

**PUBLIC HEARING
2019 PRELIMINARY BUDGET
TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF STEPHENTOWN
OCTOBER 22, 2018**

The Regular meeting of the Town Board, Town of Stephentown was called to order by *Lawrence Eckhardt* at **7:34 PM** at the Town Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

(X) Supervisor Lawrence Eckhardt
(X) 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) Supervisor's Bookkeeper, Maureen Seel

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

7 from the Public were present

REPORT FROM THE TOWN BOARD & PUBLIC COMMENT:

L. Eckhardt: forgot we need to put \$1,000 in for the Celebrate Stephentown for portable restroom units. We have been taking this from the Board, Supervisor and Contingency accounts.

B. Jennings: Marketing Town Events

M. Seel: could put it under Publicity.

B. Jennings: we should have a budget line for Marketing.

M. Seel: will have to look at the list of codes, in the meantime will put it under the Parks.

O. Cassavaugh: there used to be a line.

P. Roder: more line items help define what the current boards intensions are that way the next people to come in will know what our intensions were.

J. Atwater: everyone has a CE account? Is it used for the same thing?

M. Seel: CE items are consumable, EQ items are things that stick around

L. Eckhardt: received the Youth Commission numbers, the Director and Assistant Director have not received a raise in the past couple of years, looking to increase them to \$500 each.

J. Atwater: each PS gets a 2%?

L. Eckhardt: Yes, except the Town Board and Supervisor.

J. Atwater: the Library line, if this vote goes through does this current amount go away?

L. Eckhardt: yes, if it goes through we may need to hold another meeting.

P. Roder: initial thought to pull it out , but then thought about it the Hall, Garage and Transfer Station need work, thought about all the repairs and dropping it a bit but not altogether to put some of these funds towards repairing the buildings.

P. Kueppers: this building is 25 years old, so the roof is going to need to be redone soon.

M. Seel: if the Library goes to its own district does the Youth Commission go with it?

S. Menhinick: No, we have a contract with the town to manage the Youth Commission we get an administration fee.

J. Atwater: the Youth Commission funds go to the Library?

S. Menhinick: the Library Manages the Youth Commission events and summer program, all the employees are Town employees on Town payroll and the Library submits vouchers for purchasing supplies. If the vote goes through you will have a fully funded Library, which doesn't effect the tax cap, there is no impact on the budget.

P. Roder: you say that but taxes will still increase.

W. Jennings: there should be a discussion with the board on this one time events, what the right way to go about this would be.

S. Menhinick: possibly prepare two budgets?

O. Cassavaugh: appreciates Scott and everything he has done but he's not always going to be there. There was discussion about the Historical Society and questioned the fundraising, now if this goes through the library doesn't have to do fundraising anymore. I appreciate passion and passionate people come and support what they are passionate about. I don't believe the government should tell me where I should put my money.

D. Burke: the Library is the life blood of this town.

L. Eckhardt: agree if you asked me this years ago I would have said it was the fire department.

D. Flint: what will happen to the \$47k that is currently in the budget for the Library? Taxpayers don't just want to see it in a slush fund.

P. Roder: we need a new shack for the Transfer Station, and repairs need to be done here at the Town Hall and Garage.

D. Flint: understands that, but it needs to be properly budgeted for not in a slush fund.

L. Eckhardt: asks bookkeeper where that puts the budget at?

M. Seel: \$861,551.00 that is with the \$1,000 for Celebrate Stephentown Sanitation Stations and without the fire district it would be a increase of 3.28% for a \$3.57952/ 1000.

S. Menhinick: general question, with the lawsuits going on is there any truth to the taxes going up?

L. Eckhardt: we are coming close, but we can transfer unused funds and unexpended funds at the end of the year to cover the attorney fees. At this point we will leave the Library funds in the budget until we know what happens after the vote on November 6th, then we will determine if we need to hold another meeting or not.

MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 8:20 PM

MOTION BY: RODER

SECONDED BY: KUEPPERS

VOTES OF: 5 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 19th, 2018** at **7:00 PM** at the Town Hall.

Stephanie M. Wagar

Town Clerk