

November 5, 2020

The special meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Clifton Park was held in the Town Office Building at 7:00 p.m. Supervisor Barrett presiding to hear comments on the 2021 Preliminary Budget.

Present: Supervisor Barrett
 Councilman Whalen
 Councilwoman Standaert
 Councilman Morelli
 Councilwoman Walowit
 Town Clerk Brobston

Also Present: Town Attorney McCarthy
 Dahn Bull, Superintendent of Highways
 Mark Heggen, Comptroller
 Daniel Clemens, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds
 Steven Myers, Director of Building and Zoning

PUBLIC HEARING, 7:01 PM
 2021 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Town Clerk Brobston read the Notice of Public Hearing as published in the Daily Gazette on October 26, 2020.

Supervisor Barrett reviewed highlights of the proposed 2021 Preliminary Budget as initially released.

- No general fund property tax.
- Did not exceed the NYS tax cap.
- No fund balance monies were used to balance the budget.
- Highway Fund tax is proposed to remain flat at 29.85 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value.
- EMS tax rate will increase from 25.197 cents per \$1,000 to 27.48 cents.
- A strong commitment to maintaining infrastructure.
- Town will continue to maintain medical benefits.
- New phone system.

Supervisor Barrett stated the town is consistently working to reduce expenses and become more efficient. The town's strong fiscal position was highlighted by a bond rating upgrade to AA1 by Moody's Investors Service. The town's tax base has now surpassed 5.3 Billion Dollars. However, the town budget officers are always preparing for those downturns in the economy which has enabled the town to get through difficult times.

Supervisor Barrett discussed the proposed salary increases with the proposed combining of the Buildings & Grounds and Transfer Station Departments. The budget would increase a total, for the 3 administrative positions, for 2021, \$20,913. Capital Lease Payment, (1st year payment) of \$37,000 for the Transfer Station for a new loader. Transfer Station Supervisor elimination of position and salary for a reduction. NYSP MOU proposal reflects a reduction of \$200,000 and increase of \$50,000 in the equipment line of the Public Safety Building. Highway Department requests and adjustments. Sewer Department growing responsibilities and budget requests were reviewed.

Discussion on the Transfer Station proposed 2021 plan budget effects.
 Eliminate Transfer Station Supervisor position.
 Consolidate Transfer Station with Buildings & Grounds Department.
 Purchase new CAT loader.

Daniel Clemens, Buildings & Grounds Supervisor, stated he sees the combining of the 2 departments as a positive for each department. Confident he can execute the transition of the merging of the 2 departments. He stated the 2 departments already work together and share resources, knowledge, and equipment. No additional responsibilities will fall on the employees other than the administrative staff. Job descriptions would continue to be the same.

It was decided to review the transition in 3,4 or 6 months to be sure the residents are receiving the same quality of service at the Transfer Station and Buildings & Grounds Departments.

Discussion on NYS Police Memorandum of Understanding updates.

Police coverage in exchange for what the town provides in the facility for their office.

Town provides 5,500 sq. feet, at Exit 9, valuable asset, for free.

Town provide utilities for free.

Term: until December 31st, 2030.

Infrastructure updates and responsibilities highlighted in the proposed MOU.

New York State Police Sergeant Steve Meehan explained the force has grown from 10-12 troopers to 25 troopers, 6 investigators and 3 sergeants. The state has kept up with coverage as number of residents continue to grow. He explained the State Police work well with the Sheriff's Department. Upgrades are needed for the current building the department is housed in. The current commitment level will continue.

Supervisor Barrett stated the Saratoga County Sheriff's budget increases 2%, \$584,000.

Supervisor Barrett explained the proposed new senior center position, Senior Center Program Coordinator, to be added to the budget. He requested it to be funded as a budget amendment in the resolution creating the position. Town Attorney McCarthy stated it needed to be included in the 2021 budget.

Councilwoman Standaert stated she supports the NYSP MOU but does not understand the \$200,000 reductions, requested clarification.

Supervisor Barrett stated the town currently pays the NYSP \$200,000. Instead of paying them on a yearly basis, the department would like to continue in the facility with the town paying for upkeep. He explained the police department feels it's a huge value being located in the town and the facility.

Councilman Whalen questioned how the NYSP will be turning down revenue of \$2 million over the next 10 years, in return for \$50,000 in the facility and facility improvements.

