

**2024 TENTATIVE BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING
TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF STEPHENTOWN
26 GRANGE HALL ROAD, STEPEHTOWN, NY 12168
OCTOBER 23, 2023**

The Regular meeting of the Town Board, Town of Stephentown was called to order by **Supervisor Philip Roder** **7:00 PM** at the Town Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

(X) Supervisor Philip Roder	(X) High. Superin. Alden Goodermote
(X) Council Diana Clark	(X) Assessor, Jennifer Van Deusen
(X) Council William Jennings	
() Council Everett Madden	(X) Supervisor's Bookkeeper, Maureen Seel (via phone)
(X) Council Kyle Kidney	
(X) Town Clerk Stephanie Hoffman	

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

0 from the Public were present

REPORT FROM THE TOWN BOARD:

- **PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW #3 OF 2023 PROVIDING REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND AMBULANCE WORKERS PURSUANT TO SECTION 466-A OF THE REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW ON OCTOBER 30TH, 2023 AT 7:00PM, TO FOLLOW:**
- **PUBLIC HEARING ON 2024 TOWN BUDGET OCTOBER 30TH, 2023 AT 7:00PM**
- **SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING TO ADOPT THE 2024 TOWN BUDGET NOVEMBER 13TH, 2023 AT 7:00PM**
- **REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING NOVEMBER 20TH, 2023 AT 7:00PM**

Supervisor Roder line changes in line A1220.4, \$1,500.00 to Personal Services to cover additional costs for Emily who currently does the in-office work for the bookkeeper who is remote.

Bookkeeper Seel reported that she would create a sub-account for these services.

Town Clerk Hoffman reported that line 83 should have the \$1,800.00 in it for the LiveStream annual services.

Change was made to this line.

Discussion on increasing the Code Enforcement's personal services. No one opposed to giving the increase, suggestion made to increase over a two year period, concern with new council coming on that the increase may not be provided if it is not approved in this years budget. It's a \$900 difference.

Supervisor Roder reported that the Union Contract has not been signed as of current date. A verbal 4% increase has been agreed upon by both parties.

Discussion on Parks CE line – currently the highway has taken on the clean up and there has been cost savings here. Board agreed to lower this line item to \$1,200.

Discussion of the Historical Society requested increase to \$7,000. They requested this to be able to heat the building and keep the lights on. Council Jennings reported that they are considering switching to LP Gas which would save them on heating costs. Supports what they do at the historical society however believes that they are okay financially. Council Jennings is agreeable to a "one-off" depending how the budget falls to help them build extra storage. Board agrees to keep the line at \$6,000 and provide them with a "one-off" for cover shed costs.

Council Jennings reported that the Transfer Station amounts are okay as long as the Board increases the costs for next year to cover the increase in revenues that have been budgeted for.

Questions around the increase for retirement were discussed. Bookkeeper Seel mentioned that there could be several factors at play, could have been due to poor investments, not sure why there is an increase, they send the figures and the Town is obligated to pay it.

Supervisor Roder asked how much savings has been made to account A9950.9 Reserve for Building Repairs. We may possibly have a shed roof to replace.

Bookkeeper Seel reported after this year there would be a total of \$62,500 if nothing is used this year.

Superintendent Goodermote reported that the highway crew assessed the roof and the shingles are fine, what is under the shingles is the problem, water got under and rotted the plywood. Looking to put steel on it. We probably have another 5 years. If we put steel on it we can go right over top the shingles.

Council Jennings provided updates to the Transfer Station, received approximately \$3,000 more in revenue with the permit increases. Considering a \$1.00 increase in bags to increase revenue by \$20,000, C&D increases. Looked into Verizon Link 5G is not available in the area and 4G would cost \$100/month.

Supervisor Roder suggested putting signs up that bags can be purchased at the Town Clerk's Office with a Credit Card.

Superintendent Goodermote provided an overview of the highway funds increases. Accounted for 150 of Overtime hours in personal services. Everything else has increased stone went from \$13.75/ton to \$20. Expressed concerns that moving revenue doesn't change what the highway department has to spend. Goodermote expressed that he would like to have a reserve for his term for emergencies.

Supervisor Roder agrees to increasing highway line items and not using unexpended funds and increasing the taxes. However, believes if we are not budgeting correctly in our revenue lines we are only lying to ourselves.

Superintendent Goodermote expressed concerns in regards to the amounts in his account. The figure of 1.2 million does not seem correct. Discussion on what the ARPA funds were placed in this account.

Supervisor Roder discusses the HRA accounts per highway employee. There should be \$3,600/person. Requests the Board to consider a 10% increase on Doug Griswold's supplemental insurance. It has not increased since he retired.

Bookkeeper Seel and Town Clerk Hoffman reported that there was something put in the contract prior to Teamsters regarding this supplemental amount.

Supervisor Roder reported that Superintendent Goodermote has asked us not to increase CHIPS, received \$312k this year however some of the programs are not fulltime programs.

Bookkeeper Seel reported that the budget as it currently stands compared to last year, we are suggesting putting up more money from the unexpended balance. Last years increase was \$0.09/\$1000 as of right now the increase would be \$0.06/\$1000.

Council Jennings is not eager to increase the taxes and does not believe this is a good year to do so.

Supervisor Roder reported that he is still waiting on the figures for the health insurance increases.

Board agrees the Budget looks good.

Supervisor Roder reported that he believes that the County is willing to provide \$100,000 to help us with the Madden Road Bridge.

MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 8:43 PM

MOTION BY: JENNINGS

SECONDED BY: KIDNEY

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 20th, 2023** at **7:00 PM** at the Town Hall.

Stephanie M. Hoffman

Town Clerk