

Town of Andes
Budget Workshop Meeting at Andes Town Hall
October 3rd, 2013 at 7:30PM

Present:

Supervisor Martin Donnelly	Councilman Daniel Grommeck
Councilman Thomas Hall	Councilman Wayland Gladstone
Town Clerk Kimberly Tosi	Highway Superintendent Michael McAdams
Councilman Martin Liddle-Absent and Excused	

Other:

Cheryl Peterson	Fred Cubero	Suzanne Gladstone
Sharon M. Drew	Tom Joyce	Marge Merzig

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:30PM by Supervisor Donnelly.

Pledge:

The pledge of allegiance was led and recited by Councilman Grommeck.

Discussion:

*\$75,000 Capital improvement grant from Senator Seward for the Railroad Station was received.

*Letter from US Department of Agriculture, the bond for \$47,000 has been paid off, for the construction of the new highway garage.

*\$299K Check was received from the US Army Corps of Engineers for the WWTP rehab.

The Tentative Budget was submitted to the Board by the Town Clerk

The budget was discussed.

General-

A five percent increase was discussed for the General Budget salaries.

Councilman Gladstone questioned whether the salaries should be increased five percent and would prefer three percent.

Several members of the board felt that the 5% might be appropriate because of all the cuts everyone had received in the 2012 budget.

The assessor's salary was discussed, in great detail. No decision could be made. It was put off for further discussion at the Regular October Board Meeting.

Concerns over the pool budget line were discussed.

The transfer station budget raise was considered to cover the cost of the proposed implementation of the permitted system.

Councilman Gladstone requested that a copy of the debt schedule for the Highway Garage be provided.

Highway-

Councilman Gladstone brought up the fact that we should begin oil and stoning roads, once they are repaired to make an investment in our roads instead of having to repair them all every single year. Highway Superintendent McAdams gave a rough estimate to do 1 mile of road it would be about \$32,000 with 2013 prices, to be completed the correct way.

Supervisor Donnelly brought up the question concerning retirement contributions. The NYS Comptroller promised that it would go down this year. Based on Karen's best estimate this will probably not be true.

Councilman Gladstone raised the question of securing a grant to install solar panels at the Highway Garage. This will be looked into.

Further Discussion-

Sharon Drew asked a question in regards to the Shavertown Cemetery. There was an account set up in the past, to cover the maintenance, she wanted to know what happened to this money. Supervisor Donnelly stated that the Town is still working with this money.

Marge Merzig presented the board with the Water and Sewer budgets. The water budget as it stands is looking at a 5% increase, which will result in a \$20 increase per customer in 2014. This is because of the debt service. Supervisor Donnelly explained the debt service. It was inherited from the Village. There are two loans from the Environmental Facilities Corporation. The payment schedule is ascending. Unfortunately this cannot be changed.

The sewer budget is showing no increase for the sewer bills for 2014, the normal customers are subsidized and will not see a change. Several of the businesses that are not subsidized may see a cut if the budget presented is passed.

The use of the appropriated fund balance for the general fund was discussed to cut the tax increase.

Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17PM

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Tosi, Town Clerk