

Special Tentative Budget Meeting
10-24-12
7:00 PM

Members Present: Supervisor Nayer, Councilperson Miller-Simmons, Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney and Councilperson Mettler. Councilperson Gabaccia was absent.

Supervisor Nayer stated that this meeting is to continue discussions on the proposed Preliminary Budget between the Town Board and any Department Head who would like to speak in regards to their Department.

Supervisor Nayer went over the changes that will need to be approved by the Board in the Tentative Budget for the Farm & Ag Protection Grant, Social Security account and the Bookkeeper Contractual account for the software agreement. With these increases and decreases there would be no change in the bottom line of the proposed budget. Supervisor Nayer opened the meeting up to the Department Heads to speak on their sections of the proposed budget.

Marcia Becker, Chairperson Copake Planning Board questioned what account number reflects the new Farm Protection Grant and she advised the Board that the Planning Board's legal fees are running about five hours a month. Supervisor Nayer advised that the line item for the Farm Protection Grant has to be added.

Ed Ferratto, Code Enforcement Officer submitted and read a letter supporting his request for a secretary for his Department. Supervisor Nayer responded that at one time you had a secretary and you felt you no longer needed her and would like to see how things go for a year prior to committing to secretary position for the Building Department.

Judge Brian Herman submitted the job description for the Court Clerk and reviewed the reasons why the Court budget should remain as last year and not reduce the full time court clerk to a part-time position. Supervisor Nayer advised the Judge that the Board sets the budget and it is up to the Judge's how they wish to use the funds. Judge Herman explained that he felt the court activity has gone down due to the elimination of the Copake Police Department and that as of January 1st the new District Attorney has taken over handling all the tickets which had an impact on the law enforcement officer's over time which Judge Herman feels the law enforcement officer's retaliated by reducing the number of tickets written. Judge Herman went on to state that he felt that the court activity would increase in 2013 and the number of patrols from the Sheriff's Department and the State Police have increased to offset the loss of the Copake Police Department's patrols. It would be a shame to possibly lose a valuable employee over a \$12,000.00 reduction in their budget. Councilperson Miller-Simmons advised the Judge that last year when the Town held a public meeting and invited the Sheriff's Department and the State Police to discuss if their departments would be able to increase the number of patrols in the Town of Copake to help pick up the slack from the Town Police Department closing.

Both agencies stated that they would not be able to provide extra patrols due to their budget restraints. Supervisor Nayer emphasized that the proposal to reduce the full time Court Clerk's position has nothing to do with the person holding the position; the reason for reducing funding for court clerk is do to the more than 40% reduction in the court activity. Supervisor Nayer went on to state that there is still enough money in the Court Clerk line item to maintain one full time Clerk if that is what the Judges wish to do. Councilperson Mettler would like to see October's activity so we can compare ten months this year to the first ten months of last year.

Supervisor Nayer reviewed the Budget process with the Board and the Importance of moving forward and adopting the Preliminary Budget. Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney and Councilperson Mettler both stated that they would like to have a chance to see the October activity report and check with the Sheriff's Department and State Police to see if they have or are going to increase the patrols in our area. Supervisor Nayer assured them that even after adopting the Preliminary Budget change could be made prior to adopting the final budget in November.

A motion was made by Councilperson Miller-Simmons and seconded by Councilperson Mettler to adopt the Preliminary Budget for 2013 with the following changes to the Tentative Budget;

Revenue

Add

A3089 Farm & Ag. Grant \$25,000.00

Appropriations

Add

A8020.480----\$26,670.00 Farm & Ag. Planning

A9030.8-----\$1330.00 Social Security

A1321.4-----\$1500.00 Contractual

Remove

A1321.1-----\$1500.00 Bookkeeper

A1410.102-----\$1000.00 Deputy Clerk

A5132.47-----\$2000.00 Town Garage Misc.

These removals were moved to fund the additions of
\$1330.00 for A9030.8 (underfunded originally)
\$1670.00 for A8020.480 (our contribution to the grant)
\$1500.00 for A1321.4 (software program)

Motion was carried. Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney abstained.

The Board set the Public Hearing for 2013 Preliminary Budget for Saturday, November 3, 2012 at 9:00 AM.

A motion was made by Councilperson Miller-Simmons and was seconded by Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney that the meeting be adjourned. Motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted,