

DATE: OCTOBER 18, 2017

KIND OF MEETING: BUDGET

WHERE HELD: SCHODACK TOWN HALL

CLERK: DEBRA L. CURTIS

PRESIDING OFFICER: DENNIS DOWDS

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

ATTORNEY:

COMPTROLLER: PAUL HARTER

OTHERS: NADINE FUDA, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & ZONING
BRUCE GOODALL, DIRECTOR OF TRANSFER STATION
OPERATIONS
JOSEPH BELARDO, CHIEF OF POLICE
DAWNE KELLY, CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY TO THE
SUPERVISOR

S. Dowds called the October 18, 2017 Budget Meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and dispensed with roll call. All present as noted above.

Planning & Zoning

B8010.4 Zoning Contractual: N. Fuda stated she is requesting \$20,000.00 for the zoning code update. She still has the original \$70,000.00 which was encumbered. This would cover the cost of creating a new code book by General Code. In the event funds were leftover, she suggested funding could be used to move forward on the Generic Environmental Impact Statements (GEIS) for the Route 9 corridor. Under GEIS, environmental impact statements would be done in advance and contractors would pay an impact fee to the Town for use and allow projects to move quicker. This in turn would reimburse the Town for the cost of the GEIS. C. Kenney said discussions from prior years stated any remaining funds from the zoning code would be put towards the GEIS. N. Fuda mentioned she had an additional \$10,000.00 set aside which could be used to cover costs of testing for the fuel remediation at the Highway Garage.

B8020.4 Planning Contractual: N. Fuda stated she was requesting an increase for the MS-4 Program based on the estimate from Rich Laberge. C. Kenney asked why no actuals were shown under that program. P. Harter said all the money was lumped under engineering originally but once it was broken out, the actuals were not re-entered. C. Kenney asked for clarification for the funding regarding the 2017-2018 Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) Outfall Mapping. N. Fuda said the \$24,900.00 was the grant amount awarded, of which only approximately \$6,900.00 the town would be responsible for.

The expense does not reflect the revenue to be received from DEC.

Zoning Books: C. Kenney asked if there was money in the contingency fund for the zoning books. P. Harter said there was \$30,000.00. He mentioned he conservatively budgeted the revenue for sales tax for the B fund which should have adequate funding to cover the cost. N. Fuda stated she was quoted \$20,000.00 for the books. They would be in loose leaf format, enclosed in a binder, to allow for updates and additions. C. Bult mentioned the online code was far more convenient to use and asked how many zoning books were being produced. N. Fuda said she was not sure. C. Bult felt they did not need to spend money producing a large quantity of physical copies. C. Swartz suggested checking options before production. S. Dowds asked the time frame projected for a public hearing regarding the zoning revisions. N. Fuda projected, upon giving the Board at least a month to review, early January for the public hearing.

Transfer Station

P. Harter advised the contractual totals for 2015 and 2016 under A8160 were correct; however, the actuals would not match the totals. When lines items were split, there was difficulty getting the numbers to match up.

A8160.1 Landfill Personal: C. Bult stated they were not scheduled to discuss salaries until tomorrow but figured while B. Goodall was present, he would ask for clarification on the increase in personal time. P. Harter stated an additional day needed to be added for John Lewis. According to the union contract, employees are entitled to five personal days and he was only allotted four.

A8160.4 Landfill Contractual: C. Kenney asked what Power House Cleaning was. B. Goodall said it was renamed last year as the Landfill Study. S. Dowds stated the study was budgeted for 2017 for \$5,350.00 but was found to cost over \$21,000.00 from start to finish. C. Bult suggested either budgeting the full \$21,000.00 or leaving it empty. He said changes had been made to the transfer station and things seem to be running fine. B. Goodall stated he thought otherwise as traffic tends to get congested which could be resolved by widening the roadway and no containers are covered at the end of the day per DEC regulations. The Supervisor stated the transfer station is running as efficiently as it can and suggested the \$5,350.00 be budgeted for the firm to look into applying lines to better assist the flow of traffic and blacktop the lot. C. Bult mentioned he would be cautious to put too much capital into the Transfer Station when twenty years down the road; regulations from DEC may change. C. Kenney suggested instead of doing a study, the Highway Department should be asked to pave the lot. C. Swartz also suggested taking the money encumbered from last year to move the power poles for the old garage to allow for paving. Then the traffic problem could be alleviated. S. Dowds advised calling National Grid since they own the poles. B. Goodall stated it was off topic, but wanted to remind the Board of the new DEC regulations. Starting November 4th, the Town would have 180 days to re-register as a Transfer Station and register as a recycling facility. He also mentioned DEC is requiring all towns to be part of a planning unit to be applicable for receiving grants. He hoped to be able to join the town of Colonie who has an approvable plan to be in compliance.

