

Tentative budget meeting was held on October 5, 2015 at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall, 6307 State Route 9, Chestertown, NY, 12817.

Roll Call:

In attendance were Mike Packer, Karen DuRose, and Frederick H. Monroe. Absent were Edna Wells and Steve Durkish.

Review budget.

The tentative budget had been delivered to the Town Clerk on September 21st. Supervisor Monroe stated that the overall budget had remained within the 1% tax cap.

The projected combined tax rate for General and Highway Fund in 2016 would be \$1.35 per thousand, compared to \$1.34 in 2015. Mr. Monroe reviewed the General Fund Revenues, and then the General Fund Expenses.

He explained that the ski tow had been put out to bid by the County, and bids will be opened on Thursday, the 8th. John Nick has done a lot of work preparing plans for the building housing the electrical needs, as well as a room for the lift operator, and he will be here later in the meeting to explain the project.

Mr. Monroe stated that he is proposing money in the budget in the amount of \$7,000 for a storage building for the boat wash unit, instead of continuing to rent a pod on a monthly basis, not only being billed for the pod, but for delivery and removal every season.

The garbage compactor is over 20 years old, and will cost about \$60,000 to replace. We will be budgeting \$20,000 this year, creating a capital reserve fund, and add an additional \$20,000 for the next two years to cover the cost of replacement of the compactor.

Highway revenues from property taxes is \$1.265 per thousand tax rate.

County snow and ice contracts keep going up, and we expect it to be \$247,233 next year. The County is going to provide the Towns \$8,000 to start getting equipment to reduce the use of salt. Mr. Monroe had discussed it with Jason, and Jason is looking into pre-wetting the salt with liquid calcium chloride to make it go further. Jason is suggesting we buy a tank for this liquid calcium chloride solution and a spray, and when trucks are loading, the operator can spray down the salt and the sand and make it go a lot further. CHIPS (Consolidated Highway Improvement Program), is estimated to be about \$178,000.

Highway Expenses for highway paving & reconstruction at \$290,000. This number may need to be adjusted if we increase any item in the budget, or decrease the estimated revenue.

Every other year we buy a new truck, and this is the year to buy a new plow truck and accessories, with an estimated cost of \$215,000.

The sand pit bond payments will be at \$19,334. Before purchasing the sand pit, the cost of sand ran about \$60,000 per year.

Chestertown Water Revenues were down a little, with expenses including the wages for Water Superintendent and his assistant.

Tank inspection and painting listed at \$100,000, but \$70,000 of that will be re-appropriated to surplus, as Jason is not ready to spend that yet. Mr. Monroe would like the Board to approve \$2,000 to inspect the tanks this year in both Chestertown and Pottersville.

Pottersville water revenues remain constant, and Jason has recommended budgeting \$3,000 for Chlorinator & soda ash pumps.

Loon Lake Park district revenue is down from Real property taxes estimated at \$57,434, and Warren County Invasive funding remains constant at \$41,666.

Expenses for boat wash attendants are paid with $\frac{1}{2}$ from the Park District, and $\frac{1}{2}$ from the General Fund. The Loon Lake Dam, we had budgeted \$90,000, because DEC was requiring an engineered assessment, which talked about enlarging the spillway capacity, and then possibly stabilizing the upstream side of the dam. Mr. Monroe has talked to the Engineer for his recommendation at this point. The Engineer had talked with the new dam safety expert at DEC, and he believes that they should redo the inundation study that we had had done by CT Male a few years ago, because he feels that they had not taken into account the upstream dam (coffer dam), or the effect of the Route 8 culvert acting like a dam. He further believes that they may be able to decrease the hazard level of the dam, which decreases the requirement of the spillway capacity which could in the end, decrease the cost of the project. \$50,000 has been earmarked for that project, and another \$50,000 for work on solutions to the milfoil problem.

Schroon Lake Park District revenue and expense are both at \$2,200 for the Chester portion of the Park District, and North Creek Fire Protection District at \$30,000, with Riverside Fire

Protection District designated at \$7,000 for the Riverside contract, and \$5,000 for the Chestertown contract.

John Nick was in attendance to explain the ski tow project. Once the bids are open, we will find out how much the ski tow is. We have about \$16,000 from the First Wilderness Corridor Grant, and planned on using money from the Occupancy Tax for the balance.

The Rotary was originally involved in the initial installation of the ski tow, and they started talking about how they might be able to help at this time. Mr. Nick offered to project manage and do some engineering on the project.

Mr. Nick had spoken with Mr. Monroe, John West and Jason regarding what the project would entail. One of the things determined was that Jason would not have the man power to tear out the old lift and install the new one before bad weather arrives. It was decided to do some of the work on the project this year, and the balance in the spring of 2016. Mr. Nick had visited the Schroon Lake ski area at their golf course, and they have the same lift that we anticipate installing.

An initial portion of the installation will consist of additional lighting on the left side of the lift along the road, and installation of power for the snow maker on those same four poles. The electrical service will need to be changed, as the existing service will not run all that will be required. National Grid will bring power in as close as they possibly can. Discussion ensued about obtaining extra poles, as National Grid will let us use their equipment if we provide poles, so that issue is being pursued.

