

September 17, 2019

Notes from the Budget Workshop held Tuesday, September 17, 2019, at 6:00 PM, at the Keene Town Hall. The following Town Board Members were present: Joseph P. Wilson, Supervisor, Robert M. Biesemeyer and Jerry D. Smith, Members of Council. Absent: Michael J. Buysse and Teresa Cheetham-Palen, Members of Council. Also present were: Ryan Hall, Water Superintendent, Scott Smith, Highway Superintendent and Ellen Estes, Town Clerk.

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

The Board began by reviewing the changes made at last week's workshop which had been added into the second draft of the budget he shared with those present.

He said last week the Board had agreed upon adding \$10,000 to Assessor Contractual for additional consulting services for a reval; he said he had lowered this to \$5,000 which was the amount suggested by the Assessor.

He said the Streetlight amount would be left as is for this year due to upcoming expenses for the LED changeover.

He said the amount for Hiker Parking Transfer to Capital would be \$5,000 saying Ryan Hall suggests this amount would allow capital to rotate the hiker shuttle and not keep it so long.

He said the Garbage and Refuse Recyclables line should be raised to \$20,000

He said there was a question about why the Serial Bond amount for the Highway Garage had changed; he said Susan Whitney said the payment follows a schedule which changes slightly.

He said under the Revenue Section, Departmental Income, the amount in Refuse and Garbage was increased to \$60,000 due to the increase in tipping fees.

The Board discussed the revenue amount under State Aid – Mortgage Tax. Mr. Wilson said this is the Town's share of what the County collects for new home purchases. The Board tried to come up with a reasonable amount to estimate agreeing on \$22,000.

There was a brief discussion regarding Town Roads Contractual in the Highway Budget. The Board agreed to raise the allowance for boots or clothing to \$150 per year and handle it as a reimbursement not through payroll. Mr. Wilson said this amount has been rolled into the Town Roads Contractual budget line.

There was a brief discussion regarding CHiPs. Scott Smith said the amount in the budget may not be exact, but was pretty close. He also stated that \$68,000 is the amount added per year.

Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Smith what his estimate was for Sale of Surplus in the Revenue Section of the highway budget. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed to lower this amount to \$5,000.

Mr. Wilson said the amount in Library Part-Time Personal Service has been lowered since it's not all being used.

Mr. Wilson said that under Library Revenue he thought the Betty Little Bullet Funding of \$2500 was ending. He said he didn't have a lot of information about this and would talk to Ms. Whitney and Mr. Miller.

The next discussion was about the budget for Water District #1.

Mr. Wilson and Mr. Hall said that WD#1 needs the pump replaced, they called this a Franklin Motors Pump. Mr. Hall also said the District needs to be ready to replace the well.

The \$44,000 yearly debt payment was discussed; Mr. Wilson said the \$28,232, which is \$44,000 minus the amount collected from Verizon for the cell tower rent, will be raised by ad valorem tax this year, he said in the past part of this amount was paid using water rent payment fees.

A discussion followed regarding the unmetered water sales.

Next, the Board discussed Water District #2's budget.

Mr. Wilson said it's not clear how to budget for the tank repair and for Capital Improvement (saying another new well is needed).

He said the numbers in the budget look high, \$320,000 for Equipment and \$105,182 for Contractual, but said with these real costs he can go to Community Resources and began work on a WIIA Grant which is 40% grant and 60% loan.

The Board discussed this portion of the budget being open ended until November when the budget is finalized and adopted.

Mr. Wilson said, like in Water District #1, the Debt Service has been using some of the revenue from water rents and will be restructured for the debt service charges to cover debt service. He said this will raise the debt service payment \$55 for each parcel.

This workshop was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Ellen S. Estes, Town Clerk
September 26, 2019

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