

The Seneca Falls Town Board held a Budget Workshop and Meeting on Wednesday, October 23, 2019 in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 130 Ovid Street.

Present were Supervisor Gregory Lazzaro; Councilmen Vittorio Porretta, Douglas Avery, David DeLelys and Lous Ferrara. Also present were Beverly Warfel, Principal Account Clerk; Joseph Tullo, Chief W/WWTP Operator; Town Engineer Peter Baker and T.J. Casamassima, Deputy Supervisor.

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

Mr. Lazzaro stated Mr. Foster would like to address the Board regarding the Spectrum contract. Mr. Foster stated when Marshall came on board, he tried to locate internet providers. Spectrum applied for bids for NYS municipalities, and Spectrum reached out to a request that was made over a year ago. The cost for fiberoptic cable at the Treatment Plant which is out of the way would be \$25,000-\$26,000 – they would have to run lines down there. They would like to run cable for all locations. Mr. Foster said they have all the documentation and all they would do was update it. They will waive installation and cable fees. They are willing to give the Town 100 lines; the system we have now will not change. Mr. Foster said obviously it's an enhancement. They met with Mr. Lazzaro, Mr. Avery and a representative of Spectrum who wanted an answer by Monday as they would like to do it now which would result in a savings for the Town.

Marshall stated we will share internet with other companies. The monthly fee will go down a little, and we will end up with faster service and some buildings that don't have it will have it. Mr. Foster said he recommends it, adding Marshall is aware of the technical part of it and he looked at the contract. Further discussion followed.

A motion was made to move to Spectrum as the providers for the Town's internet and phone service by Greg Lazzaro and seconded by Doug Avery. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Mr. Foster referred to the Dell agreement and said Dataprise is willing to match that price; the only advantage is we can lock in that price for three years. He said they have to give us something and we have to give them something. We have a piece of software (\$7,000) that they want the Town to surrender to them, and in turn, they will give us the new piece of hardware. Mr. Foster said he needs permission from the Board to enable the change order.

After further discussion by Mr. Foster, Mr. Ferrara asked if there is a reason why the Board is doing this now – he is here for a Budget Meeting. He didn't know this was on the Agenda. More discussion followed.

WATER

Purification: Treatment Plant Operator Trainee (F8330.101) is the same as this year - \$48,000.00. Mr. Tullo said there is no Trainee – it should be Laborer. Mrs. Warfel said she would rename it to Laborer. Overtime (F8330.103) remains at \$5,000.00. Mr. Tullo said it's mandated every Saturday and Sunday at least three hours – this is just the Treatment Plant. Equipment/Generator (encumbered) (F8330.200) - \$165,000.00. Mr. Tullo said this is because the generator project was awarded and they don't have the generator yet. He added it won't be done this year so we have to encumber it for next year. Mr. DeLelys asked when will it be done; Mr. Baker replied it will be sometime in 2020. Brief discussion followed.

Disinfection (encumbered) (F8330.201) is down from \$118,000.00 to \$40,000. Mr. Tullo stated they did a lot of upgrades this year but they need to do more. Raw Ph Adjust (encumbered) (F8330.202) - \$90,000.00. This is money left over from Landfill money they asked for last year for filters, etc. Mr. Tullo said they need to adjust their Ph now. He said if the Ph is too high in the Lake, the chemicals won't work efficiently; if the Ph is right, the chemicals will work. He added they need a CO2 system injected into the raw water. Mr. Varricchio explained the process. Mr. Avery stated Mr. Tullo is asking to encumber \$90,000.00 for the next year, and in December, they will be asking for more; Mr. Tullo said right - in December, he is assuming it will probably be about \$150,000.00. Mr. Avery stated once the system is up, there will be a cost involved in operating. Mr. Baker said the payback is less chemicals; there will be cleaner water going through the filters so there will be less backwash and less wasted water. Discussion followed.

SCADA Upgrades/encumber (F8330.203) went down from \$200,000.00 to \$45,000.00. Equipment Replace Upgrade (F8330.204) was increased from \$50,000.00 to \$80,000.00. Fenceline Repair/Replace (F8330.205) was increased to \$30,000.00. Mr. Tullo said this will cost more than that – this is just a start to do a section at a time. Fenceline is a Homeland Security issue.

Turbidimeter Replace (encumbered) (F8330.206) - Mr. Tullo noted the Turbidimeter reads the cloudiness of the water. Mr. Varricchio stated there are nine turbidimeters which are all 18 years old and run 24-7. He said the numbers are sent to the Health Department as part of their monthly report. Mr. Tullo said they are planning to replace all of them. \$50,000.00 was placed in the line item for turbidimeters.

Telephone SCADA System (F8330.402) was increased from \$3,400.00 to \$3,500.00. Colacino Industries (SCADA) (F8330.408) was increased to \$9,500.00. Mr. Tullo said they will need a contract, so it has to go out to bid. Chemicals (F8330.409) was increased from \$35,000.00 to \$42,500.00. Mr. Tullo said this went up because they are using the powder activated carbon – it may go up even more.

