

At the Budget Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Cambridge, duly called and held the 26th day of September, 6:30 PM at the Town Hall, the following were present:

Supervisor William Watkins
Councilwoman Catherine Fedler
Councilman Gerald Skiff
Councilman Robin McMurray

Councilman Douglas Ford was absent

Others present: Heather Greenawalt Town Clerk, Ashleigh McMorris, Alan Davis Highway Superintendent, Margaret Shaw Clerk to the Supervisor, Astrid Davis, Rani Bass, Tony Millington, Bonnie Farrell

Supervisor Watkins called the meeting to order and immediately led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Supervisor went over the budget line by line. He explained how the budget was set up and that the first category A1010.1 a tendency of .1 is money going out. Anytime that it is just a straight number it is revenue coming in. The first section is the General A Fund and that is the salaries. He also explained the top lines which broke the budget down into 2012 Budgeted amount, 2012 amended and 2013 proposed budget.

The first section was Town Board and the Supervisor asked Councilman Skiff if he was going to take a salary or not. He stated no. However it was suggested by Margaret Shaw Clerk to the Supervisor that they leave the amount in the budget because down the road someone may want that salary. This would be amended after the first of the year.

When they came to line A1110.1 the Town Justice Personal Services and line A1110.12 the contractual for the Clerk to the Justice. The line A1110.1 was reduced from \$3250 to \$3225. That \$25.00 was moved to the contractual A1110.12 to raise it from \$1625 to \$1650.

Supervisor Watkins mentioned when they came to the Supervisor's salary that after the first of the year they would do a budget amendment to A1220.1 and move the \$2800 to the contingent. The Supervisor would not be taking a salary either.

When the Supervisor reached the Assessor line it was questioned whether money was included for Reval expenses. The Supervisor stated that the Town Assessor Jeffrey Jackson thought that he would have enough money to cover the cost. Councilman McMurray asked if the state would pay the expense of the reval so much per parcel. The Supervisor said no that the equalization rate must remain at 100% for 3 years and after this the state would possibly pay a certain amount per parcel.

When the Supervisor came to the line of A1420.1 the personal services had increased from \$1800 to \$3600. The Contractual had been dropped completely which used to be \$2000 this was used for the Brownell Road litigation. The amount needed for the Attorney Salary increase came from the A1420.4 which was the amount that was dropped

by \$2000. In response to this increase the Board mentioned that the Town Attorney was doing the work and in a timely manner.

When the Supervisor mentioned that a bill would be coming from the county to reimburse the people that own the old Mary McCellan Hospital. This money owed will come out of the contingent money. The Town chose to pay this rather than have the taxes go up by 1%.

When they came to the Health line which would be Ambulance the amount that is in contractual A4540.4 is \$3,000. The supervisor mentioned that a letter was received from the Rescue Squad. Councilman Skiff asked how much the Towns of Jackson and White Creek give to the Rescue Squad. The Supervisor said that he did not know. He mentioned that this could be found out and discussed at the Public Hearing.

When it was discussed about the Health Insurance it was decided that it would be best to increase the copay rather than the premiums paid because of the increases. So this was proposed to the employees to raise the copay from \$25 to \$35 and to stay with the same provider.

Councilman Fedler asked Highway Superintendent Alan Davis about the fuel bids. Highway Superintendent mentioned that the month of October is usually when they go out to bid. Highway Superintendent Alan Davis tried to keep his budget flat. He mentioned that with the savings from the sand that he purchased from the county he could do this. He thought that he would have enough sand for possibly two years. Councilwoman Fedler had concerns with considering the purchase of the sand savings. She mentioned that this one time savings should be benefited from possibly put into the equipment fund. She questioned if the Superintendent had to pay for all the sand what would the line increase by?

The Supervisor mentioned the payments on the fire contracts. The Cambridge Fire Department is \$27409 and the amount paid to Easton is \$9000 which was raised by \$100 they requested. The Buskirk Fire Dept the Supervisor has signed a contract with a 1% increase each year for 3 years. The total amount that will be received for the 3 years increase will be \$451.42.

The Supervisor went over the Summary of the Town Budget and the total amount to be raised by taxes will be \$595,917. The amount raised by taxes last year is \$587,973 and the total amount increased from last year gives a 1.35% increase. The Supervisor made everyone aware that the Town Clerk will have the copies of the budget available to the public in her office. It was decided that the board would set the date of the public hearing for the budget at the October 8, 2012 town board meeting.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was moved and carried to adjournment.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Greenawalt
Town Clerk/Town of Cambridge