

Budget Workshop
October 15, 2014

The Budget Workshop of the Town of Cambridge, was duly called and held the 15th day of October at 7:30 PM at the Town Hall, the following were present:

Supervisor Catherine Fedler
Councilman Douglas Ford
Councilman Gerald Skiff
Councilman Robin McMurray
Councilwoman Susan Herrington

Others present: Heather Greenawalt Town Clerk, Margaret Shaw Clerk to the Supervisor, Connie Watkins

Supervisor Fedler called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and immediately led in the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

Supervisor Fedler said that in the past there has been discussion whether the Town Board can take action in a Workshop. She has spoken to the office of Comptroller's and they said that Lawyers have started to fight this. When push comes to shove when they say that you have done something wrong they say that there is no specifics in the Open Meetings Law that say you cannot take action in a Budget Workshop. The JCap Grant deadline has been extended to the 22nd of October so the board will pass a resolution tonight.

JCap Grant

Resolution #60

Councilman McMurray motioned,

Seconded by Councilman Ford,

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT an invitation having been extended to the Judge of the Town of Cambridge to apply for a 2014 – 2015 JCAP Grant, and said grant having been applied for,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the grant that will be submitted is for much needed repair of the Archives where Court records are stored,

RESOLVED THAT, the Town Board of the Town of Cambridge, has received a copy of the requested grant and approves the same.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Supervisor Fedler mentioned that the county has what they call the county dues. If there are people that have fought through the court system pertaining to over assessment and money is owed the town portion is collected by the county. So the county pays back the Town and county amount to the individual and the county collects from the town. If the town lets that ride it is money that has to be paid next year. There is enough money this year in the contingent to pay the \$636.70. The Supervisor suggested that the board make a resolution next board meeting to pay this recapitulation amount due to the county.

Margaret Shaw clerk to the Supervisor mentioned that last week they were talking about dissolving the Bridge Reserve and she is still waiting for a call from Audit and Control. There was a short discussion about the CHIPS money again because of the way that the CHIPS money is being paid through the Office of the Comptroller.

Supervisor Fedler mentioned that she had at the county punched in the figures and if the amount raised by taxes is \$611,561 or under then we are and under the 2% cap. She also mentioned that if they go over the cap then there is more paperwork that has to be done and handed into the state. Supervisor Fedler also mentioned that if they missed this year of not staying within the 2% cap the Town can still get in the program again.

The Supervisor started on the first page of the 2015 budget and went line for line. When they reached the salary for the Town Justice Salary A1110.1 the proposed amount for 2015 was \$3375 and the 2% increase would bring that line item to \$3443. It was mentioned that the 2% should be a small token of appreciation. Councilman Skiff asked what if the Town Justice started to put in for the mileage, schooling, like she mentioned last meeting. Supervisor Fedler said that is why she said that they need to look at the appointment policy, because of the cost of advertising for the Town. Also the schooling and the mileage are things that need to be addressed the first of the year. The Town Board discussed the options and they thought that they needed to be fair in line with the other employees, so they put in the 2% increase for Town Justice Salary.

When discussing the section of the budget for the Town Clerk's Deputy A1410.13 the board decided that a \$1000 could be removed from this line because in previous years this was the approximate amount remaining. This would lower A1410.13 to \$1652 and the Town Board mentioned that if the Town Clerk could not get anyone to fill in for her when she was absent she could put a sign on the door. They said that any resident that had an issue with this could fill out a complaint form and bring the situation before the board.

In the section of Buildings (Personal Services A1620.1) which is the Cleaning of the Town Hall. Because the \$650 which is budgeted was not used they lowered this line to \$450. For the Control of Dogs they decided to take equipment line A3510.2 from \$100 to 0 because this money has not been used. The Veterans Services on page 4 line A6510.4 the board decided to lower this from \$500 to \$300 which is still above the amount budgeted for 2014 year by \$100.

On page 5 of the budget Contractual Landfill A8160.4 because the town has not been billed from the landfill testing as often it was decided to lower this line from \$1250 to \$1000. The Supervisor did mention that they had not received a bill yet this year but that does not mean the town won't get a bill.

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The undistributed section of the budget on page 5: State Retirement A9010.8 has stayed the same, Social Security A9030.8 has gone from \$7340 to \$7275 and the Medical Insurance has gone from \$42000 to \$37600. These were all figures that Margaret had estimated and when she received the finalized numbers she inputs them.

In the General B Fund under the undistributed the Employee Benefits section changes were made because the finalized numbers came in. The changes on these numbers were as follows: Social Security B9030.8 changed from \$1200 to \$1000 and Hospital & Medical Insurance B9060.8 changed from \$8000 to \$7900. The estimated unexpended balance changed from \$4800 to \$7250.

The Board decided to review the Highway DA and DB Fund again and change the Employee Benefits numbers that had been received. Under Employee Benefits the DA9030.8 changed from \$6630 to \$6100. Also for the Hospital & Medical Insurance DA9060.8 the figures changed from \$18000 to \$15555. The estimated unexpended balance on the bottom of page 9 has changed from \$24800 to \$22100.

The other adjustments that were made on page 10 were under Employee Benefits Social Security DB9030.8 changed from \$7395 to \$7000. The Hospital & Medical Ins. DB9060.8 is at \$21777. The unexpended balance on the bottom of page 10 is changed from \$31500 to \$12766. Margaret Shaw Clerk to the Supervisor explained that this is 1/3 of what will be left after expenses.

After going through the budget the final amount to be raised by taxes is \$624,509. In order to be under the 2% cap \$12948 must be lost from the budget.

Supervisor Fedler said that she is not trying to scare anyone but they are sitting here with no unexpended balance because they were so close before. So next year at this time they will be sitting in the same seats.

Councilwoman Herrington asked if there was any other savings. She was corrected there is no savings in the Town that is not what it is called. Margaret Shaw Clerk to the Supervisor said that she gives them the figures every month on their monthly reports. There is a General A & B account, Highway DA and DB and TD accounts also. There are accounts in both TD Bank and Glens Falls National.

There being no further business before the town board, the meeting was moved and carried for adjournment at 10:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Greenawalt
Town Clerk/Town of Cambridge

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