

**DATE:** OCTOBER 12, 2022

**KIND OF MEETING:** BUDGET

**WHERE HELD:** SCHODACK TOWN HALL

**CLERK:** DEBRA L. CURTIS

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** CHARLES J. PETER

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**ATTORNEY:**

**COMPTROLLER:** PAUL HARTER

**OTHERS:** DAWNE KELLY, ASSISTANT TO THE SUPERVISOR  
BRUCE GOODALL, DIRECTOR OF TRANSFER STATION  
OPERATIONS

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Supervisor Peter called the October 12, 2022 Budget Meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance and dispensed with roll call. All present as noted above.

**A1355 Assessor:** D. Kelly had spoken to the Assessor who confirmed that the additional funds for ESAC was due to the added assessment inventory projected for 2023, including Amazon, the Old Post Road Golf Course and the Route 9 Business Park. The Assessor also noted that whereas many of the training opportunities were online, he may still need to travel for training purposes; therefore, an increase for education was warranted.

### **Transfer Station**

**A8160.4 Refuse & Garbage Contractual:** S. Peter noted that there was an increase in mileage for EZ Pass. B. Goodall explained that the budget line was underestimated for 2022. He calculated the 2023 amount based upon the most recent EZ Pass invoice. S. Peter asked, if the town upgraded to a cloud-based telephone system in 2023, would the Time Warner Phone system be needed. B. Goodall mentioned that he currently had a bundle from Time Warner for telephone and internet. P. Harter said that, under the cloud-based system, the Transfer Station would merely have a phone which would piggyback off the town hall system, leaving only an internet connection needed at that location.

S. Peter asked if the cost for moving the guard shack was included in the 2023 budget. B. Goodall said yes, as his budget draft had been submitted in August, prior to board approval to utilize 2022 funds. He noted that \$4,000.00 could be removed from the Highway Interfund Work line and \$5,000.00 from the Parking Lot Repairs line, totaling \$9,000.00. This amount would also be removed from A8189.4. **Determination: It was the consensus of the board to remove \$9,000.00 from A8160.4.** Regarding the moving of the guard shack, C. Kenney cautioned that the board should anticipate additional costs as the condition of the building was unknown. B. Goodall said additional costs had already been found as it was discovered that the wiring was incorrect when the electrician set up the extension cord to reach the

temporary location of the shack. Further discussion continued regarding costs for the moving of the building, concrete and painting.

**A8189.4 Recycling Contractual:** C. Kenney noticed that the actual cost for single stream recycling was very low compared to the amount budgeted. He asked if the line should be decreased to reflect a more accurate amount. B. Goodall said, based upon the current market, the anticipated cost for 2022 was \$13,000.00 but cautioned that it appeared to be increasing. C. Kenney recommended reducing the amount from \$30,000 to \$25,000. **Determination: It was the consensus of the board to remove \$5,000.00 from single stream recycling, \$4,000.00 from Highway Interfund Work (previously discussed in A8160.4) and \$5,000.00 from Parking Lot Repairs (previously discussed in A8160.4) from A8189.4.**

**B8160 Household Hazardous Waste (HHW):** B. Goodall explained that he had budgeted \$12,000.00 in the event the town chose to join Rensselaer County for Household Waste events in 2023. He also increased the budget line for labor. C. Bult said he had received positive feedback for the event held and felt the cost was justified.

### Open Discussion

**A1990.4 Contingency Contractual:** C. Swartz asked if any funds had been used for 2022. P. Harter said approximately \$30,000.00 had been used to cover rising fuel costs. C. Bult wondered if the budget should be decreased. P. Harter advised against decreasing as fuel and utility costs were only projected to go higher, leaving many departments over budget.

**A3510 Dog Control:** A discussion ensued regarding changing the Dog Control Officer (DCO) from contractual to salary. The board asked the Town Clerk for call volume before considering a change. P. Harter noted that the town was saving on costs by designating the DCO as a 1099, contractual.

**A6410.4 Publicity Contractual:** S. Peter mentioned that he had estimated a three-mailing newsletter, based upon figures from the Town of Brunswick, at \$15,000.00; however, he was willing to reduce or remove the funds if the board desired. C. Swartz asked if they should consider a newsletter on the website rather than print. S. Peter and C. Kenney agreed that starting digital would be advisable. C. Kenney added that a copy of the newsletter could be included with the proposed town survey. S. Peter agreed and proposed reducing the budget line from \$15,000 to \$10,000. **Determination: It was the consensus of the board to reduce A6410 by \$5,000.00.**

**A7110 Parks:** D. Kelly said K. Konig was unable to attend the meeting for a medical reason and he asked her to speak to the board on his behalf. She began by thanking the board for their support of the park and asked that they consider hiring a second attendant. At times, C. Ashby is not available for weekend events, causing an issue with overtime for K. Konig. By having a second attendant, the hours which are being requested to increase from 300 to 640 hours, could be split between the two. S. Peter said he had also spoken to K. Konig regarding making changes to how the park is rented, including splitting days to allow for more than one renter on a given day. He expressed his appreciation to the board for their

support of the park as well. He felt it was a great benefit to the residents. C. Swartz asked how the director position was budgeted. S. Peter said it was partially funded by a \$30,000.00 shared service with Rensselaer County. P. Harter added that revenue from rentals helped to offset the remaining salary.

