

**PUBLIC HEARING
2020 PRELIMINARY BUDGET
TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF STEPHENTOWN
OCTOBER 28, 2019**

The Regular meeting of the Town Board, Town of Stephentown was called to order by ***Lawrence Eckhardt*** at **7:05 PM** at the Town Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

(X) Supervisor Lawrence Eckhardt
() Councilman Philip Roder
(X) Councilman William Jennings
(X) Councilman Gerald Robinson
(X) Councilman Pam Kueppers
(X) Town Clerk Stephanie Wagar

(X) Highway Superintendent, Alden Goodermote
(X) Deputy Code Enforcement Officer, Owen Cassavaugh
(X) Assessor, Jennifer VanDeusen
(X) Supervisor's Bookkeeper, Maureen Seel

A quorum (X) was () wasn't established.

_____from the Public were present

REPORT FROM THE TOWN BOARD & PUBLIC COMMENT:

L. Eckhardt: discussion on email for Town secretary position. could use someone to help with correspondence for highway superintendent and supervisor someone here to answer the door and phone. Questions bookkeeper Seel, if there are any towns she works with that have a town secretary.

M. Seel: Pittstown has a full-time town clerk who is also the town's secretary, she gets paid full-time and gets health insurance paid by the town. Grafton also has a part-time Town secretary from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. she is not the town clerk she is the court clerk as well but she separates the two positions so if she does work for the highway superintendent then it is taken from the appropriate account line. She tells people when offices are open.

O. Cassavaugh: there have been many changes the past six months here at the Town Hall we have changed hours for people to get a lot done. We have gotten a good response from the people, suggests advertising what we currently have and believe the secretary is not entirely necessary. Questions where they would be located in the town hall.

M. Seel: Grafton's Town secretary is located in the conference room. And Pittstown is the town clerk so she is in her office.

B. Jennings: suggest sharing the town council's office. could hear people coming in and there is nothing sensitive in their office.

L. Eckhardt: received a call from Rik McClave for use of the fire Hall, we currently pay \$3,150 for the seniors and the veterans. Rik stated throw another \$500 on that and add the youth commission historical society and the library to the contract for use of the fire hall.

B. Jennings: thinks it's ridiculous, and they should let the kids use it, but not against giving a little more money to the fire department and not against giving them \$3,500.

L. Eckhardt: we would change the written contract to add the youth commission, library an historical society

G. Robinson: asks to go back to the discussion of the Town secretary. If money is taken from the \$58,000 this year where is it coming out of next year

B. Jennings: explains where the \$58,000 in building reserves came from and what the board's intentions were for building repairs this year.

G. Robinson: in 2021 there will be a permanent line where are those funds coming from?

M. Seel: once the line is created it is there moving forward, it's not an increase every year.

S. Wagar: the increase happened last year. The money is already in the budget it is just being moved from one line to another.

O. Cassavaugh: there was a \$95,000 increase last year. What I'm hearing is we are not going to see that money back?

B. Jennings: we could get back this year but it was a plan to do building repairs we did a lot this year and next year we're looking at a \$30,000 to \$40,000 roof on the town hall. so looking forward we may be able to give taxpayers a break.

L. Eckhardt: understands what you are saying if we give all that back we will be in the negative increase that will never happen while I am supervisor! No one's tax bill went down when that had happened and the county just increases.

O. Cassavaugh: doesn't believe presentation was there.

B. Jennings: I think you were wrong there. They had all the correct notices, and what you are saying will not hold up in court. Whether people understood how they voted is a different story

O. Cassavaugh: agreeable with projects and one-time expenses just don't want to spend money twice.

L. Eckhardt: that's why I'm throwing out if another position is even something we should have because we are getting a good response from Wednesdays. Questions Assessor VanDeusen what she thinks about this.

J. VanDeusen: not sure what you need and the only complaint I am hearing is fishing and hunting licenses on some Saturdays.

M. Seel: Wednesdays are great. I think the only issue is I can see would be the elderly people coming in who don't drive at night.

G. Robinson: is the Secretary the correct model?

P. Kueppers: thought this position could be the person who does the website.

J. VanDeusen: suggest this person work hand-in-hand with Stephanie and can work side-by-side

L. Eckhardt: what to control the hours. As an elected town clerk she's able to set her own hours. If we have an appointed person we can have control.

B. Jennings: suggests advertising for us having Wednesdays open.

S. Wagar: suggests the board members pick one day a week per month to have day hours, to sit at the Town Hall and direct people.

P. Kueppers: suggests putting in an amount in a line and figure it out later.

M. Seel: agrees, you are not adding money to the budget just agree on an amount and move on.

L. Eckhardt: move \$5,000 in the town board contractual line. Further discussion to follow.

A. Goodermote: suggests a seamless metal roof on the town hall, they last 60 to 80 years.

O. Cassavaugh: agrees, a chunk of change at first but will last forever.

B. Jennings: Bob and Agnes at the transfer station are lobbying for a little more electrical work, they would like an outdoor light to see the porta potty. And a stupid mistake the switch to turn the lights on is in the old building. Switch used to be on a pole, may need to go back to the pole, too much money to open up the ground again to move into the new building. Contractual to increase to \$99,000 did not account for the tipping fees for recycling or additional hauling fees. Would also like to increase the revenue to \$96,000, for the increased business and permits. Is pleased we have this budget manageable in under the cap.

M. Seel: did not receive anything from the fire district or the library.

L. Eckhardt: the library would have to come to a public vote to change that line.

O. Cassavaugh: understand, just trying to make sure people don't forget.

L. Eckhardt: Mike used to call them "one shots". With \$2,500 in the unexpended balance general fund and \$5000 in unexpended highway fund, where does that put us?

M. Seel: takes you to a 2.1% increase and under the cap by \$184. A rate of \$0.8143/1000 over last year.

Board agrees it's a good place to stop.

MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 8:33 PM

MOTION BY: JENNINGS

SECONDED BY: KUEPPERS

VOTES OF: 4 AYE 0 NAY

****A Workshop Meeting** is held every second Monday of every month at **7:00PM** at the Town Hall.

****The next Regular Meeting** of the Town Board, Town of Stephentown will be held on **Monday, November 18th, 2019** at **7:00 PM** at the Town Hall.

Stephanie M. Wagar

Town Clerk