

October 4, 2021

A special meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Greenville began on October 4, 2021 at 6:00 pm at Pioneer Town Hall for the purpose of conducting a budget workshop. Supervisor Macko, and Councilmen Bear, Bensen, and Rauf were present, as well as the following Department Heads: Clerk-Collector Jackie Park, Code Enforcement Officer Mark Overbaugh, Water Superintendent Leroy Bear, Maintenance Supervisor Renee Hamilton, Highway Superintendent Mike Dudley, Bookkeeper Joanne Kratz, and Planning Board Chair Don Teator, as well as 1 guest. Councilman Richards and Attorney Rappleyea were absent, as well as the remaining department heads. Supervisor Macko opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Just prior to the meeting, Clerk-Collector Park inquired if any Town Board member had responded to the email cc'ing Attorney Rappleyea regarding maintaining the phone conference and recording call for remote access to the town meetings. None had.

The 2022 tentative budget was reviewed line by line. Supervisor Macko noted a 3.5% salary increase had been given to all but himself, as it didn't make sense for him to receive an increase with the tax penalties he would face. Clerk-Collector Park expressed outrage and disbelief that a raise would be given to an inexperienced, new Clerk-Collector, as well as increases in the stipend lines for record's management and registrar of vital statistics, as the Board in 2011 had cut those lines thereby decreasing this writer's salary by \$4,000 times 3 years, as compared to the previous Town Clerk. Also expressed disappointment that a stipend line was added to manage the town website, as this writer was planning to maintain that without cost to the taxpayers. Stated, "When is being compensated with a salary and benefits not enough to do the job at hand; why are the hands always out for more?" Supervisor Macko stated this workshop was happening to work this all out, and also reported that the next Town Clerk-Collector's salary was flat compared to the current 2021 salary of this writer.

Emergency funding spent for the Pioneer roof repair did not leave enough unexpended money to offset the 2022 budget as much as Supervisor Macko had hoped. He also noted the Town would have to search for a Health Officer for the upcoming year. Supervisor Macko suggested both Recycling Operators earn an equal salary of \$15/hour. Clerk-Collector Park again urged the revenue line for tax interest and penalties be conservative, as it is highly dependent on if or when property owners pay their taxes; currently budgeted for 2021 was revenues of \$14,150 when in actuality only \$9,217 was collected. A budget is still needed from the Greenville Fire District, which we should expect after their hearing. Also expected soon is the Teamster's insurance costs. Library salaries were reviewed; the Library Clerks are all at the minimum wage of \$13.20/hour, with the Director slated to earn \$25.80/hour. Code Officer Mark Overbaugh addressed the need for a new computer as his is the oldest in the office and with an operating system of Windows 8.1, is not cooperative. Assessor Bennett is also scheduled for a replacement computer.

Councilman Bear suggested taking out the website coordinator line, as well as the raises to the record's retention and registrar of vital statistics lines.

Supervisor Macko reported the tax cap is at 2% this year, and the budget has 13 cents/\$1,000 leeway to stay within that cap. We were at \$6.70, and to stay within the cap our budget must remain under \$6.837 per \$1,000 assessed value.

In other business, Ms. Barbara Walter questioned how the Covid recovery money would fit into the budget. Also asked that the Board grant her certain titles to be able to work with the management of these funds;

Mr. Rauf moved, seconded by Mr. Bensen, to appoint Ms. Barbara Walter as Account Administrator, Point of Contact for Reporting, and the Authorized Representative for Reporting for the Town of Greenville.

Carried 4 ayes, 1 absent.

Ms. Walter relayed that the Covid money could be used to upgrade the water/sewer control systems, and that many towns are also using some money to install Hepa filtered air filtration systems in their town buildings.

Mr. Bensen moved, seconded by Mr. Bear, to proceed with the Water Superintendent's request to use \$65,951.18 for the General Control System's proposal for improvements.

Carried 4 ayes

Highway superintendent Dudley reported on a used truck in Plattsburgh that he'd like to examine. It is a 2016 International with plow, wing, live body, and sander, with 15,000 miles. It has an asking price of \$68,500.

Mr. Bensen moved, seconded by Mr. Bear, to authorize Mr. Dudley to purchase this truck at a maximum cost of \$68,000.

Carried 4 ayes

Discussed at the last meeting were requirements for obtaining quotes vs. putting something to bid; clarification received from Attorney Rappleyea indicated that for the purchases in question (spray foam insulation of the highway barn and installation of overhead doors), his opinion is that bidding is not required. He wrote that we must adhere to our procurement policy, and if sufficient quotes were not received we should simply document our efforts to obtain them.

Mr. Rauf moved, seconded by Mr. Bear, to have Highway Superintendent Mike Dudley move ahead with the accepted low quotes he's already received for this project, and to have Attorney Rappleyea bond \$35,000 for this job ~ to be paid first through the highway fund and after bonding received, to pay that fund back.

Carried 4 ayes

Maintenance Supervisor Hamilton readdressed purchase of a small tractor to work on the nature trails at the Park as well as to maintain the sidewalks in town. She had reviewed prices for a smaller tractor to stay within the budget as well as to allow work be done on the nature trails. Councilman Bensen recommended a tractor with a factory cap; Councilman Rauf indicated the trails must be wide enough to allow access for EMS vehicles. Discussion on whether this larger tractor would fit on the 4 foot sidewalks near the Westerner; Mr. Leroy Bear asked if the Board would support the Maintenance Dept. in their efforts to maintain the public sidewalk by trimming the bushes crowding the sidewalk space near that location. It was noted that the sidewalks are in the right-of-way. Councilman Rauf felt uncomfortable reviewing quotes for non-equivalent machines, and urged Ms. Hamilton to go online and compare similar tractors requesting the Source Well price. Also advised against a belly mower.

Councilman Rauf moved to amend the above motion to obtain financing in the amount of \$35,000 and increase that amount to \$50,000; seconded by Councilman Bensen.

Carried 4 ayes

Clerk-Collector Park again raised the issue of audio-availability for the meetings.

Mr. Rauf moved, seconded by Mr. Bensen, to ensure all Town Board meetings were available for remote access and to have more than one person capable of doing this task.

Carried 4 ayes

Supervisor Macko addressed the safety of hosting the annual Old-Timer's Party or if we should postpone it this winter. For determination at the regular meeting.

A second budget workshop has already been scheduled for Monday, October 18, 2021 at 6:00 pm in Pioneer Town Hall. There being no further business, this meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm.

_____ SUPERVISOR MACKO

_____ MR. BEAR

_____ MR. BENSEN

_____ MR. RAUF

DRAFT