

**DATE:** OCTOBER 13, 2020

**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:** BRUCE GOODALL, DIRECTOR OF TRANSFER STATION  
OPERATIONS  
DAWNE KELLY, ASSSITANT TO THE SUPERVISOR  
JOHN HOURIGAN, CHIEF OF POLICE

---

Supervisor Harris called the October 13, 2020 Budget Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance and dispensed with roll call. All present as noted above.

### **Transfer Station**

**A8160.4 Refuse & Garbage:** B. Goodall noted the only major change to this appropriation code was a decrease in the amount budgeted for the Town of Colonie landfill. He explained that the amount budgeted for 2020 was an overestimation and the actual amount was closer to \$65,000.00. S. Harris asked if Mr. Goodall would be proposing an increase to the fee schedule for the Transfer Station. B. Goodall said yes as the last increase took place in 2011. He noted an increase was proposed earlier in the year; however, due to COVID-19, it was decided to forego for another year. He added that the increase was based on the cost of the disposal of refuse increasing from \$57.00 to \$87.00 per ton. S. Harris asked if the fees were enough to cover operations costs. B. Goodall said barely. C. Swartz questioned if it was the right time to propose an increase due to the hard-times residents were facing due to the pandemic. C. Kenney agreed. He felt it would be best to use the reserve fund to offset the cost of operations rather than increase taxes.

**A8189.4 Recycling:** S. Harris asked if an increase was expected for recycling. B. Goodall said the current rate was \$63.00 per ton, which was a decrease from earlier in the year. He estimated the monthly cost for recycling was between \$1,700.00 to \$1,800.00. He said there was potential to lower the cost if cardboard was separated out; however, there would be added labor and fuel costs canceling out the savings.

Mr. Goodall reminded the board of the safety issues that had been brought to his attention earlier in the year. He informed the members that whereas some improvements had been made, more were still needed. He said a representative from Public Employee Safety and Health (PESH) could visit the site at any time at which time they would require

any safety issues to be addressed. He added that the town would have time to make improvements and he would work with the highway department. C. Rex asked if an added line item would be needed for materials and labor to make said improvements. C. Bult said there was money in the reserve fund if necessary. He felt Mr. Goodall had a decent idea what improvements were needed and advised that he move forward. This would show good faith to PESH that the town was making efforts to ensure safety at the transfer station.

S. Harris asked if there would be a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Day planned for 2021. B. Goodall said no. He noted the event, which was free to residents, had not been conducted in years due to the expense on the town. He added that since latex paint had been removed from the list of hazardous materials, there was a large decrease in demand for disposal. C. Bult and Kenney said they had not received requests for the event in sometime.

**A8189.2 Recycling Equipment:** S. Harris asked if a forty-yard container would be purchased in 2021. B. Goodall said no as he planned to use funds from the 2020 budget to make the purchase. S. Harris said he had not received a commitment from any of the local fire departments to take one of the old containers, as previously discussed. C. Bult recommended placing the old containers up for sale. All board members agreed.

S. Harris asked for an update on the installation of a canopy over the recycling bins to limit the amount of water entering. B. Goodall said the structure would need to have an opening of twenty-three feet and be tall enough to allow for compacting with the backhoe. C. Bult said they could place the full containers under cover but there would be added labor.

S. Harris asked if a fund should be established for the replacement of the roll-off. B. Goodall said the truck was only run twice a week and had considerable low miles for its age. C. Bult and C. Kenney felt with maintenance, the truck could be useful for many more years. B. Goodall agreed and said the main issue with the truck was rust on the body that needed to be sandblasted and painted.

## **Police**

**A3120.1 Police Personnel:** C. Bult asked if the position of School Resource Officer had been withheld for 2021. Chief Hourigan said yes, as the school was unsure how to navigate the potential twenty percent decrease in funding. C. Swartz asked if a sign on incentive was still being considered for new recruits. Chief Hourigan said yes. He felt it would bring in quality officers to ensure a better transition into the department. C. Bult asked how much incentive could be given without conflicting with the contract. Chief Hourigan said that would need to be discussed with the union.

**A3120.2 Police Equipment:** Chief Hourigan said an addition to this budget had been made for building renovations allowing necessary improvements to be made to the station. He anticipated this line to be carried from year to year slowly making the needed changes. His main goal for 2021 was to replace the carpet, which had not been replaced in over fifteen years, with a durable hard flooring. C. Swartz expressed concern for the amount budgeted for ammunition. Chief Hourigan explained that all officers are required to complete target training three times per year and even though they have some reserves, the amount was justified. He noted that he had budgeted for a new vehicle for 2021; however, it may not be needed. He said the fleet was adequately maintained to ensure the full life of the cars. C. Kenney asked if funds were scheduled to be transferred into the capital police fund in 2021.