Mr. Nick had presented a rendition of a ski shack to house the power units and the attendant's space which will have full glass for the attendant to have full view of the lift. The construction will be similar to the buildings on site. Some of it will be total logs, some will be stick built with log siding. Mr. Nick is obtaining pricing from Erin Brothers and is waiting to see how much the Rotary can contribute. John MacMillen donated the design, and will provide construction plans in the near future. He is discussing the concrete needs with Northwoods Concrete to see what, if any of it could be donated. Mr. MacMillen will supply some of his men to come build some of it. Electric heat will be used inside.

We need to amend an existing APA permit, and we need to file a permit with the Department of Labor for installation of the ski lift. Mr. Nick has spoken with Cedarwood Engineering, and they

have already come up with a plan for the site work. They will also do a lighting plan to determine what will be needed. The thought is to purchase at least the lift this year. Mr. Nick will get together with Mr. Packer regarding the electrical issues. Additional details were discussed, after which Mr. Nick was thanked for all of his work on the project.

Back to the budget...a few changes were suggested by Mr. Monroe.

The appropriated fund balance he is recommending we take \$117,000 to help balance the budget.

Under Highway Administration, instead of zero under A5010.4, should be \$1,000.

Under Parks and Recreation, last year we had budgeted \$17,500 to purchase a one-ton, but the Highway committee decided we did not need it. John West would still like the one-ton, and he thinks he will have to replace his John Deere Mower, which is 4 years old. The Bobcat snow bucket also needs replacement, and he is recommending a 12'x16' pavilion for the Pottersville playground. The question here is what exactly is needed, and how much it will cost. This will all have to be determined. The Highway committee will review these items, and it will be discussed at the regular meeting on the 13th.

Mr. Monroe recommends the creation of a Capital Reserve Fund account for the compactor and \$2,500 for the generator, under A8160.2. The Capital Reserve Fund can be created at the regular meeting on the 13th.

We will have a report on the asbestos in the basement within the week. Mr. Monroe stated that the biomass pellet boiler would be arriving soon. He added that there is a pellet manufacturer looking to locate in the Town of Thurman, but some of the neighbors are complaining, and the APA says they are going to have problems with the site they have chosen. Mr. Monroe has talked with the Thurman Supervisor, and told her that if they can't find a suitable site over there, we can offer them a site at Peckham's.

Under Highway, \$8,000 will be added to Revenue for the County Aid. Some major changes to Highway expense under snow removal, contractual, DA5142.4, we spent \$146,000 in 2013. This was when they increased our sand from \$2.00 per ton to \$6.00. We got it down to \$96,000, but still budgeted \$146,000 for 2015. Having bought our own sand pit, we have only spent \$43,834, leaving us \$103,000 under budget. Mr. Monroe suggested we decrease the budget for 2016 of \$130,000 to \$110,000. That will leave

\$20,000 that might be used for paving. We will be getting the extra \$8,000 in revenue, however, we just found out salt will be going up \$9.00 per ton, and we use over 1,500 tons, so that will be \$15,000 more for the salt. However, by buying the tank for the calcium chloride and the sprayer for pre-wetting, we should add another \$5,000 to DA5142.1. In service to other governments, we split those codes 2/3 for Town Roads, and 1/3 for County Roads that we sand, plow and mow. Mr. Monroe suggests we reduce the contractual expense under DA148.4 by \$10,000 thus changing \$65,000 to \$55,000. This is a total of \$25,000 saved that can go to Capital Improvement Highway, Code DA5112.2 from \$265,000 to \$290,000.

Under Chester Water expense, under purification, Code CW8330.4, Mr. Monroe recommends increasing the amount of \$2,000 to \$3,000 to cover the cost of a chlorinator pump and chlorine. Under Pottersville Water code PW8320.22, Source and Supply, he wants to increase equipment to \$3,000.

Occupancy tax is all under the publicity budget. Mr. Monroe will review it, following the requests from the Tri-Lakes Business Alliance. He has allowed \$8,000 for the Chester Challenge for personal services of the Trail Coordinator, signs, brochures, trail markers, etc. under A6410.12. Under A6410.499P, he wants to increase the amount from \$1,000 to \$2,000. The rest of the Occupancy Tax budget was reviewed as tentative.

RESOLUTION #131: APPROVE TENTATIVE BUDGET WITH CHANGES.

Introduced by Mrs. DuRose, seconded by Mr. Packer, authorize approving the tentative budget with the aforementioned changes.

AYE 3 NO 0

RESOLUTION #132: APPOINT BOB WALP AS AN ALTERNATE TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS.

Introduced by Mrs. DuRose, seconded by Mr. Packer, appoint Bob Walp as an alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

AYE 3 NO 0

RESOLUTION #133: AUTHORIZE TOWN OF CHESTER JUSTICE COURT TO APPLY TO THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR FOR A GRANT OF STATE FUNDS.

Introduced by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Mr. Packer, authorizing the Town of Chester Justice Court apply to the Chief Administrative Judge for a grant to assist in the operation of

the Chester Justice Court.

AYE 3 NO 0

RESOLUTION #134: AUTHORIZE JASON HAVE TWO WATER TANKS INSPECTED.

Introduced by Mr. Packer, seconded by Mrs. DuRose, authorize Jason have water tanks in Chestertown and Pottersville inspected.

AYE 3 NO 0

On a motion by Mrs. DuRose, seconded by Mr. Monroe, meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Town Clerk