118. Charges for Cemetery Services (A2192) is budgeted at \$2,500.

USE OF MONEY & PROPERTY

Mrs. Warfel stated for Interest & Earnings (A2401) she budgeted \$2,000, and for Reserve Interest (A2401R) she budgeted \$1,000.

LICENSES & PERMITS

Dog Licenses (A2544) was raised to \$5,000; Junkyard Fees (A2545) \$100; Buildings & Alteration Permits (A2555) \$8,000; and Sanitary Landfill (A2590) \$250.00.

FINES & FORFEITURES

Mrs. Warfel stated she budgeted \$80,000 for Fines, Fees & Forfeitures (A2610).

SALE OF PROPERTY & COMPENSATION FOR

Mrs. Warfel budgeted \$10,000 for Sale of Scrap (A2665), and she budgeted \$2,835 for Insurance Recoveries (A2680),

MISCELLANEOUS LOCAL SOURCES

Refunds of Prior Years Expenditures (A2701) is budgeted at \$3,000, and Other Unclassified Revenues (A2770) is budgeted at \$4,000.

STATE AID

Mrs. Warfel stated we still have A.I.M. aid from the State (A3001) at \$148,020. Mortgage Tax (A3005) is budgeted at \$90,000, and Dissolution Incentive (A3089A) is budgeted at \$538,557. She said we will have \$625,000 coming from the Safe Routes to School Grant (A3089T).

FEDERAL AID

Wet Lands (A4089) is for Montezuma Refuge and is budgeted at \$566.

Mrs. Warfel stated at this point, this Budget has nothing appropriated of the Fund Balance - this is a Budget without using anything else.

RECREATION – EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

NYS Retirement (CR9010.800) is budgeted at \$37,785; Social Security/Medicare (CR9030.800) \$22,330; Workers Compensation \$9,075. Disability Insurance (CR9055.800) is at \$1,830; Hospital & Medical Insurance (CR9060.800) \$98,310; Dental Insurance (CR9060.801) \$7,555; and Employee Assistance Program (CR9060.802) \$175.00.

RECREATION – REVENUES

Adult Programs (CR2001A3) \$2,000; Youth Programs (CR2001A4) \$2,000; and New Programs (CR2001A5) is at \$750.00. Rentals (CR2001A6) is at \$3,500; Summer Programs (CR2001A7) \$5,000; Basketball (CR2001B) \$9,000; Creative Expressions Pre-School (CR2001C) \$2,000; Kickball (CR2001E) \$500; Lacrosse (CR2001F) \$5,000; and Soccer (CR2001G) is at \$8,500. Concessions (CR2012) is budgeted at \$1,000.

Mr. Avery stated as a point of information, they have been in contact with Reggie Aceto, Town of Tyre Board, who has been talking to Mr. Spina regarding their interest in creating an agreement to use Vince's Park. He said if we decide to move forward, it would be additional revenue – it's something to look into.

USE OF MONEY & PROPERTY

Interest & Earnings (CR2401) has been lowered to \$50.

STATE AID

Mrs. Warfel stated State Aid for Youth Programs (CR3820) hasn't come in, so there is no point in budgeting anything for that.

INTERFUND TRANSFERS

Mrs. Warfel stated the Interfund Transfer (CF5031) from the General Fund to Recreation to help fund the programs is \$629,463.

VINCE'S PARK

Mrs. Warfel stated the wages are equal to what they have been, but she had to reallocate it based upon what we seem to be spending. Buildings & Grounds (CR2-7110.400) remains the same at \$3,500, and Office Supplies (CR2-7110.401) was lowered to \$300. Safety (CR2-7110.402) was increased to \$500, and Ballfield Work (CR2-7110.416) was increased to \$1,000. All other items remain the same as this year.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Social Security/Medicare (CR2-9030.800) is budgeted at \$4,300. There are no charges for Workers Compensation and Unemployment Insurance.

REVENUES

Non-Resident Daily Pool Fees (CR2-2025) is budgeted at \$13,000, and Non-Resident Pool Membership Fees (CR2-2025A) is budgeted at \$3,000. Softball (CR2-2089B) is budgeted at \$1,500, and Swim Instructions (CR2-2089S) is at \$2,500.

