

DATE: OCTOBER 15, 2019

KIND OF MEETING: BUDGET

WHERE HELD: SCHODACK TOWN HALL

CLERK: DEBRA L. CURTIS

PRESIDING OFFICER: DAVID B. HARRIS

MEMBERS PRESENT: JAMES E. BULT
MICHAEL KENNEY
SCOTT SWARTZ
TRACY REX

MEMBERS ABSENT:

ATTORNEY:

COMPTROLLER: PAUL HARTER

OTHERS: KEN HOLMES, SUPERINTENDENT OF HIGHWAYS
DAWNE KELLY, CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY TO THE
SUPERVISOR
BRUCE GOODALL, DIRECTOR OF TRANSFER STATION
OPERATIONS

S. Harris called the October 15, 2019 Budget Meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance and dispensed with roll call. All present as noted above.

Transfer Station

B. Goodall said he was down to two options for locations to take refuse from the town. The first option would be to join the consortium offered by Albany Landfill and save twenty percent. The savings would not be applied to construction and debris (C&D) materials. He noted the cost for refuse would be around \$95.00 per ton and equate to \$71,000.00. This would be an increase of \$26,000.00 from 2019. One concern that he had with Albany was that they required all trucks to be on the scale no later than 10:30 a.m. The second option would be Waste Connections located at B-3 on the Thruway. The cost would be \$87.00 per ton with a 750 ton minimum. The total annual cost would \$65,000.00 with an added cost of \$600.00 for Thruway tolls. C. Rex asked if there would be a fee to join either company. Mr. Goodall said no. C. Bult asked if both options only included refuse and not recycling. Mr. Goodall said yes. A third option of joining Fulton County had been discussed previously; however, they were not interested as the town does not have the required amount of tonnage per year.

A8189 Recycling: B. Goodall explained the current rate for recycling is \$87.45 per ton. He said they had taken in more than 300 tons this year and were seeing a potential for an increase due to local refuse companies charging to pick up recycling. He added that the new regulations set by NYS DEC have penalties for any location that exceed their tonnage for recycling and was concerned that residents would begin to throw those items in the regular garbage instead. C. Kenney noted that the anticipated cost for refuse in 2020 was almost the same as recycling costs. He asked if the \$30,000.00 that Mr. Goodall had

budgeted for recycling would be sufficient. P. Harter said, based on the annual tonnage and a cost of \$90.00 per ton in 2020, the total cost would be \$29,000.00. C. Bult asked if Mr. Goodall anticipated a steady increase in recycling costs. B. Goodall said yes and said they need to consider charging residents to use the facility.

A8160.4 Refuse & Garbage: B. Goodall said he budgeted \$85,000.00. The cost for Albany would be \$67,000.00 with the twenty percent savings. S. Harris asked how the regulations from NYS DEC would be affected. B. Goodall said they would be required to report what materials were being dropped off as well as obtain information from local businesses regarding what they dispose of. C. Bult asked which option Mr. Goodall preferred. B. Goodall said Albany; however, he was concerned about the 10:30 a.m. deadline was too early. He noted that Waste Connections would be raising their rates in April of 2020. C. Bult felt it may become an issue asking local businesses what they dispose of. He thought it may be seen as intrusive.

A8160.2 Refuse & Garbage: B. Goodall noted that no equipment was budgeted for 2020. The container that was projected to be sold would be transferred to the highway. C. Kenney asked why nothing was budgeted for a canopy over the containers and questioned if there was enough budgeted for handrails in front of the containers. B. Goodall said he had already purchased the rails for the garbage and recycling containers but was unable to find someone to install them. As for the C&D, he was waiting to replace the twenty-four inch rails until the engineering was complete. C. Swartz said based on the time of year, it did not appear that they would be considering the cover over the containers until 2021. He added that a contractor should be contacted to install the one set of handrails. C. Bult recommended looking at a large hut which would cover all containers. He asked what preparation was needed before installation of the handrails. B. Goodall said the concrete would need to be leveled out to create a flat surface. C. Rex asked if they should wait for Laberge to complete their analysis before installing. C. Kenney advised against waiting. He recommended contacting Ken Holmes to see if the highway workers could assist in the installation. C. Bult asked if Mr. Goodall had researched getting a compactor for the facility. B. Goodall said he had; however, they would need to install three phase power or a generator to run a compactor. There was an option of a hybrid solar compactor but it was very expensive. C. Kenney suggested looking more into placing solar on the cap of the landfill.

