

Town of Andes

Budget Workshop

October 17th, 2013 at 7:45PM

Present:

Supervisor Martin Donnelly

Councilman Daniel Grommeck

Councilman Thomas Hall

Councilman Martin Liddle

Councilman Wayland Gladstone

Highway Superintendent Michael McAdams

Town Clerk Kimberly Tosi

Others:

Fred Cubero

Tom Joyce

Anita Lanziero

Joe Sicinski

Darwin Finkle

Dale Cole

Call to order:

The budget workshop was called to order at 7:50PM by Supervisor Donnelly.

Pledge:

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

Discussion:

Supervisor Donnelly has spoken to Sue McIntyre from Delaware County in regards to the comments that the C&D rates can be negotiated. She will be sending us a letter explaining that all towns are paying the same amounts.

The general salaries were changed from a 5% increase to a 3% increase. The salaries for Deputy Supervisor, Deputy Highway Superintendent, and Deputy Town Clerk are only to be flat money with no cost of living increases.

The Court Clerk was given a 5% raise to bring her closer to the same level of pay as others in the County.

Assessor's Salary was again discussed. A letter from the Assessor was discussed by Supervisor Donnelly. The Town Clerk was not given a copy for the record.

Motion to change the Assessor's job from elected to appointed, made by Councilman Gladstone, Seconded by Councilman Hall. 3 Noes- Liddle, Grommeck, and Donnelly and 2 Yays- Gladstone and Hall. Motion denied.

Supervisor Donnelly suggested that the Assessor and Highway Superintendent should contribute 20% of their health insurance premiums. This idea was dismissed.

Councilman Gladstone questioned why the board was never notified that the assessor was seeking another job or why she had changed her hours.

Supervisor Donnelly received an inquiry concerning a non-union employee receiving union benefits. Town Clerk Tosi asked to receive the health insurance buyout for not taking the Town's insurance. The Association of Town's stated that the town did not have the right to do this. The board suggested that Donnelly speak with the Town Attorney regarding this issue.

Councilman Gladstone pointed out that the Highway Superintendent's salary had been reduced for several years, indicating that the salary increases have not been at an even playing field throughout the years.

The highway budget was again discussed. Councilman Liddle questioned why the money was transferred at the last board meeting to buy stone for next year's projects. The stone is already being hauled. Other budget lines for the highway fund were discussed in great detail, snow removal, general repairs, and bridge expense.

A \$20,000 Fund Balance for the General Fund is also being used. The tax increase is approximately 5% or \$16/\$100,000 assessment.

Town Clerk Tosi, presented the Town Board with the local law to override the tax cap.

Councilman Gladstone suggested that the board shop the Town's health insurance.

Highway Superintendent McAdams suggested that in 2014 we should be able to generate money by plowing the County and City roads with the new Army Surplus vehicles.

Bookkeeper Karen Kropp noted that the town's assessed valuation went down approximately 2%, which would partially explain the increase in percentages.

Motion to move the tentative budget to the preliminary budget, made by Councilman Liddle, seconded by Councilman Grommeck. 3 Yays-Liddle, Grommeck and Donnelly and 2 Noes-Gladstone and Hall. Motion carried.

Supervisor Donnelly mentioned a shared services agreement that will be discussed at the November Regular Board Meeting, for the Highway Department and several surrounding towns.

The Public Hearing for the Proposed Local Law to override the tax cap will be on November 7th at 12:30PM. The Public Hearing for the Proposed 2014 budget will be on November 7th at 12:45PM. The November Regular Monthly meeting will be on November 7th at 1:00PM.

Adjourned:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20PM

Respectfully Submitted: Kimberly A. Tosi, Town Clerk