

Joint Town Council and Budget Committee Meeting March 5, 2020

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm. Saluted the Flag.

Council Members Present:

Kieth Bennett, Chair
Tarsha Downing, Vice Chair
Nicholas Konstantoulakis
John Emery II

Budget Members Present:

Lou Goulet	Lou Annance
Brian Ahlquist	Andrea Winn
Tom Walton	Mary Allen

Peter Ford-Absent

Staff and Others Present:

Zakk Maher, Town Manager	Julie Ward, Town Clerk
Lisa Prevost, Treasurer	
Eriks Petersons, Sun Journal	

Lou Annance nominated Brian Ahlquist for Budget Committee Chair, seconded by Lou Goulet, all in favor so voted.

Town Manager Zakk Maher started presentation announcing schedule meetings, March 19th and April 6th would be Public Hearing for Council to approve the Budget warrant. June 9th is the Municipal election with Budget Items on Ballot.

Lou Goulet asked about year to date number. Treasurer Lisa Prevost said out of the 2,729,335.00 we have used 1,888,43.080 which is approximately 69.19% of the budget. 840,904.20 remaining.

The expected revenues are 1,125,897.31 we have collected 880,240.63 which is 78%, and 245,656.68 to be collected.

Town Manager Zakk Maher talked about the school budget increases and not being able to access the Mil Rate calculation sheet for 2020 yet. He also stated that due to staffing changes the need to revisit Code Enforcement, Safety Officer. MMA Salary Survey was given out.

Recreation Department:

Justin Starbird was unable to attend meeting, Jessica Cummings and Wayne Usher came to present Recreation's request. The Recreation Committee is asking for \$23,000. They would like to do capital improvements on the Snack Shack. The plan is to pour cement pad, fix walls and plumbing for the bathrooms. If the building gets fixed it would become useable again and there would have a central location for storage of equipment instead of having it scattered all over different locations. The estimated cost to fix is \$22,500

Councilor Konstantoulakis asked if the \$7500 that was given had been spent yet, it had not. Budget Member Lou Annance asked how much staff was handling recreation. Treasurer Lisa has been handling the finance. Rec did purchase quick books to start taking care of most of the financials, leaving town employees with purchase orders, and reconciling bank accounts. There is still a work load but a lot less than before. Town Manager Zakk Maher did point out that the remaining salary of Recreation Employee of \$7500 that was given to the committee after employee left must be spent by 6/30/2020 or it will return to the General Fund.

Recreation member Wayne Usher stating last fall the Coleman field, and the middle field was upgraded with prograde mix and the fence was repaired. The committee is trying to get adult softball back to generate funds to get batting cages.

Wayne Usher explained the Rec position that was created had a lot of deficiencies and the committee could have utilized it better. A lot of the duties were done by volunteers and have since fallen back onto them. Budget Member Tom Walton asked if they planned asking the council for that position to be filled. Wayne stated no, they would like to see the money go toward the snack shack for repairs.

Councilor Emery asked if the amount money asking was a one-time deal, and Rec Member Wayne Usher stated yes.

Town Manager Zakk Maher stated the rec funds of 23,000 could be moved into a CIP since it's for capital improvements. He will redraft any changes for next meeting.

The Recreation committee will bring in the break down of the repairs that need to happen to the snack shack at the next meeting.

Code Enforcement & Safety Compliance Officer:

Town Manager Zakk Maher stated that since the CEO position is open, it would make sense to move the Safety Compliance Officer with CEO. This would up the wages for a new CEO and provide a 40-hour position as well.

Social Services:

There is a reduction of 2,000. We have a \$4500 stipend for our GA Administrator and a \$5000 for actual GA which is reimbursed 50 % of every dollar spent.

Assessor:

No Changes in budget lines compared to current budget

Auditor:

There is a decrease of \$2850 because of the water department project and the purchase of the building we had budgeted for a single audit, which we didn't need.

Contingency:

No Change still \$10,000 reserved for unseen expenses

Debt Services:

The change in debt services 411,466. This will pay down the debt on 22 Pleasant Street. It will need to go to Voter approval for the amount of 396,200. If the building sells, we will be able to pay down the remaining balance with out a penalty. The current loan for repairs for the Town Office will be done in 2 years and cannot be paid out early. There will be a 5-year road bond presented to the voters for 500,000.

Pensions/Insurances:

Because we run our year from July to June and Insurance runs calendar year, it becomes split. We budgeted for a 7% increase for this year budge and it came in at 7.7% increase. We are budgeting for the same in crease of 7% the increase of 19,409.

Animal Control:

No Changes

Dispatcher:

No Changes

EMA:

This was moved to Fire Department Budget

County Tax:

This line has increase by \$22.887. Unfortunately, we have no choice on this.

Councilor Bennett motioned to adjourn, seconded by Budget Member Andrea Winn, all in favor so voted.

Adjourned at 8:31pm

Next meeting 3/19/2020 @ 7pm