

September 18, 2018

Notes from the Budget Workshop held Tuesday, September 18, 2018 at 6:00 PM at the Keene Town Hall. The following Town Board Members were present: Joseph P. Wilson, Jr., Supervisor, Robert M. Biesemeyer, Jerry D. Smith and Teresa Cheetham-Palen, Members of Council. Absent: Michael J. Buysse, Councilman. Also present: Ryan Hall, Water Superintendent, Scott Smith, Highway Superintendent, Susan Whitney, Clerk to the Supervisor and Ellen Estes, Town Clerk.

The Chairman, Mr. Wilson, called the Workshop to order at 6:00 PM.

Mr. Wilson started at the beginning of the second draft of the budget and worked toward the end of the budget starting with the General Fund:

- Mr. Wilson said there were no questions on the Town Board section, the Justices section, the Supervisor section or the Budget Officer section.
- He said there was a question on the Assessor Contractual saying that this is where Attorneys on legal issues are paid from so the amount would remain the same.
- He said there had been no change to Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Supervisor P/T, Public Works, Central Communications, Storeroom, Printing, Data Processing, Animal Control or Board of Health.
- He said the question that arose on the Highway Superintendent's Contractual looking higher was due to the payoff on an insurance claim for the Superintendent's truck.
- He said Sidewalks was lowered \$11,500.
- He said Hiker Equipment was lowered due to the recent van purchase.
- He said Publicity had been reduced \$3,600.
- He said Parks Contractual had been raised to the "actual" amount spent this year.
- He said Playgrounds Contractual had been reduced.
- About the Youth Programs Budget, Mr. Wilson said the Personal Service line was increased to \$31,500, he said there is an increase in the Ski Program Contractual which sometimes receives donations and he said the Summer Camp Contractual was increased. Mr. Smith asked if the Summer Program was going to be shortened a week; Mr. Wilson said the Board will need to discuss this at another time.
- Mr. Wilson said the line for the contribution to the Keene Valley Library was decreased due to last year's one-time contribution to their construction project.
- Mr. Wilson said the Environmental Control line is used as a "catastrophe fund". He said the \$1000 donation to the AuSable River Association comes from here. Mr. Wilson and Mr. Biesemeyer both agreed that this is an area that could be cut.
- Mr. Wilson stated that \$6,855 had been reduced from the Cemetery Personal Service line and the contractual had been reduced \$3,000, he said this is due to full time employees taking care of the cemetery instead of hiring a part time seasonal employee.
- In Employee Benefits, Mr. Wilson said the \$10,000 paid for Unemployment Insurance for the above mentioned part time seasonal employee has also been removed.
- Mr. Wilson said the Landfill Closure Project was paid off in 2018 so that \$25,000 would be a savings in next year's budget.
- Mr. Wilson said the \$12,000 in Transfer to Capital in 2018 was in preparation for a "new" hiker shuttle and for repairs to town buildings, he said a new van was purchased for hiker parking and the amount to go toward repairs to town buildings would be increased to \$10,000, still a reduction from last year's combined amount of \$12,000.

- There was a brief discussion regarding revenue from Refuse and Garbage being down. Mr. Hall said this is because the price collected for the return of cardboard and metal is down. Mr. Wilson said the second part to this discussion is that 10 cents a pound for refuse is no longer enough, he also said that the County would be raising their rates in January. He said the Town should double their rates; Mr. Biesemeyer agreed. The Board agreed to put \$32,000 as the revenue amount for Refuse and Garbage Department Income. Mr. Biesemeyer suggested taking over the refund bottle house at the transfer station. Mr. Smith and Mr. Biesemeyer both agreed that the Town needs to talk about the “free” bulky days.
- Mr. Wilson said that Interest and Earnings are up because of higher interest being received from C.L.A.S.S.
- Mr. Wilson said that Insurance Recoveries looks higher saying that is the percentages that employees pay toward their health insurance.

The Board moved onto the Highway Fund:

- Mr. Wilson began by saying that all personnel would be getting the same increase of 3%.
- Mr. Wilson said he had the numbers for the Highway’s three Contractual Accounts compiled for the last 3 years. It was agreed that some of the big expenses are for fuel, gravel, salt, etc.
- It was agreed to reduce the General Repairs Contractual from \$65,000 to \$50,000.
- Machinery Contractual was discussed; it was agreed to reduce this line from \$60,000 to \$50,000.
- Snow Removal Contractual was discussed; it was agreed to keep that amount the same at \$125,000.

Library

- Mr. Wilson said that \$7,800 was put into Personal Services Part-Time Clerk.
- The Benefits will be down since the “Retiree” benefits have been moved from Library Fund to the General Fund.

Water District #1:

- Mr. Wilson said the Equipment line will be up for Water District’s No. 1 share of the purchase of the truck that has just been put out to bid.
- He said that the Contractual Expense is up a little for repairs.

Water District #2:

- Mr. Wilson said the Equipment line will also be up for the truck purchase and for some new equipment for inside the pump house.
- He said the Transfer to Capital would be rounded up to \$35,000.

Mr. Wilson said the General Fund was down \$91,500 from last year and the Highway Fund has been cut \$25,000.

Mr. Wilson said he would like to cut another \$25,000 from this budget.

The Board discussed the unexpended fund balance and how that works.

This meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Ellen S. Estes, Town Clerk
September 25, 2018

Joseph P. Wilson, Jr., Supervisor
Robert M. Biesemeyer, Councilman
Michael J. Smith, Councilman
Jerry D. Smith, Councilman
Teresa Cheetham-Palen, Councilwoman