

Budget Workshop held October 15, 2014 at 2:06 P.M. at the Town Hall in Schroon Lake N.Y.

Present:

Supervisor: Michael Marnell

Councilpersons: Roger Friedman, Meg Wood, Don Sage and Clara Phibbs

Town Clerk: Patricia Savarie

Budget Officer: Chris Stone

Also Present: Jim Roblee, Albert May, Ed Russell, Arlene Whitty, Chris Swinton, Kevin Lavarney, Lynn Donaldson, Rodney Secor and Alan Wemett

Supervisor Marnell called the meeting to order at 2:05 P.M. with a salute to the Flag.

Sewer Department

Jim Roblee, Waste Water Treatment Operator, stated that he has plans to buy a new ¾ Ton heavy duty truck for the Sewer Department which he has money in his budget for. Supervisor Marnell stated that the State Contracts would be coming out soon and that he would be able to go to any dealership and purchase one under the state contract.

Jim stated that the line on Husted Way needs to be dug up and there is no access to it and the Town has no deeded easement. The Town of Schroon needs to contact the new owners at 13 Husted Way so they are aware of what is going on. Jim is requesting the Board passes a resolution to have the Town Attorney send a letter to the owners of 13 Husted Way. The Town needs an access to that line and the project may have to come out of fund balance. Jim stated within the next five years there are many changes coming with DEC regulations. Jim stated that there are still some people not being charged for Water and Sewer and that may help with revenue. Councilwoman Wood stated she would like to have a list of all the people who are not hooked up that should be by the November Meeting so that the Board can address these issues. Jim stated within the next four years he will be retiring and the Board needs to be thinking about hiring someone to replace him so he has at least two years to work with them and they can get there 3A Operators License.

Resolution #154 Hire Town Attorney to write letter

Supervisor Marnell moved a resolution to have the Town Attorney send a letter to the owners of 13 Husted Way to inform them that the Town needs and easement to there property to dig out the Sewer Line and have easy access to the property, seconded unanimously, carried.

Final Percentage for Increase in Health Insurance

Chris Stone, the Budget Officer, stated that the final percentage for the increase of Health Insurance would be 11.5% for employees and 16.4% for retired employees.

Discuss Lake Stewards for 2015

Mark Granger with the Schroon Lake Association would like to see more hours added to the Lake Stewards this next summer. Councilman Friedman stated that they had done some figuring as to how much it would cost if they did everyday from May 22 – Labor day with a 12 hour shift it would cost \$10,,516.00 and doing an 8 hour shift it would cost \$7,010.00. The Board discussed it and suggested they increase the budget from \$2,500.00 for each lake to \$4,000.00.

Discuss Raises for Elected Officials and Employees

Councilman Friedman suggested that when they do raises, it should not include seasonal employees just full time employees. After much discussion it was decided to increase the hourly rate to \$.25 excluding the Town Board, Lifeguards, Library, Student Trainees, Lake Stewards, Golf Course and any part time employees.

Tax Collector

Patricia Savarie stated she would like an increase in the Tax Collector Budget to go from \$3818.00 to \$4400.00. When she was hired the Tax Collectors position was dropped 31% when all the other Elected Officials dropped only 16%. The Board will increase it \$600.00 to make up for the different.

Dog Control

Supervisor Marnell stated that the Dog Control Officer had put in for a raise to go from \$800.00 a year to \$1500.00 a year the Board decided on \$1000.00 a year.

Emergency Squad

Supervisor Marnell stated that the Town would like to put the \$45,000.00 they give to the Fire Department and Ambulance Squad and put it towards paying the Ambulance Squad Employees with E5 Support Service which would bring it down to \$146,000.00 and see what North Hudson will be putting in. Fire Chief Secor stated he thought North Hudson's contract stated that they pay 25%, which would be \$48,000.00, he also stated that they would need the \$45,000.00 to run the expenses of the Fire Department and Ambulance Squad because he felt they would not be getting the donations that they usually receive once taxpayers realize that the Ambulance Squad is being paid through their taxes.

Chris Swinton, Captain of the EMS, stated that the squad has been working diligently on establishing a plan of action to maintain its certification for advanced life support services for the Towns of Schroon Lake and North Hudson. The community benefits greatly from the services Schroon Lake EMS provides. Due to the lack of available EMT's and Drivers, Schroon Lake EMS has not been able to meet the requirements put forth by the regional EMS Medical Advisory Board. This Board,

REMAC, requires us to respond to the patient in ten minutes or less in 75% of our calls. On October 27,2014 REMAC will hold their next meeting. At that time Schroon Lake EMS is expected to present an action plan that will meet their requirements. Based on this plan the REMAC Board will decide to either renew our ALS Certification or they may not renew us. If the EMS is not renewed we would like to work with E5 Support Services to provide a paid AEMT and a driver/EMT to work out of Schroon Lake's Fire House approximately seven days a week, 12 hours a day. Volunteers would continue to work and maintain additional coverage. Schroon Lake EMS is therefore asking the Town of Schroon and the Town of North Hudson for the funding to support this program. The funds needed to provide the continued ALS services is \$191,185.37 annually. This is addition to the operating funds we currently receive, which is \$45,000.00 from Schroon Lake and \$11,250.00 from North Hudson, the total cost would be \$247,435.37. Councilman Friedman suggested that an article be written so the taxpayers are aware of what will be coming and to get the right information out to them.

Supervisor Marnell moved to adjourn the Budget Workshop at 6:02 P.M., seconded by Councilman Sage; carried.

I, Patricia J. Savarie, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct transcript from the minutes now on file in my office and of the whole such original minutes.

Dated: October 20, 2014 _____
Town Clerk

