

PUBLIC HEARING 2015 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

REGULAR MEETING

OCTOBER 20, 2014

At the Public Hearing on the 2015 Preliminary Budget held on Monday, October 20, 2014 at the Hopkinton Town Hall at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Supervisor Wood, Councilpersons Lyon, Crump, Potter.

OTHERS PRESENT: Stephen Green Hwy Supt., Clerk French, Allen Fukes Assessor & Code Officer, Annette Green, Alysia Maynard Potsdam Humane Society, Georgia Macy, Richard Eakins.

ABSENT: Councilperson Sochia.

Supv. Wood called the Pubic Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m.

Budget Officer, Vickie French, went over items compiled in the 2015 Budget.

Currently the budget is under the 2% Tax Cap.

Richard Eakins asked if the Supv had acquired any info on buying out of the SLC Workers' Comp program.

Supv. Wood stated she had made some phone calls and was still trying to get a cost of buying out of the program vs. the expense of buying our own.

Mr. Eakins also commented on the Justice Court. Court Clerk was suppose to be temporary.

Supv. Wood reported that she had done a cost/revenue report from 2012 to present. The court has cost us more to run each of the three years except for 2013. The Board discussed eliminating the Court Clerk position..

Mr. Crump made a motion, seconded by Ms Lyon that all persons desiring to be heard for or against have been heard and therefore the hearing on the Preliminary Budget should be terminated. Adopted unanimously.

Public Hearing was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Supv. Wood called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Privilege of the Floor:

Alysia Maynard Potsdam Humane Society talked to the Board in regards to the 2015 contract. She also updated them on other services the Humane Society offers.

Mr. Crump made a motion, seconded by Ms Lyon to accept minutes of Regular Meeting held on September 15, 2014 and Special Meeting held on September 29, 2014 as presented. Adopted unanimously.

Ms Lyon made a motion, seconded by Mr. Crump to approve the Supervisors Financial Report for September 2014 as presented. Adopted unanimously.

Mr. Crump questioned why there were two trailers on the Highway Abstract. Mr. Green responded that one is tow-behind and the other is an enclosed trailer for equipment. He is using his CHIPS money for these.

Voucher Nos. 288 to 309 General Fund Abstract 10 in the amount of \$5,023.75 were audited and approved by the Board.

Voucher Nos. 123 to 142 Highway Fund Abstract 10 in the amount of \$64,106.83 were audited and approved by the Board.

Voucher No. 22 to 23 BHLS Health Center Fund Abstract 10 in the amount of \$429.99 were audited and approved by the Board.

Ms Potter made a motion, seconded by Ms Lyon to pay the bills. Adopted unanimously.

Mr. Green asked the Board to approve a bill from Toomey Brothers Logging for dozer rental in the amount of \$1,800.00.

Mr. Crump approved payment with a second by Ms Potter. Adopted unanimously.

Ms Potter made a motion, seconded by Ms Lyon to make the following transfers:

From General Fund to Highway Fund for fuel usage:

From A8810.4 Cemeteries Contractual to DA5130.4 Machinery Contractual \$191.00.

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From A7140.4 Playgrounds & Recreation Contractual to DA5130.4 Machinery Contractual \$333.00.

Adopted unanimously.

Ms Potter made a motion, seconded by Ms Lyon to make a correction on the July Abstract Voucher A210 payable to Key Bank should have been coded to A7410.2 not A7410.4. Adopted unanimously.

Correspondence:

BHLS Health Center: presented a copy of their minutes from the October 7, 2014 meeting.

NYS Department of Ag & Markets regarding Municipal Shelter Inspection Report completed on September 18. There were two minor violations. They will have 30 days to make the corrections.

Association of Towns: 2014 Personnel Management School will be held on November 13 in Ulster County and November 14 in Erie County.

St. Lawrence County Treasurer's Office demolition costs and Code Enforcement Charges will no longer be relieved on Town and County Tax Bills.

Committee Reports:

Supervisors Report: Completed the Court Grant application. Received an extension on the Court Building grant.

Code Enforcement: Mr. Fukes presented a written report. He asked the Board what steps they would like him to take as far as the violations on the property located on County Route 49. The Board told him to go ahead and issue the citation they have had long enough to comply. The Board also asked him to check a property on SH 11B.