Councilwoman Walowit requested a schedule of services be prepared to view.

Discussion on the use and term of the additional Highway Capital Lease Payment line ensued.

Councilman Whalen suggested adding the \$100,000 paving back into the budget and take from the General Fund.

The Public Hearing was opened to the public at 8:45PM

Larry Brodsky, 81 Blue Jay Way, thanked the Town Board for the attention of the deterioration of road issues with Blue Jay Way. He questioned if the amount included in the budget is based on an analyst? Is it going to be enough?

Supervisor Barrett explained the work to be done would not be incomplete, the budget amount is to get the project started.

Highways Supervisor Bull stated they worked with a contractor at the site and gave the estimates. Explanation of the repairs and job were given.

Marsha Abeel, Meadow Estates, questioned the State Police MOU and the reduction of the \$200,000 in the town budget.

Supervisor Barrett explained the State Police are asking for the facility and maintenance in lieu of charging for services.

Councilman Morelli explained the value of the real estate and when the agreement started, they had a significantly lower amount of staff at this location. Now they have 34 employees at that

site and to purchase, build or rent-out space now would be a larger impact and the benefit they are gaining would make up for it.

The public portion of the hearing was closed at 9:02 PM.

Councilman Whalen requested an additional \$1,000 be added to the Historic Preservation Commission budget line. He explained the importance and the work that the volunteer Commission has offered.

Councilwoman Walowit, Councilwoman Standaert and Councilman Morelli stated support the \$1,000 increase for the Historic Preservation Commission.

Councilwoman Standaert and Councilman Whalen stated they are in support of the additional salary increase for the Transfer Station proposals.

Public Safety radios and message boards discussion pursued.

Councilman Whalen suggested to use the General Fund to support the proposed increases.

A MOTION was made by Councilman Whalen, seconded by Councilwoman Walowit for General Fund updates to include: salary increases for Dan Clemens, Don McCune and Kieran Lynch total of \$20,000, Capital lease for the new loader \$37,000, public safety radios \$30,000, Highway tax stabilization \$100,000, Historic Preservation Commission \$1,000, Transfer Station Supervisor position (\$97,510), \$91,000 in additional spending from the Fund Balance. Motion unanimously approved.

A MOTION was made by Councilman Morelli, seconded by Councilwoman Walowit for Highway Fund updates to include: Capital Lease \$50,000, Paving-Slip lining \$200,000, Paving reduction of (\$100,000), tax stabilization \$100,000, Fund balance \$50,000. \$150,000 increase in spending. Motion unanimously approved.

A MOTION was made by Councilwoman Standaert, seconded by Councilman Whalen for Clifton Park Sewer Dist. #1 updates: Salary w/payroll taxes \$5,696, new laborer-salary & benefits \$70,556, reduction in Equipment line (\$76,252). Motion unanimously approved.

A MOTION was made by Councilman Morelli, seconded by Councilwoman Walowit for Woodland Hills Sewer Dist. #1 updates: Additions to be Maintenance \$1,000, Emergency Repairs \$5,000. Increase in tax levy operations of \$6,000 with actual decrease in operations levy from prior year (\$1,520). Unanimously approved.

A MOTION was made by Councilwoman Standaert, seconded by Councilwoman Walowit for Dutch Meadows Sewer District #1 updates: Additions of Emergency repairs \$1,823, equipment \$10,000 with increase in tax levy operations of \$11,823, actual decrease in operation levy from prior year of (\$615). Unanimously approved.

A MOTION was made by Councilwoman Standaert, seconded by Councilwoman Walowit for Clifton Park Sewer District #2 reductions of change levy from \$175 a unit (\$13,440) and Equipment (\$13,440). Unanimously approved.

Town Clerk Brobston stated an email was received by Marlys McGinnis and Charlie Rudick with the Town Board also in receipt. All questions have been answered.

Everyone was given an opportunity to speak in favor of or against the proposed preliminary budget and no one else wished to be heard.

MOTION BY Councilman Morelli, seconded by Councilman Whalen, to adjourn the meeting to the next regular meeting or any other meeting necessary for the conduct of town business.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Councilman Whalen, Councilwoman Standaert, Councilman Morelli,
Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

DECLARED ADOPTED

Motion carried at 9:46 p.m.

Teresa Brobston
Town Clerk