

September 8, 2015

Notes from the Budget Workshop held Tuesday, September 8, 2015, at 6:00 PM, at the Keene Town Hall. The following Town Board Members were present: William B. Ferebee, Supervisor, Paul R. Martin, Robert M. Biesemeyer, Michael J. Buysse and Jerry D. Smith, Members of Council. Also present were: 1 resident, Gary Manley, Highway Superintendent and Ellen Estes, Town Clerk.

The Chairman, Mr. Ferebee, called the Workshop to order at 6:04 PM, saying this was the first workshop for the Fiscal Budget of 2016. He said he had supplied the Board with copies of the all the requests received back from the department heads. He said they are also being supplied with a worksheet showing the numbers adopted for the 2014 and 2015 budgets and the actual amount spent as of August 31, 2015.

He said as the "budget notes for preparing for 2016" shows most of the over budget items or items that will be over budget before the end of the year were for the Community Center building. This list also explains the line items requiring the 2015 Budget to be amended.

Mr. Ferebee informed the Board that he had been informed that the health insurance is going up 14%.

In looking at the requests turned in, Mr. Ferebee said the only change the Youth Commission Board had put into their request was a 3% increase for employees.

He said the Tax Collector had put in for a slight increase to her contractual expense for the first time in 7 years and a 6% increase to her salary.

He said the Town Justices had put in for a 6 % salary and a small increase to their contractual expenses.

Mr. Ferebee said that he was requesting a \$10,000 increase saying it was a 37.2% increase. Mr. Biesemeyer said that was a big raise, a discussion began with Mr. Ferebee saying that he doesn't know how the salaries got so spread out comparing his salary to the Highway Superintendent.

Mr. Biesemeyer asked Mr. Ferebee how much the County pays; Mr. Ferebee responded saying \$17,000.

Mr. Martin said the Supervisor's salary has been low for years, Mr. Smith agreed.

There was a discussion regarding the amount of time Mr. Ferebee puts into the office during the week and extra put in on weekends.

Mr. Biesemeyer said his comments are not to be taken personal; he is thinking that the next Supervisor may not put in as much time as Mr. Ferebee does saying that the salary is for the position.

Mr. Ferebee suggested that his salary should be made comparative to other Town Employees.

Mr. Ferebee said that the Assessor, Donna Bramer, has requested a 3% increase and put in a request to hire help with the required reval for 2016.

He said that Ellen had also asked for a 6% increase. When asked by the Board where the 6%'s were coming from she explained that she and the Tax Collector had put in for the same raise as the Town Justices in case that amount was given.

Mr. Ferebee said the Data Processor requested a 4.2% increase.

He said the Historian, Janet Hall, asked to have her salary raised from \$1,500 to \$2,000 explaining she hadn't had an increase in 10 years.

Mr. Ferebee said that the budgets for Water District #1 and #2 had remained the same.

Mr. Ferebee asked the Board to look over their worksheets for next week's workshop; the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 PM.

Ellen S. Estes, Town Clerk  
September 11, 2015

William B. Ferebee, Supervisor  
Paul R. Martin, Councilman  
Robert M. Biesemeyer, Councilman  
Michael J. Buysse, Councilman  
Jerry D. Smith, Councilman