Assessor: Mr. Fukes presented a written report. He attended the SLC Assessors Training, NYS Assessor Conference in Lake Placid and the Local Government Conference in Potsdam.

Museum: The Holly Berry Craft Sale is set for November 15th. Supv. Wood reported that we had received a Price quote from Bruce Lester in regards to painting the museum. He stated that there are a lot of boards that need to be replaced also. His price quote was for \$9500.00.

Highway & Safety: Mr. Green presented a written report. He attended the County Highway meeting. They are asking all of the towns to send a letter to the Association of Towns requesting them to lobby for a change in the way the CHIPS program is reimbursed to the towns. He contacted Glen Giles in regards to doing the mining permit for the Fullerton pit. The cost will be around \$2500.00.

Town Facilities: A price quote was received from Putts Construction in regards to interior work at the Town Hall. He has submitted a quote of \$4800.00.

It was also brought to the Boards attention that the town hall foundation needs to be re-pointed. This should be taken care of before winter. There are several areas where there is no mortar. Councilman Lyon and Crump will contact contractors to look at the foundation and give us a price. Supv Wood will contact Putts Construction to see if he will give a price.

Fire and Rescue: Mr. Crump reported on the calls. They had 21 hours of training and 125 hours of work detail. Mr. Crump asked Mr. Green what his policy is if there is a tree blocking the road and the Fire Department responds does he want them to remove the tree or contact him. Mr. Green stated that the Fire Department has the right to make the road safe. If it is something they cannot remove then contact him.

They are also recruiting RAM members. They are going to accept 10.

BHLS: Presented a copy of the 2015 Budget.

Food Pantry: Georgia Macy gave the Board a written report. JCEO is requiring them to get a 501 c3. They can

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also look for a sponsor that already has one and work under them.

New Business:

NYSERDA: Councilperson Potter reported to the Board she had attended a meeting in regards to Intro to Solar. There is still incentive money available. They are looking into a uniform permitting process.

Town Hall: Supv. Wood reported to the Board that St. Therese Church rented the Town Hall for a dinner and left the Town Hall with dirty dishes on counter, food was left on counter and melted wax had to be scraped off the dining room floor. They also broke the inside petition door of the Men's room.

Mr. Crump made a motion, seconded by Ms Lyon to have the Supervisor send a letter to them notifying them of the condition they left Town Hall and not to reimburse them their deposit of \$75.00. Adopted unanimously.

Town Hall Key: Supv Wood reported to the Board that at a recent meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners they asked her proposed to the Town Board that they have a key to the Town Hall so they do not have to rely on someone going to the Town Office to get the key before their meetings.

Mr. Crump made a motion, seconded by Ms Lyon that the Chairperson of the Board of Fire Commissioners could have a key, but the key must stay in his possession. Adopted unanimously.

Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve Fund: Supervisor explained to the Board that we recently had an employee retire that had accrued many hours of time and we were not prepared to pay out that sum of money. Therefore, she is asking the Board for permission to set up a special reserve fund to meet these obligations in the future.

Ms Potter introduced the following resolution with a second by Ms Lyon:

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Hopkinton, Hopkinton NY, St. Lawrence County has determined it is necessary to establish an Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve Fund, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Hopkinton establishes this reserve fund to pay for any accrued employee benefit due an employee on termination of the employee's service, and

WHEREAS, Expenditures may be made from an employee benefit accrued liability reserve fund for the payment of all or part of the cost, including interest, of:

a. The cash payment of the monetary value of accumulated or accrued and unused sick leave, holiday leave, vacation leave, time allowance granted in lieu of overtime compensation and other forms of payment for accrued leave time and benefits due to a municipal employee upon termination of municipal employment and separation from service "as required by ordinance, local law, collective bargaining agreement or Section six of the civil service law

b. The reasonable costs of the administration of the reserve fund

c. Expert or professional services rendered in connection with the investigation, adjustment or settlement of claims, actions or judgments relating to claims for accrued employee benefits, and

WHEREAS, this fund cannot be used to pay the Town of Hopkinton's cost of health insurance for retirees, and

WHEREAS, the source of revenue for this reserve fund will come from budgetary appropriations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Hopkinton does establish an Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve Fund.

VOTE: Supervisor Wood Aye, Councilpersons Potter Aye, Crump Aye, Lyon Aye.

ABSENT: Councilman Sochia

Mr. Crump made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sochia to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Vickie French

RMC