USE OF MONEY & PROPERTY

Interest & Earnings (CR2-2401) is budgeted at \$20; Pavilion Rentals (CR2-2410P) is \$13,000, and Shelter Rentals (CR2-2410S) is \$3,000.

LICENSES AND PERMITS

Alcohol Permits (CR2-2590) was lowered to \$2,000.

HIGHWAY - EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

State Retirement (DA9010.800) is budgeted at \$31,145; Social Security/Medicare (DA9030.800) \$35,883; Workers Compensation (DA9040.800) \$9,075, and Disability Insurance (DA9055.800) \$3,036. Hospital/Medical Insurance (DA9060.800) is budgeted at \$131,675; Dental Insurance (DA9060.810) \$9,560, and Employee Assistance Program (DA9060.830) \$260.

REVENUES

Mrs. Warfel stated Real Property Taxes (DA1001) is \$582,991, the same amount that was taxed last year. She added because the taxable value of the Town is over \$24 million less this year than it was last year due to results of some assessment grievances, the tax rate for the Highway went up .07. Dumpster Revenues (DA2130) was lowered to \$15,000 based on history. Mrs. Warfel referred to Landfill Revenue (DA2130L) and said she

budgeted \$579,799; if they doesn't transpire, it can be taken out of the Tax Stabilization Reserve or make a transfer from General Fund to Highway to cover those costs. Brief discussion followed.

USE OF MONEY & PROPERTY

Interest & Earnings (DA2401) is budgeted at \$250, and Reserve Interest (DA2401R) is at \$200. Sale of Scrap (DA2650) is budgeted at \$2,500.

STATE AID

Consolidated Highway Aid (DA3501) is budgeted at \$249,500.

Mrs. Warfel noted this Budget as it stands, we have already authorized to appropriate Reserves to help cover the cost of some of the equipment needs that Mr. Peterson has to the amount of \$100,000. She added it appropriates \$44,000 of his Fund Balance or cash on hand to balance this budget.

WATER – ENGINEER

Contractual for Engineer (F1440.400) is the same as this year - \$20,000.

SPECIAL ITEMS

Taxes and Assessments (F1950.400) is budgeted at \$175,235. Mrs. Warfel said this is for taxes for property owned in Fayette (Water Plant). Mr. Lazzaro asked how much does the Town pay; Mrs. Warfel replied it was \$149,000 in 2017. Mr. Lazzaro asked if the State would allow the municipality to waive that fee. Mrs. Holtz replied it's not up to the State – it's up to the Town. She added a municipality that owns property in another town will be taxed at that town rate, but the County may waive County taxes if it's within your County. Brief discussion followed.

Mrs. Warfel stated she kept the Contingent Account (F1990.400) at \$100,000. A lot of the Salary Contingent Account (F1990.401) will go back into the Fund Balance since the Board has decided on salaries.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Mrs. Warfel stated this covers the costs for State Retirement, Social Security/Medicare, Workers Compensation, Disability Insurance, Health and Dental Insurance and Employee Assistance Program.

BUDGETARY PROVISIONS CAPITAL

Mrs. Warfel stated she put \$600,000 into Budgetary Provisions Capital (F0962.400) and an additional \$750,000 all from Landfill Revenue (F2130) to go into Capital Improvements. She added if that revenue does not materialize, we can still budget for it but we just won't be able to do it.

REVENUES

Unmeters Sales (F2142) was increased to \$8,000, and Service Charges (F2144) was also increased to \$8,000. Penalties (F2148) went from \$27,500 to \$30,000.

USE OF MONEY & PROPERTY

Interest & Earnings (F2401) remains at \$750, and Rental of Real Property (F2410) (tower leases/rental to Mr. Tullo) is at \$50,000.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Mrs. Warfel stated there is a Fiscal Agent Fee (G1380.400) for one of the bonds that we pay - \$4,124.

ENGINEER

Mrs. Warfel explained that \$100,000 is budgeted for the Sewer Improvement Study (G1440.400) – this is to improve the infrastructure.

