

September 11, 2017

Notes from the Budget Workshop held Monday, September 11, 2017, at 6:00 PM, at the Keene Town Hall. The following Town Board Members were present: Joseph P. Wilson, Jr., Supervisor, Paul R. Martin, Robert M. Biesemeyer, Michael J. Buysse and Jerry D. Smith, Members of Council. Also present: Scott Smith, Craig Holmes, Ryan Hall, Susan Whitney, Clerk to the Supervisor, and Ellen Estes, Town Clerk.

The Chairman, Mr. Wilson, called the Budget Workshop to order at 6:01 PM. Mr. Wilson said he didn't have a draft of the worksheet for the Board, he said that estimates are still coming in.

Mr. Martin suggested that a full list of salaries for the County be obtained before discussing salaries.

Mr. Wilson said that he has been using 3% as a guideline.

Mr. Martin also suggested finding out what the County is using as their cost of living.

Mr. Wilson said the two things he would like to discuss tonight is the Youth Commission Budget and the Highway Budget.

He said that Youth Commission will be moving funds around in their budget.

Mr. Biesemeyer asked Mr. Wilson if he had gotten an answer from Gary Manley as to why there is a \$49,000 lease payment due and \$7,000 was the amount put into the 2017 Budget for lease payments.

Mr. Wilson said he hasn't talked to Mr. Manley but will attempt to.

Mr. Biesemeyer said that having to go into unexpended funds for this payment is a problem.

Mr. Wilson said he didn't want to see this happen again.

The next budget item discussed was the Youth Commission.

Mr. Wilson said their Board wanted to make some reorganization changes and increase the amount for personnel.

There was a brief discussion on the increase in the staff hired this summer, Mr. Buysse said the staff struggled to meet the ratio required.

Mr. Biesemeyer said this increase is a small part of the budget.

Mr. Wilson said a survey has been done and the Town of Minerva charges \$700 per child to attend, he said most of the other Town that charge, charge \$20 or \$30.

Mr. Buysse said the End of the Year Report is coming, he said he believed it would be turned in at the Youth Commission Meeting tonight.

The Board all seemed to be in agreement to move ahead with this estimate as prepared.

Mr. Wilson said he has the Town Historian's estimate, he said it came in at 4:00 today. He said that she is asking that her annual salary be raised from \$1500 to \$1860, an increase of \$30 per month.

Mr. Martin said that Janet Hall, the Historian, had done a "lion's share" of the work on the Veteran's Memorial.

Mr. Wilson also said that Mrs. Hall is requesting that the funds in her contractual be held over for use next year.

This discussion brought up the issue of moving the Historian into another location other than her home.

Mr. Buysse suggested installing a new exit at the library to allow room for the Historian in the old food pantry room.

This lead into the next discussion which was in regards to the Library Budget.

Mr. Biesemeyer mentioned that Marcy LeClair, the current Library Clerk, plans to retire the end of March.

Mr. Wilson said that he would like to change the duties of the replacement, saying he would like to hire someone as 50% Librarian and 50% Community Resources. He said during the Community Resource time, this person could be looking for grant money; he said this would take the budget off the taxpayers.

Mr. Biesemeyer said this should not be a full time position, he said this full time job was created for Mrs. LeClair and it would save money to go back to a part time position. He said that full time benefits get very costly.

He said the Library Board of Trustees had informed him that it would be important for him to make the next Library Board Meeting.

Mr. Wilson said he thinks Mr. Biesemeyer's thinking is behind the times; he said that's not keeping up. He said students are coming out of college today with grant writing training and said if the Town does this, the County will partner with us. He said it could be re-evaluated in 3 years.

Mr. Biesemeyer again said "don't create a position, go with part time for 2018". He said this position could be re-created for a grant writer in 2019. He said now, without hurting anyone, is the chance to go back to part time.

Mr. Wilson said he felt this issue is very budget related.

This workshop was adjourned at 6:39 PM

Ellen S. Estes, Town Clerk
September 12, 2017

Joseph P. Wilson, Jr., Supervisor
Paul R. Martin, Councilman
Robert M. Biesemeyer, Councilman
Michael J. Buysse, Councilman
Jerry D. Smith, Councilman