Mr. Tullo said UV Disinfection (F8330.430) went down to \$7,500.00 as they put a lot into their system this year. Vehicle Maintenance (F8330.431) increased from \$250.00 to \$750.00, and Lab Fees (F8330.432) remains the same as this year. Mr. Tullo said it might go up next year as there are new laws coming up. After discussion as to the amount to be put into this line item, it was decided to raise the amount from \$7,000.00 to \$10,000.00.

DEC Permit Fees (F8330.433) remains at \$1,000.00, and Conference and Training (F8330.434) went down from \$4,000.00 to \$2,000.00. Cleaning Supplies (F8330.458) was increased from \$200.00 to \$500.00, and Miscellaneous Contractual (F8330.472) was decreased to 1,500.00. Propane (F8330.486) and Safety Equipment (F8330.494) remains the same as this year.

Transmission & Distribution: Mr. Porretta referred to the water user fees and said it's supposed to be self-sustaining; Mrs. Warfel said it is self-sustaining. Mr. Porretta asked if we are able to put a little money in reserves; Mrs. Warfel replied some was budgeted this year to put into reserves (\$600,000.00 from Landfill revenue), and then Mr. Tullo utilizes the Budget to work on capital projects. Further discussion followed.

Water Sewer Maintainer (F8340.100) was increased to \$83,400.00. Mrs. Warfel said this is to make sure that we have the right lines being charged to the right people – it changes every year depending upon who is there and what they are making. Longevity (F8340.101) went down to \$450.00, and Overtime (F8340.102) was increased to \$3,000.00. Meter Reader (F8340.103) is at \$37,721.00. Mrs. Warfel noted it's one-half of two people which makes it whole. Laborer (F8340.104) went down from \$23,485.00 to \$18,720.00, and Meter Reader Overtime (F8340.105) was decreased to \$1,400.00. Deputy Water Supervisor (F8340.106) remains the same as this year, and Auburn Rd. Tower Generator (F8340.202) was zeroed out. Mr. Tullo said he will be asking in December to put money in that line item because they have been running that tower with no backup generator – it's about \$150,000.00 for a generator. Discussion followed.

Mr. Tullo said the C12 Booster St (F8340.203) is zeroed out as they are scratching this right now - they want to work on the plant first. He put \$55,000.00 into the line item for Small Dump Truck (F8340.206). They will be selling the one they are using now (2010) on Auctions International to get some money back – price of the truck is just under \$55,000.00. Mr. Lazzaro referred to the 3rd quarter Landfill check and what Mr. Tullo is asking from that check. Mr. Tullo said he believes he will be asking for \$300,000.00 or just a little more. Further discussion followed.

Mr. Tullo stated \$35,000.00 was put into the line item for Excavator (F8340.208) as theirs is worn. They will get almost what they paid for it - they will be trading it in. VanRenssalaer Tower (F8340.210) is at \$379,549.00, and Auburn Road Tower (F8340.211) is at \$157,954.00. Mr. Tullo said these are the contract payments. Telephone (F8340.402) stays the same as this year, and Fuel (F8340.405) was increased from \$7,000.00 to \$7,500.00. Vehicle Maintenance (F8340.406) remains at \$10,000.00. Electric & Dig (F8340.407) is at \$5,000.00. Mr. Tullo said this is one of our contracts – it will have to be put out to bid again. Mr. DeLelys said he thinks we have the equipment for digging between the Highway and Water & Sewer. Mr. Tullo said they don't have a man-size excavator that's necessary. Conferences (F8340.434), Replacement Program Meters (F8340.435) and Water Main Parts (F8340.436) all remain the same as this year.

Gravel/Blacktop/Stone (F8340.438) was increased from \$6,000.00 to \$8,000.00. Materials for Services (F8340.439) remains at \$6,000.00, and Materials for Water Main Repair (F8340.440) was increased from \$20,000.00 to \$30,000.00. Fire Hydrant Replacement Program (F8340.441) was reduced to \$2,000.00, as well as Tower Maintenance (F8340.444) was reduced to \$3,000.00. Miscellaneous Contractual (F8340.472) was reduced from \$15,800.00 to \$3,000.00. Safety Equipment (F8340.494) was increased to \$3,000.00, and \$3,000.00 was put into a line item for Safety Training (F8340.495).

SEWER

Sanitary Sewers: Sewer Maintainer (G8120.100) was increased to \$82,046. Mr. Tullo said a little of his salary was being offset by Bridgeport Sewer District – that's why it went up. Mrs. Warfel noted Bridgeport Sewer District is going away after this year. Overtime (G8120.103) was increased from \$3,000.00 to \$4,000.00, and Meter Reader (G8120.104) went from \$22,927.00 to \$37,720.00. Overtime Meter Reader (G8120.105) remains at 1,900.00. Mr. Tullo explained that is split between Water and Sewer. Laborer (G8120.107) was decreased to \$18,720.00. Pickup (G8120.203) is at \$44,000.00. Mr. Tullo said this is to replace the 2017 truck which has 117,000 miles on it.