Fee Schedule: B. Goodall said the fee schedule needed to be reviewed for any potential increases. C. Swartz agreed that an increase was necessary but cautioned to not go too high. P. Harter said, upon review of the revenue versus expenses from the transfer station, the town was subsidizing the transfer station more than it was bringing in. He noted a total of \$168,000.00 had been subsidized for 2019. C. Bult asked if the price structure of other local municipalities, such as East Greenbush or Nassau, have been researched. B. Goodall said East Greenbush charges an annual fee of \$100.00 to all residents as well as require them to purchase a fifty-two punch card at a cost of \$80.00. He added the card does have an expiration date. He felt the change to the fee schedule was necessary for the town as one had not been seen since 2011. C. Bult warned that charging could create animosity with the residents. C. Kenney said residents already felt they received little services for their tax dollars. C. Swartz asked the town clerk to run a report to show how many twelve

and fifty-two punch cards are sold annually.

Highway

C. Swartz asked that a column be added for next year to include the projected amounts rather than the actuals through May. P. Harter said he would make the change for the 2021 budget.

A5020.4 Transportation Engineer Contractual: K. Holmes noted this line is for road construction engineering and is a static budget from year to year. C. Kenney asked if the funds have been used. P. Harter said no.

A5010.1 Superintendent of Highways Personnel: K. Holmes said he was requesting a five percent increase for his Administrative Assistant. He explained that she does paperwork for water/sewer allocations, transfer station and highway. C. Bult asked if she collected a salary from other departments. K. Holmes said yes. C. Bult explained that employees generally receive up to a two percent raise annually; however, he did agree that the Assistant was on the low end of the pay scale.

A5132.2 Town Garage Equipment: K. Holmes said he had removed \$70,000.00 from DB5112.4, Road Repair & Maintenance, to install ductwork in the men's bathroom and to purchase a 40kW propane generator to power the Highway Garage in the event of a power outage. He noted the facility could be used as an emergency shelter and felt it was necessary to be prepared. C. Bult mentioned that the fuel station would not work in the event of an outage. K. Holmes agreed. C. Kenney said he was in favor of the idea; however, it was his recommendation to purchase a portable generator instead. It could then be used at any pump station if their respective generators failed. K. Holmes said a 40kW generator would be too large for powering the pump stations. C. Swartz asked if there was still a spare generator at the Highway Garage. K. Holmes said yes; however, the unit had not been run in years. C. Bult was concerned about removing funds from the road program and recommended restoring the funds. P. Harter reminded the board that reserves were available if needed. **Determination: It was the consensus of the board to remove \$70,000.00 from A5132.2 and add \$70,000.00 to DB5112.4.**

DB5110.4 Road Maintenance Contractual: K. Holmes said that the requests for DB5110 would remain the same for 2020. C. Bult asked if top soil had not been budgeted for 2019. K. Holmes said he had budgeted \$15,000.00 for 2019 and was not sure where the discrepancy came from. P. Harter said it was somehow omitted.

DB5130.2 Machinery Equipment: C. Kenney said he noticed that Mr. Holmes was requesting to purchase a new truck for 2020. K. Holmes explained the 2005 International had been in the shop several times this year for repair. He felt it was time to replace it. C. Kenney asked if the funds were available from the capital reserve. P. Harter said it was growing but the levy was dropping. K. Holmes said the mechanics do their best to prolong the life of the trucks. He noted a change would be made for the next plow truck purchased. Instead of a regular front axle, drop down chains would be installed to reduce front end repair due to road salt. C. Bult asked if the grader is still used and if not, could it be sold. In

the event a grader is needed, one could be rented. K. Holmes said all dirt roads in the town have crusher run on their surface which compacts well. They use the front end loader to drag the roads to smooth them out. He noted he was fluent in using the grader; however, lacked the time to properly train workers to use it. He felt selling the machine was a good idea.

DB5140.1 Brush & Weeds Contractual: C. Bult said asked if a five percent salary increase for the grounds people was being requested. K. Holmes said yes. C. Bult noted that the rate structure for all part time positions was different and felt it was advisable to set the rate for all part time positions the same. This would give more flexibility to use workers at other locations without a concern of pay.

DB5142.4 Snow Removal Contractual: C. Bult asked if the amount budgeted for 2020 would be adequate. K. Holmes said they had used 3,000 tons in the 2018-2019 snow season with a bit of reserve left over. He felt it would be sufficient.

C. Bult said B. Goodall had mentioned purchasing fencing for the transfer station but had no one to install it. K. Holmes said he would have the highway workers install it. C. Bult said there was also a discussion of a third person being needed at the transfer station. K. Holmes said a third person would be needed on Saturdays. He noted the retirement of Alan Roehr had left the Highway with minimum manpower. He said he was requesting to hire two new operators. He explained more roads were being obtained from developments and the second worker would benefit the highway as well as the transfer station for filling in.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business before the Board, C. Swartz made a motion to adjourn the 10/15/2019 Town Board meeting at 8:10 p.m., seconded by C. Bult, with all voting in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra L. Curtis
Schodack Town Clerk