P. Harter said no, as the fund was well over \$100,000.00. C. Bult felt the fund was adequate and would be safe to withhold funds for 2021. Chief Hourigan said he had also intended to purchase a new mobile data center for the vehicle being purchased in 2020. He noted that the unit in the retired vehicle was older and felt it would be best to start the trend of replacing the centers as vehicles were replaced. He had not budgeted for this expense as he intended to utilize forfeiture funds. All board members agreed.

**A3120.4 Police Contractual:** Chief Hourigan noted the addition of online training for officers that would be hosted by Lexipol. He said based upon the requirements for reimagining police departments, established by Governor Cuomo, departments had to update all policies and ensure officers were thoroughly trained. Lexipol would have the ability to provide the necessary training to the officers online as well as assess and make changes to the current policies. The cost for the service would be based upon the department size and there would be no contract to sign. C. Swartz asked if Lexipol would have the ability to track each officer for their training and C. Rex asked if the training would be annually. Chief Hourigan said yes to both.

C. Bult asked if the station would be connecting to Sewer District No. 6. P. Harter said yes. He noted there would be no capital charges but there would be Operations & Maintenance (O&M) costs as well as hook up fees. He said the contractor installing the line to Stewarts was willing to excavate the area, but the town would need to reimburse for the labor and materials. He estimated the O&M cost for both water and sewer to be \$738.00 annually. He noticed nothing had been budgeted and recommended adding \$750.00 to the budget. **Determination: It was the consensus of the board to add \$750.00 to A3120.4.**

**A3410 Fire Investigation:** S. Harris said he had been made aware of training being transferred from fire departments to the state. C. Bult added that the fire investigation team was declining in members due to resignation and retirement. Chief Hourigan agreed but felt it necessary to keep the funds within the appropriation code as it could be deemed as a shared service with the members being called out to other municipalities.

### **Open Discussion**

**A3510 Dog Control:** S. Harris felt it was best to keep M. Banker, Temporary Dog Control Officer, on the on-call basis and asked if the salary could be moved from personnel to contractual. P. Harter agreed. **Determination: It was the consensus of the board to move \$15,998.00 from A3510.1 to A3510.4.**

**A1355.4 Assessor Contractual:** C. Bult asked if the \$10,000.00 budgeted for the Vincelette Law Firm was justified. P. Harter said there may be more charges for the firm that had not posted on the budget worksheets for 2020 which would justify the increase.

**A1620.4 Building/Town Hall Contractual:** C. Kenney asked if the \$51,200.00 budgeted for the roof for 2020 had been spent. P. Harter said no. D. Kelly said a study on the roof had been conducted but no action had been authorized by the board. She noted a few small repairs had been made and a resolution would be needed to move forward with more extensive repairs. C. Bult asked if a building reserve fund should be established. P. Harter noted there were strict rules for all funds and it would have to be specific for use. He felt it would be better to use fund balance if needed and asked if the board wished to keep the

\$55,000.00 budgeted for 2021. All board members agreed.

**A1680.4 Central Data Communications Contractual:** C. Kenney asked for clarification on the increase for Time Warner. P. Harter explained that when the new phone system was installed, the phone service was changed to Time Warner/Spectrum. He noted amounts were still budgeted for service under Verizon and would be pulled from each appropriation code within the town hall.

**A7410.4 Library Contractual:** C. Kenney asked why the amount budgeted for the East Greenbush Library had been reduced from their original request of \$311,313.00 to \$307,890.00. P. Harter explained that the residents of East Greenbush will receive a one percent reduction in library taxes and felt it was only fair for the residents of Schodack to receive the same. C. Swartz asked if there was an agreement that would bind the town from requesting the reduced amount. P. Harter said no. He added that their request for 2021 was to remain static from the previous year due to COVID-19.

**A/B8030.4 Research Contractual:** C. Swartz noticed that the \$54,000.00 allotted for 2020 had not been used and questioned its purpose. S. Harris said it was earmarked for future development planning for Route 9. C. Kenney noted that once it was in the reserve fund, it could be used for any planning project such as a town wide library.

**A1010.4 Town Board Contractual:** C. Swartz noticed that no funds were utilized for 2020 and asked if the amounts budgeted for 2021 were necessary. C. Kenney agreed. The Town Clerk said she was unsure why funds for the Troy Record and General Code were included in this appropriation code as they had been budgeted in A/B1680.4. **Determination: It was the consensus of the board to remove \$1,800.00 for General Code from A1010.4.**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

As there was no further business before the Board, S. Harris made a motion to adjourn the 10/13/2020 Town Board meeting at 8:10 p.m., seconded by C. Kenney, with all voting in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra L. Curtis  
Schodack Town Clerk