C. Kenney asked if picnic tables, signs and stands could be purchased via parkland funds. P. Harter said yes. **Determination: It was the consensus of the board to remove \$1,000.00 from A7110.2 and \$680.00 from A7110.4.**

**A7310.1 Youth Programs:** C. Swartz asked why there was no actual amounts listed for 2022 salaries. P. Harter reminded him that camp runs from July to August and salaries were not available at the time of budget requests. He noted that S. Golden, Youth Director was having issues with filling positions due to low salaries and was requesting an increase for 2023. C. Kenney said it might be possible for five to ten employees; however, if she was requesting an increase for all positions, it would be too much. C. Swartz asked how much the director was requesting for a salary increase. P. Harter said six percent.

**A7410 Libraries:** C. Swartz remembered a discussion from the 2022 Budget Workshops regarding putting a two percent cap on the library requests. C. Kenney confirmed that it was discussed; however, it was not conveyed to the library directors. He said a discussion regarding a cap needed to occur before budget time. S. Peter proposed giving all libraries the same increase. He noted that the Nassau Free Library was requesting a 2.77 percent increase. If Castleton and East Greenbush were held to the same increase, they would receive \$163,672.00 and \$328,864.00 respectively. C. Kenney and Swartz felt it would be best to move forward with the requested amounts. C. Bult agreed and recommended that the town look into opening their own library. P. Harter said a change would be needed for the charter. S. Peter agreed to leave the funding requests with the understanding of creating a road map to create a town library.

**A8030.4 Research Contractual:** C. Kenney noticed that this fund has not been used and recommended removing the \$50,000.00. **Determination: It is the consensus of the board to remove \$50,000.00 from A8030.4.**

**A8389.4 Water Misc. Contractual:** P. Harter reminded the board that the town is still under court order for supplying water to J. Stollsteimer and the former Thoma Tire due to the salt issue at the Highway Garage.

**B1420.4 Town Attorney Contractual:** C. Kenney asked why there was only actuals for Tabner, Ryan and Kinery. P. Harter said Girvin and Ferlazzo had not been utilized for a Planning & Zoning Attorney for 2022. **Determination: It was the consensus of the board to remove \$5,000.00 from B1420.**

**B1990.4 Contingency:** C. Kenney asked if any funds had been expended from this budget code in the past few years. P. Harter said approximately \$1,300.00 in 2021. A discussion ensued regarding the \$50,000.00 budgeted, including the potential to decrease the amount. **Determination: It was the consensus of the board to reduce B1990.4 by \$25,000.00.**

**B3620 Safety Inspections:** C. Kenney questioned why there was \$34,000.00 under B3620.2 for a department vehicle. P. Harter noted that the budget was created before the vehicle was purchased. C. Bult inquired about the employee clothing reimbursement. P. Harter said, per the employee handbook, the Building Inspectors are allotted a \$500.00 clothing expense. **Determination: It was the consensus of the board to remove \$34,000.00 from B3620.2.**

**B3650.4 Unsafe Building Contractual:** C. Kenney noticed that there was no 2023 funding request. P. Harter said it was included in the budget but somehow the request was not reflected on the spreadsheet. The requested amount for B3650.4 was \$25,000.00.

**B8010.4 Zoning Contractual:** C. Kenney questioned the need for funds to be dedicated to a General Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) as one was already being completed by Rensselaer County. He said he would speak to the town engineer to confirm.

**B8020.4 Planning Contractual:** C. Kenney noticed the budget line for training had been decreased and was concerned that it was too low. S. Peter noted that the budget code had a built-in cushion and felt it was adequate.

**SM Ambulance:** S. Peter questioned the funding request from the Nassau Ambulance as it was a 64.3 Percent increase from 2022. He noted that the Castleton Ambulance only requested a 5 Percent increase. C. Kenney noticed that the general trend was a large increase requested for a given year, followed by a leveling off. S. Peter said he also wondered why the Town of Nassau was receiving a 38.8 Percent increase rather than the same request as Schodack. He said he would contact the President of the Nassau Ambulance as well as the Supervisor for the Town of Nassau.

### **Executive Session**

C. Bult made a motion to enter into an Executive Session at 9:04 p.m. to discuss appointments and proposed salary structures under the 2023 Tentative Budget. Seconded by C. Rex.

5 Ayes 0 Noes. **MOTION CARRIED.** Ayes –J. Bult, M. Kenney, S. Swartz, T. Rex, C. Peter. Noes – 0.

C. Bult made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session at 9:18 p.m., seconded by C. Kenney.

5 Ayes 0 Noes. **MOTION CARRIED.** Ayes –J. Bult, M. Kenney, S. Swartz, T. Rex, C. Peter. Noes – 0.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

As there was no further business before the Board, C. Swartz made a motion to adjourn the 10/12/2022 Town Board meeting at 9:18 p.m., seconded by C. Kenney, with all voting in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra L. Curtis  
Schodack Town Clerk

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