A8189.2 Recycling Equipment: C. Swartz asked if a canopy cover would interfere with the current traffic flow problem and should individual covers for the recycling containers be considered instead. B. Goodall said the canopy would need to be considerably large. He felt covers would be a better solution. He had found a company that carries a rollover cover that can be bungeed down at an estimated cost of \$1,000.00. C. Kenney asked how many containers required covers. B. Goodall said four. S. Dowds suggested taking \$20,000.00 from recycling and transferring it to A8160.4 to cover improvements to the transfer station. This would leave \$5,000.00 in the budget for the purchase of covers. **Determination: \$20,000.00 was moved from A8189.2 to A8160.4.**

B8160.4 Refuse & Garbage (HHW) Contractual: B. Goodall mentioned this program takes a large amount of work, time and is done outside of A-Fund hours. C. Swartz asked if there has been a large turnout for this event. B. Goodall said it varies from year to year. He had budgeted \$8,000.00 last year but was actually over budget; therefore, he increased it to \$12,000.00. C. Swartz stated the advertising budget seemed very high. He suggested making changes if the event is held in 2018. All Board members were in agreement.

Backhoe/Truck: B. Goodall expressed concern about the work done to install a thumb on the backhoe from the Highway Department. C. Bult suggested documenting the issues with JCB including the poor welding job, wiring and valve issue. B. Goodall also expressed concern on the condition of the mechanic's truck. C. Bult felt it was mechanically sound and would be a good alternative to the current transfer station vehicle. B. Goodall said he felt the truck would need work including a new seat. It was the suggestion of C. Bult that the Highway Department should pass the truck onto the Transfer Station in good condition, including the seat.

Police

Chief Belardo highlighted changes to his 2018 budget. He stated there would be an increase in the overtime line to reflect a more accurate annual cost. He explained the department must follow the union contract regarding overtime. To balance the increase, he has hired part-time officers to fill half of the overtime shifts and to cover vacations. He has also enacted supervisor approval which is required for each additional hour over their normally scheduled time.

A3120.2 Police Equipment: C. Rex asked if a new SUV was purchased in 2017 since there were no actuals. Chief Belardo said it was purchased after May so the actuals would not show. C. Bult noticed a decrease for body cameras, vests and Tasers. He inquired if 2016 reflected the initial start-up cost for the Tasers. Chief Belardo said yes and explained he had also put \$1,918.08 in the budget for the UCP Smart Cartridge Program. Under this program, the police would have unlimited access for replacement of cartridges and batteries, as well as offering a trade-in for the Tasers every five years. It would be a cost effective program but would require a five year commitment. C. Bult asked the feasibility for the use of body cameras. Chief Belardo explained it would be inexpensive for the purchase of the equipment but the cost of the data storage would be very expensive. He said a better option would be to use dash cameras. They require less data storage and are beneficial during traffic stops. They had been purchased in the past but became a bit costly and were

taken out of the budget years ago. Chief Belardo said one final expense for the 2018 budget would be for the purchase of vests but the department of justice would reimburse the town.

A3120.4 Police Contractual: Chief Belardo explained the budget reflects a reduction in fuel costs; however, that amount was added to maintenance to cover some older vehicles in the fleet. In regards to training, \$3,740.00 was removed and placed in dues/fees where it was actually spent. C. Swartz asked why an increase was needed for uniforms when 2015 & 2016 reflect a much lower amount. Chief Belardo stated they have seen an increase in prices from their current supplier. He has been in contact with the owner of the new Army/Navy Store on Rte. 9 & 20 regarding the possible purchase of uniforms. It could be a possible savings to the town, not only by saving fuel with decreased travel, but by purchasing in bulk. He explained he had no actuals for this year but by implementing his new program to track purchases, he would have a better grasp on cost for next year. C. Bult asked for clarification regarding the \$1,300.00 set aside for taxes. P. Harter explained it covered the water district capital charges actually. Chief Belardo said he had inquired about connecting into the district to cut costs on bottled water purchases; however it was not cost effective.

C. Bult asked the Chief to explain an expansion of hours allowing for 24 hour police coverage. Chief Belardo explained the town is currently not covered from 4:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. By implementing a 24 hour schedule, a negotiation would be needed to be made with the union and additional part-time officers would need to be hired. There would be a possibility of three shift types including an 8 hour, a 10 hour, or a 12 hour shift schedule. It would involve an increase in taxes; however, residents should be pleased with the better coverage. C. Rex asked if the current contract could be opened to make the change. Chief Belardo said he would contact the union representative and work out the details. He currently has a draft of the different schedules and stated he would email them to the Board members. C. Bult asked if there needed to be an increase in the A3120 to accommodate for this possible change. S. Dowds advised to wait until after the adopted budget is in place and use budget modifications to fund it if needed.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business before the Board, C. Bult made a motion to adjourn the 10/18/2017 Town Board meeting at 8:26 p.m., seconded by C. Rex, with all voting in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra L. Curtis
Schodack Town Clerk