Sewer Projects (G8120.204) remains at \$962,000.00. Mrs. Warfel stated this is money that is being set aside every year toward capital projects in sewer. Vac Truck Encumber (G8120.206) is at \$100,000.00. Mrs. Warfel said this is money set aside to buy a vac truck in 2021. Mr. Porretta asked if it was bought in 2016; Mr. Tullo replied yes. \$75,000.00 was put into the line item Fall St. Pump Station (G8120.209), and \$100,000.00 was put into the line item for Water St. Pump Station (G8120.210). Mr. Tullo stated both of these pump stations are in bad shape; they keep them going, but they are keeping the money there because we will need a new pump station. Brief discussion followed.

Electricity (G8120.401) was lowered to \$26,000.00, and Telephone (G8120.402) was lowered to \$2,100.00. Gasoline (G8120.405), Vehicle Maintenance (G8120.406) and Meters (G8120.407) all remain the same as this year. System Maintenance/Manhole Covers, etc. (G8120.448) was lowered to \$3,500.00. Miscellaneous Contractual (G8120.472) remains at \$6,000.00, and Pump Station Maintenance (G8120.487) is at \$10,000.00. Emergency Repairs (G8120.488) will remain at \$15,000.00.

Sewage Treatment/Disposal: Under Longevity (G8130.102), Mrs. Warfel said she put in \$900.00; she will research it and

change it to \$600.00 if necessary. Overtime (G8130.103) was increased to \$28,000.00, and Deputy Chief (G8130.104) was zeroed out. \$2,000.00 was put into the line item Bobcat Attachments (G8130.205). WW Training (G8130.400) was increased to \$10,000.00. Mr. Tullo stated he has two trainees that should be going to training next year. Electricity (G8130.401) was increased from \$65,000.00 to \$85,000.00, and Telephone (G8130.402) went from \$3,200.00 to \$4,000.00. SCADA (G8130.403) remains the same, and Gasoline (G8130.405) went from \$3,000.00 to \$4,800.00. Vehicle Maintenance (G8130.406) was lowered to \$3,000.00, and Chemicals (G8130.409) was increased to \$27,000.00. DEC Permit Fee (G8130.433) was increased to \$14,000.00.

Plant Supplies (G8130.445) remains the same, and Plant Maintenance (G8130.448) went from \$32,000.00 to \$52,500.00. Mr. Tullo noted the Sewer Plant is getting older and every time you turn around something breaks. Fence/Grounds (G8130.459) and Miscellaneous Contractual (G8130.472) remain the same as this year. Roof Repairs (G8130.474) is zeroed out, and Safety Equipment (G8130.494) remains at \$3,000.00.

Mr. Lazzaro sent a Memo out yesterday that he received from the State – the State is saying the Town owns the property on Bayard Street underneath the bridge. The Town Clerk said her Deputy pulled some records from Village records which she sent to Mr. Baker. Mr. Baker said he looked at the records, and it doesn't look like it's the exact area. Mr. DeLelys asked if an abstract would show that; Mr. Baker replied yes. He referred to the work that Barclay Damon did for the Bonafiglia property, and said we have to reach out to them. He mentioned that the issue here is it's under water – it's not a conventional culvert repair. Brief discussion followed.

Mr. Lazzaro read a portion of the letter he received from the State which mentioned an October 31st deadline for discussion. Mr. Lazzaro said the Board needs to get a letter out to the State indicating that this is an unreasonable time frame; we need to discuss this and extend this deadline. Lengthy discussion followed.

Mr. Lazzaro will call the State and set up a Conference call for tomorrow at 1:00 P.M.

WAGES – ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mrs. Warfel listed the percentage increases as follows: all items less energy and food – 2.4%; shelter – 3.5%; all items adding food and energy back in is 1.7%. She budgeted up to 3% for wage increases.

A motion was made to approve a 2% cost of living increase for all elected Officials by Greg Lazzaro and seconded by Doug Avery. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

A motion was made to approve a 2% increase in salary for all employees except unionized employees by Greg Lazzaro and seconded by Doug Avery.

Mr. Avery asked – unionized being Police and Highway. Mr. Lazzaro responded just Police – not Highway. Mrs. Warfel mentioned that the Board has to abide by the contract. Mr. Lazzaro said Highway is still in negotiations – they don't get an increase. Brief discussion followed.

Mr. Avery withdrew his second to the above motion approving a 2% increase in salary for all employees except unionized employees. Motion failed.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

NICALETTA J. GREER
Town Clerk

