

TOWN OF CLIFTON PARK TOWN BOARD
2022 PRELIMINARY BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

November 4, 2021

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 2022 Preliminary Budget.

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

Also Present: Town Attorney McCarthy
Mark Heggen, Comptroller
Dahn Bull, Highways Superintendent
Matt Andrus, Information Specialist
Rose Savallo, Receiver of Taxes

BUDGET OVERVIEW

Supervisor Barrett gave a brief overview of the 2022 Town of Clifton Park budget. He stated the budget does not break the tax cap or use surplus funds. There is a 3% increase in spending over the 2021 Budget. The town will remain without a town tax for 2022. The Highway will increase 6% over last year with an ultimate tax decrease of 1%. He stated the EMS tax will increase .9%. The proposed 2022 budget proposes 3 new positions. 1 in each of the following departments. Building, Buildings & Grounds and Highway. The budget includes various investments in new equipment and infrastructure. Funding for free bulk waste pick-up in the Spring of 2022. He noted the construction in the Ballston Lake Sewer District, which most of the houses are in the Town of Ballston, although the infrastructure improvements are strictly the financial responsibility of the property owners receiving the benefit, the new district that was formed counts toward the amount of money the town is allowed to spend in 2022 before reaching our Tax Cap limit with no baseline from 2021. When there is a new special district in this case the total money that is being levied for our portion of the district counts towards the tax cap. Next year there will be a new baseline that will include the additional levy but for the first year there is no carve out.

Town Clerk Brobston read the legal notice that was included in the October 20th edition of the Daily Gazette.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one wished to be heard.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Highways Superintendent Dahn Bull presented the Town Board with a PowerPoint presentation. He stated on October 6, the Highways Department presented important equipment, vehicle, facility and processing expenditures as well as an increase in the labor force in budget workshop meeting with various Town Board members and the Town Supervisor. In the Preliminary Budget no significant changes to the Highways Department occurred. He explained the department is in desperate need of plow trucks, facilities and workforce. The following current challenges and improvements were reported as follows: Increase in Deputy Superintendent Grade. Increase Specialized Services line to allow for hiring of engineering and legal services for future projects. Increase in repairs/maintenance, as well as materials/supplies and parts and repairs. Investment in new equipment, trailer, tilt trailer, Boom Mower and replacing equipment from the fire at the "white house" and resolve to purchase new plow trucks, which take 18 months to receive, in the coming years. The purchase of a trip edge plow and experimental plow

blades. Establish MEO positions. Maintain one laborer/MEO position. White building demo and reconstruction of new facility.

Superintendent Bull explained the snowplow routes have increased in size due to the new road dedications. New roads mean longer route hours. Without the addition of new equipment and new employees, the public will see significantly increased response times to snow and ice removal.

Mr. Bull explained the results from the white building fire. Currently working with Prime AE Engineering, since the value of the building was so low, replacement/repair cost is also incredibly low. The equipment and material lost, is being replaced through the insurance company. In the short term, a temporary fix, awnings off the building, will get them through winter. Mid-November the Highway Dept. will be going out to bid. Long term, they would like to see the white building and building one storage building demolished and replaced with a larger, four-season facility. Needed is enough room to store 8-10 plows and pieces of equipment, and an additional dedicated welding bay. Since 2013 additional four bays have been proposed, cost was \$260,000. Today this same project is estimated at over \$500,000. The department would like to establish a replacement policy for the 60's series plow trucks.

Superintendent Bull summarized the departments needs. 6 new plow trucks, increase in highway personnel and commit to a new facility.

Discussion on the Highways proposals pursued.

Councilwoman Standaert is in agreement with increasing the salary of the Deputy Highways Superintendent to Grade 7 Step 3, increasing the number of laborers, the start of purchasing plow trucks and the new facility process MOU.

Comptroller Mark Heggen stated leasing of trucks is a standard way the town has purchased the snowplows.

Supervisor Barrett stated there is money in the budget to do leases.

Comptroller Heggen suggested including in the Organizational Resolution the Highway hourly charges to \$50 for mechanical related repairs.

Highways Superintendent Bull would like to see a resolution/MOU establishing the process for the "white building"/ storage.

Supervisor Barrett stated the insurance company deemed the building salvageable. Questioned if the base of the building could be used in the short term.

Mr. Bull stated no, it is not a safe environment to be in that building. The remediation would cost 3 times as much than is the value of the building. The insurance company did the remediation.

Councilwoman Walowit expressed concern for only one bay for repairs.

Proposed salary increases were discussed.

Supervisor Barrett stated he agrees on the increase in pay for the Deputy Highway Superintendent and explained there are other employee's salary increases to consider, that also should be discussed.

Comptroller Heggen stated additional salary increase proposals were, Receiver of Taxes increase to Grade 7, Step 3, Principal Typist in the Legal Office increase to Grade 6, Step 9, Assistant Comptroller increase to Grade 9, Step 7, Director of Building & Zoning and Animal Control Officer increase of \$1,711.

Councilwoman Standaert supports the increase in pay for Receiver of Taxes.

Discussion on if the Principal Typist in the Legal Office should be a part of CSEA or assign a different title, Confidential Secretary occurred.

Councilwoman Standaert stated she would contact the Principal Typist in the Legal Office and see what her thoughts are.

Councilwoman Walowit requested consideration for a salary increase for Animal Control Officer.

Councilwoman Standaert questioned if the town is filling the 3rd Deputy Town Attorney position. If that spot is not filled, then that money can help with the other increased salary proposals.

Attorney McCarthy stated he didn't know. He explained there really is no extra night work for that position anymore.

Councilwoman Standaert questioned the special projects line use?

Comptroller Heggen stated it is to be used for different projects that are not funded.

Councilwoman Standaert wanted to be sure law enforcement was not cut.

Comptroller Heggen stated the law enforcement line is used for salaries and public safety expenses.

Councilwoman Standaert gave an update on the IT Committee and the new proposed software. Recommendations will be forthcoming. This software update would include the Planning, Building & Zoning, Assessor's and Highway Departments. Parks & Recreation software is still under review. Still waiting on a report from that department.

Comptroller Heggen reminded the Town Board using ARPA funds for this expense was suggested .

Councilwoman Flood, recommended by the Buildings & Grounds Dept., to reserve funding for the Blacksmiths shop for an engineers report or the funding to stabilize the building.

Comptroller Heggen the Blacksmiths shop funds could come out of the regular general engineering line.

Councilman Morelli questioned Highways Superintendent Bull about the additional legal/engineering services line's purpose.

Attorney McCarthy stated he would check to see if adding the legal services line is authorized.

Highways Superintendent Bull stated specialized legal services are allow by any department in the event alternative council is needed.

Comptroller Heggen stated the budget must be passed by November 20.

PUBLIC PRIVILEGE

No one wished to be heard.

MOTION BY Councilwoman Walowit, seconded by Councilwoman Standaert to adjourn the meeting to the next regular meeting or any other meeting necessary for the conduct of town business.

Motion carried at 8:41 PM

Teresa Brobston
Town Clerk