CONTINGENT ACCOUNT

Contingent Account (G1990.400) was lowered from \$200,000 to \$150,000.

SEWER ADMINISTRATION

Equipment (G8110.200) was lowered to \$3,000 and Postage (G8110.404) was increased from \$2,800 to \$3,500. Office Supplies (G8110.412) was increased to \$1,750 and Sewer Bills (G8110.483) increased to \$1,250.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Mrs. Warfel said this again is Employee costs – State Retirement, Social Security/Medicare, Workers Compensation, Disability Insurance, Health and Dental Insurance and Employee Assistance Program.

REVENUES

Mrs. Warfel said Sewer Rents (G2120 remain the same at \$2,165,000, and Sewer Charges (G2122) was lowered to \$300,000. The line item for Penalties (G2128) was increased to \$42,000, and \$450,000 is budgeted for

Landfill Revenue. Interest & Earnings (G2401) is at \$2,000, and Interest & Earnings Reserves (G2401R) is at \$400. Mrs. Warfel said \$25,724 is appropriated from cash on hand to balance this Budget.

DEBT SERVICE

Mrs. Warfel stated the residents of the former Village are responsible for one debt which was a drainage project; there is enough money in Fund Balance to pay the Principal for this debt without having to tax for it. She added the only part we are taxing for is the interest on that debt – Rumseyville Drainage Project (V1-9720.700) - \$14,625. Total Appropriations amount to \$136,521 of which we are taxing \$91,521. Mrs. Warfel said the tax rate for this district for next year is going up .11 – from .26 per \$1,000 to .37 per \$1,000. She added when the debt is paid for, this district will be less.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Mrs. Warfel referred to Retiree Insurance (V2-9060.804) and said this is the obligation district that benefitted those people who worked for the Town and whose work did not benefit the former Village; the budget for next year is \$17,930, all of which is raised by Special Assessments. She said the tax rate is going from .05 per \$1,000 to .08 per \$1,000.

REFUSE & GARBAGE

Mrs. Warfel stated we have a contract for refuse removal with Seneca Meadows (SR8160.400) - \$99,187, and with Cardinal Services (SR8160.401) - \$144,348. She noted each resident of the Town will be paying \$66.34 a unit for trash pickup for the year. She said that may increase because contracting costs go up. Mr. Ferrara asked if the bill from Seneca Meadows is for tipping fees. Mrs. Warfel replied no, they pick up the trash Townwide outside the former Village.

USE OF MONEY & PROPERTY

Interest & Earnings (SR2401) is budgeted at \$100.

BSD - EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Social Security/Medicare was lowered from \$1,732 to \$1,200. Mrs. Warfel said the Town doesn't ask for anything else from Bridgeport Sewer District other than contributing to Mr. Tullo's wage and Social Security/Medicare benefits.

BSD - STATUTORY INSTALLMENT BONDS

Principal (SS1-9720.600) was budgeted at \$25,000, and Interest (SS1-9720.700) is at \$1,500. Mrs. Warfel said they will be using the majority of the remainder of the Fund Balance to balance this Budget; at the end of next year, this district will be dissolved into the Sewer District Townwide.

Mr. Lazzaro said we used some revenue from the Landfill; if we didn't use that, what would the tax increase be. Mrs. Warfel replied there wouldn't be one in the General Fund because that could be absorbed by cash on hand. The one in the Highway takes the tax from \$1.40 per \$1,000 to \$2.11 per \$1,000 – it may be different now because some modifications were made. In the Water & Sewer, money that is budgeted there is for infrastructure improvement – that would just have to be set aside as we won't be able to do it; there is no tax rate associated with Water & Sewer. Mr. Lazzaro asked if those infrastructure improvements can be done without; Mrs. Warfel replied the Town would have to bond.

At 5:22 P.M., a motion was made to go into Executive Session regarding personnel by Greg Lazzaro and seconded by Doug Avery. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

A motion was made to reconvene the Budget Workshop at 6:20 P.M. by Greg Lazzaro and seconded by Dave DeLelys. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Being there was no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the Budget Workshop by Greg Lazzaro and seconded by Dave DeLelys. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

NICALETTA J. GREER
Town Clerk

