

Town Board Minutes
Budget Workshop
October 27, 2008

The Town Board of the Town of Cambridge held a Special Budget Workshop Meeting, Monday, October 27, 7:00 PM, at the Town Hall.

Members present: Supervisor JoAnn Trinkle
Councilwoman Carol Imhof
Councilman Frank Ziehm
Councilman Ted Berndt
Councilman Joel Nichols

Others present: Town Clerk Sally Eddy, Highway Superintendent Eric Shaw, Code Enforcement Officer LaVerne Davis, and about 30 members from the public.

Supervisor Trinkle called the meeting to order and presided.

Assessor Presentation

Assessor Jeffrey Jackson was unable to attend the meeting due to his health. He wanted to discuss a change in his work schedule. According to Supervisor Trinkle, Mr. Jackson has expressed that he would like to change his hours to one full day rather than the two short days that are currently in place. He prefers working on Fridays from 10 AM – 5:00 PM beginning November 7, 2008. Councilwoman Imhof suggested that Mr. Jackson extend his hours until 6:00 PM and also be available by appointment for those who cannot make it on a Friday. The board was in agreement with Mr. Jackson's request and will ask him to extend his hours and be available by appointment.

Discussion of New Payloader

Highway Supt. Eric Shaw said that by eliminating two options on the New Holland payloader he was able to get the price reduced to \$91,995. With a trade-in of \$40,000 for the old loader, the cost to the town would be \$51,995 under State Contract. The contract deadline is October 31, 2008. He retrieved quotes for a Volvo model that listed for \$96,300 with a trade in of \$25,000. Mr. Shaw has developed a proposed tentative purchasing plan for equipment from 2004 thru 2018.. The plan assists the Board in budgeting funds so the money will be available, without borrowing, when it's time for a purchase. Under the schedule, a new loader is planned for 2009, a new pick-up for 2010 and a new tandem axle dump truck for 2012.

.Questions were asked about the current loader. Mr. Shaw stated it has 5000 hours on it and is in good shape. That's why we're getting good trade- in.

When asked if the purchase of a new loader will case a tax increase, the Board responded it would not because the money has previously been budgeted and is available. Every year money is budgeted in the reserve for large equipment purchases. Some members of the public thought the town should keep the loader and thought it would hold up adequately if it accumulated more hours.

One person said if you don't have to have it, why spend the money? Another person commented times are tough; hold off buying the loader and hang on to what you have. Another person told Mr. Shaw to change his schedule and save money.

One example was cited two times about the Walker Farm. The farm traded in an old loader with 13,000 hours for a new one. The new one broke and they got their old one back.

Several farmers stated they would be willing to help out Mr. Shaw with their loaders in the event the town's loader broke down. An exchange of comments and questions lasted for over one hour.

Councilman Ted Berndt commented there have been a lot of good points about rolling over purchases. He agreed that it makes sense to put off the purchase of a payloader or pick-up in order to buy the new dump truck in the future.

Councilman Frank Ziehm remarked that dropping the plowing of town lanes would be a money saver to the town. It would save hours and wear & tear on the pick-up. We have 32 lanes and the town receives no reimbursement. However, it has been investigated in the past and, legally, the determination was that if a lane appears on a highway map then the town has to plow it.

Dan Thomas remarked that even if the lanes are dropped the town is still responsible for maintaining the bridges on the lanes.

After all discussion was heard, the following resolution was introduced and adopted:

Resolution by Councilman Ziehm

Seconded by Councilman Berndt

RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Cambridge does hereby agree to delay the purchase of a new payloader to a later time.

Vote: 5 – Ayes 0 – Noes

Work on Budget

Supervisor Trinkle read aloud, item by item, the figures for the proposed 2009 budget. The only raises were 3% for the highway workers and the Town Clerk. Revenue losses are mortgage tax, bank interest and CHIPS. Medical insurance went down. Budget figures resulted as follows: Total Appropriations \$930,006 minus \$264,475 in Estimated Revenues, less \$101,000 in Unexpended Balance leaving \$563,531 to be raised by tax. That's a 4% increase over 2008. Supervisor Trinkle stated that this year, by law, the Assessor's Exemption Impact Report must be attached to the budget. The report lists the total number of exemptions in the town and their equalized dollar value.

Councilman Ted Berndt stated other towns are cutting their support to the Rescue Squad. If Cambridge continues with the \$5000 he commented he felt we are subsidizing other towns for the service. The squad is a paid squad and they receive money from third party billing which started in 2001.

Supervisor Trinkle stated that White Creek has cut their support from \$5000 to \$3500 and Jackson contributes \$2000. However, these two towns also support the services of other ambulance squads.

After some discussion, the Board agreed to keep the \$5000 level to the Cambridge Valley Rescue Squad.

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William Watkins accused the town of giving away a piece of property that could have garnered some money for the tax payers. He was referring to a triangular parcel located on Brownell Road that he claimed the town owned. The town signed off any interest in it at the September 2008 meeting. He asked how do you legally disperse of town property?

Councilman Ted Berndt replied you put it out for public bid. Councilman Berndt went on to say that when the town signed off any interest on the parcel it was his understanding that the town was releasing any interest in the town right of way on the old roadbed not the whole parcel.

Councilman Berndt raised the matter of the town buying renewable energy regarding its electric bill. The National Grid bill for the Garage and the Town Hall run about \$1200 a year. For about \$200 more a year we could be going green and he offered to kick the \$200 in from his paycheck. National Grid offers 3 vendors.


Councilman Joel Nichols stated that as an elected official he's making a decision not for himself but for the whole town and he prefers to stick with the cheapest rate.

The Board agreed to have Councilman Berndt contact vendors and ask them to make a presentation.

Reminder: Budget Hearing on November 5, 2008, 7:00 PM, at the Town Hall.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was moved and carried to adjournment at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Sally B. Eddy
Town Clerk