

**MINUTES
OF
THE TOWN OF RENSSELAERVILLE
BUDGET WORKSHOP
OCTOBER 17, 2016
7:00 PM**

The Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville held a Budget Workshop Meeting on the 17th day of October 2016 at 7:00 PM at the Rensselaerville Town Hall, 87 Barger Road, Medusa, NY. The meeting was convened by Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury and the roll was called with the following results:

PRESENT WERE: Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury
 Councilwoman Marion Cooke
 Councilman John Dolce
 Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir
 Councilman Gerald Wood
 Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

Also present was one interested citizen.

The purpose of the meeting was to continue the review of the 2017 Tentative Budget.

- Kimberly Graff, Director of the Rensselaerville Library, along with Janet Acker, President and Carol Ash, the newest member of the library’s board, thanked the Town Board for their continuing support in maintaining the \$25,000 allotment.

Ms. Graff noted that the library has been able to bring on a Children’s Program Coordinator, Lee Ackerman-Sawyer. Since acquiring Ms. Ackerman-Sawyer, the library has hosted several children’s programs. The programs include anything from early literacy to story time to teen programs. Ms. Ackerman-Sawyer is also the children’s program coordinator at the Westerlo library and therefore, has been able to collaborate on many programs. She has been promoting the Rensselaerville library by explaining that due to different hours, if Westerlo is closed, try Rensselaerville. Also, coming soon the library would like to put together a menu of programs for local day-cares. Kim is trying to think of things that could bring the library into the community in addition to bringing the community into the library. Lee is offering homework assistance and trying to put together family oriented programs such as game night.

Janet Acker spoke on the libraries strategic plan: where does the library best serve the Town and where are the places that the library could do more or different or increase their services. The library would like to pull in and reach out to the hamlets that they

may not necessarily always get an opportunity to connect with. Also, the library hopes to create an outdoor space in the not too distant future. A good start has been the repair to the stairway leading into the garden. In addition, the library is hoping to rally resources for the community such as digital connections, wi-fi and internet access – exploring ways they may be able to help.

Ms. Graff has been noticing a change in how the library is being used. In the past the library has been very popular with movies and has had the most circulated movie collection every month. People are now coming into the library to stream TV shows and there has been an increase in downloadable resources and a heavy usage of internet options.

Ms. Graff is always looking for resources that the library can offer and recently, a donation of canes, a wheelchair, and a walker was made allowing the library to be yet another source for the community.

Ms. Graff noted that Senator Amedore had provided the library with a generous sum of money which will be used to upgrade a lot of the equipment.

- Supervisor Lounsbury revisited the Assessor's Office budget. A \$200 raise was granted for each Assessor. The additional work station's initial expense, according to I.T.S. will be \$1,400. The 'misc. contractual' line item will be reduced from \$2,000 to \$1,000.
- Highway Superintendent Randy Bates presented his budget which, for the most part, has remained the same with little or no increases. Superintendent Bates has realistic expectations of what it costs to run the Highway Department and to build the roads as well as possible with the limitations imposed, i.e. the less than 2% tax cap.

One factor which dramatically affected the 2016 budget, was last year's decrease in the price of oil; a total fuel and oil savings of approximately \$47,000. Projecting ahead, Superintendent Bates expects to save another \$15,000 in equipment repairs. Having only one seasonal employee, instead of two, saved another \$16,000. Another major savings was in the 'misc. equipment' line in the amount of \$8,000. The total savings comes to \$86,000 for 2016.

Superintendent Bates has been using his own personal cell phone for work – making and receiving calls instead of driving to Town Hall to accomplish the same; keeping in contact with the crew during snowstorms; and being available at all times. He has requested that he be reimbursed \$50/month – which is half of his out-of-pocket expense.

The Operators will be getting their raises which will increase the budget by about \$2,000. Under 'gas/oil', the line will be decreased by \$4,000.

Superintendent Bates has requested an increase of \$26,700 to the ‘truck’ line under Road Machinery for the purchase, (under State bid), of a new ¾ ton pick-up truck. There is enough money in ‘unexpended balance’ to pay for the truck. The old snow plow will be put onto the new truck.

‘Gas/Oil’ line item will be reduced by \$5,000. Worker’s Comp has increased by \$2,350 and ‘Hospital & Medical Ins.’ has increased by \$1,215.

Discussion ensued over providing Superintendent Bates with a raise due to the huge amount of responsibility he has and the amount of money he has saved the Town.

Superintendent Bates would like to see a difference in what a CDL Certified hourly employee makes vs. a non-CDL Certified employee.

- Supervisor Lounsbury addressed the Special Districts. Most of the Special Districts will remain the same. Worker’s Comp. increased slightly for the Ambulance and the Fire districts.

The Medusa Volunteer Fire Department is requesting a \$2,000 increase and the Tri-Village, a \$1,000 increase.

Discussion ensued over whether the Hydrant District should be given \$2,500 again and whether or not the hydrants are actually functioning and can be used to fight fires.

The Sewer District will be increased by \$416 due to the loan payments.

The Water District will be decreased by \$456.32 due to the loan payments.

- \$40,000 will be allotted under the ‘safety equipment’ (Buildings) for the installation of the generator. The money will come from unexpended balances.
- Discussion ensued over a raise for the justices. The consensus was to give each of the two justices a \$300 raise.
- It was decided not to grant the Town Clerk’s office the software program for the on-line taxes.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Sedlmeir to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 PM; 2nd by Councilman Dolce.

Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Cooke, Dolce, Sedlmeir, and Wood; Nays (0)

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;

Victoria H. Kraker
Town Clerk