

Special Meeting/Budget Workshop
October 24, 2013

The Special Meeting of the Town of Cambridge duly called and held the 24th day of October, 10:30 AM at the Town Hall for a 2014 Budget Workshop, the following were present:

Supervisor William Watkins
Councilwoman Catherine Fedler
Councilman Robin McMurray
Councilman Gerald Skiff
Councilman Douglas Ford

Others present: Heather Greenawalt Town Clerk, Alan Davis Highway Superintendent, Margaret Shaw Clerk to Supervisor, Rani Bass, Sue Herrington

Supervisor Watkins called the meeting to order at 10:40 AM and immediately led in the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

Resolution #52

Councilman Ford motioned, Seconded by Councilman Skiff transfer \$1,428.85 from DB5110.4 General Repairs, Contractual to DB5110.1 General Repairs, Personal Services.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

The Supervisor announced that they would be going over the 2014 budget line for line. He also mentioned that he was interested in making a longevity plan; he explained that this would be a bonus for the highwaymen that had worked for 10 – 15 – 20 years with the Town. This would have to be discussed further on how much money they would receive. Throughout the budget there were numerous sections that money could be taken to put towards this program. \$100 could be taken from the budget officer A1340.1, \$500 from the Attorney contractual A1420.4. The public questioned why the attorney salary was lower from \$2,700 to \$1,800. The Supervisor mentioned that the present attorney would be resigning as of December 31, 2013 and the salary was put back to the previous amount. It was decided that \$1,000 could be taken from the contingent A1990.4 towards the longevity.

When the line item A8160.4 was discussed it was decided that this line could be lower from \$2500 to \$1,250 because the testing for the landfill had been lowered dramatically. This would create \$1,250 that could be set aside for the longevity program.

Margaret Shaw the clerk to the supervisor said that the Per Capita (A3001) had come through and that the budget line was \$9,000 and only \$8,440 came through. It was decided to change the line item to \$8,440, Councilwoman Fedler said it is better to figure on the low side with Revenues.

When the section Highway Appropriations were reached, there was discussion of the possibility of replacing the loader. Councilman McMurray asked the Highway Superintendent why he moved the money around the way he did with the Equipment DA5130.2 and Contractual DA5130.4. He said because of the expenses that he has had changed and he doesn't need as much in equipment. Highway Superintendent Davis said

Special Meeting/Budget Workshop
October 24, 2013

if the loader was replaced last year they would have saved \$17,000 this year. If the loader was purchased the Highway Superintendent said that budget line DA5130.2 could be changed back to \$8,000 and the DA5130.4 could be changed to \$31,000. This would leave \$1,000 extra that could be used towards the longevity program from DA5130.4.

The Highway Superintendent said that he would like to get 3 quotes for a new loader and bring this information to the board at the next meeting. He mentioned that he would look at loaders in State Contract and that it would be a good idea to get a 5 year contract instead of the 3 year contract. Councilman McMurray suggested that this be done as soon as possible, notify the public and discuss at next meeting. This way the new loader can be purchased before there is a breakdown with the old loader when it is really needed. They decided to discuss the purchase of the pay loader at the Public Hearing/Special Meeting on November 6, 2013 at 7:00 PM. The Town Clerk said that she would post the notice in the paper.

It was suggested that the Highway Superintendent and council get together before the next meeting. This way the purchase of the loader can be discussed at the next meeting. It was suggested that Councilman Ford meet with Alan Davis Highway Superintendent.

Margaret Shaw Clerk to the Supervisor presented the Workmen's Compensation options. She said that the Town could set up a reserve, with the amount that they feel is appropriate taking into consideration past compensation cases and the frequency thereof. It doesn't have to be the full \$20,000. For this reserve, it can be funded through the budget or the Town can take it from available funds. The problem with taking it from our funds is that we can cut ourselves short in case of unanticipated expenses. Another option would be to do nothing. In the event of a compensation occurrence, we could then amend the budget and use what we needed from our available funds. She mentioned that as the board, the call is the Town Boards; Margaret is just presenting the options.

The Board questioned who was responsible for Workmen's Compensation when shared services are used between the town Highway Departments? Councilman Ford questioned whether or not the town could purchase their own compensation plan, or an extra blanket policy. Margaret Shaw said that Dick Look from NYMIR could be contacted about this. Margaret did mention that Kevin Hayes from the county could be contacted with any questions that pertained to the worker's compensation program.

There was discussion about the revenue from County Rt. 60 DA2302 and if the road is not maintained to keep the tax payers happy then it is possible that the county could take the plowing of the road away from the town. It was suggested to change the salt to sand ratio or maintain the road more often. It was also suggested to make the public known that the town is not going to be able to maintain the road like the county and if the town loses the road we lose the revenue of \$23,000. This means that taxes go up 5%.

Special Meeting/Budget Workshop
October 24, 2013

It was discussed whether to leave the Bridge Reserve DB962 at \$5,000 or to raise that some. It was mentioned that \$5,000 could be taken out of the unexpended Balance this would up the Bridge Reserve to \$10,000.

When the budget was completely reviewed the board added up and they had \$3,850 that could be put towards the longevity program. It was suggested that the Board decide how many years of service an employee must have with the Town. They decided on 10 – 15 – 20 years of service and you would receive \$1,000 – 10 years, \$1,500 – 15 years, \$2,000 – 20 years. Margaret Shaw clerk to the Supervisor called audit and control and they said that they could not create a reserve they could work the money into the salary line. This Longevity program would have to be written as a policy for the Town. This would be a one time check and payable at the end of the year and taxes would be taken out. The Board mentioned that 2 highwaymen would have 15 years of service which would equal \$3,000 that would be used of the \$3,850. The remaining money that was left \$850 could go for raises for other employees. It was decided to add the \$3,000 to line item DA5142.1 for the longevity bonuses. The Highway Superintendent Salary was raised by \$531 to make line item A5010.1 \$37031. The Code Enforcement was increased by \$174 to make line item B3620.1 \$8909 and the Town Historian was increased by \$5 to make line item A7510.1 \$255. The Clerk to the Supervisor was increased by \$140 to make line item A1220.12 \$7144. These increases would use the remaining \$850. Councilwoman Fedler said that she would write the longevity policy and that it would be paid to the employees that were eligible on December 1st, starting in the year of 2014.

The decision of the Board was to raise line DA962 from \$5,000 to 10,000 and to create this line for the Bridge Reserve culvert repair and replacement fund. This money was set aside to possibly use it for the bridge in Coila that was closed due structural problems.

Resolution #53

Councilwoman Fedler motioned, Seconded by Councilman Ford to create a Bridge Reserve culvert repair and replacement fund which would be line item DB962.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

Resolution #54

Councilman Ford motioned, Seconded by Councilwoman Fedler to accept the changes that have been made to the Tentative Budget as the Preliminary Budget.

Vote: Ayes – 5 Noes – 0

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was moved and carried to adjournment at 2:10 PM.

Respectfully yours,

Heather Greenawalt
Town Clerk/Town of Cambridge

<http://www.townofcambridgeny.org>