

## 10-22-2014 – SPECIAL MEETING/WORK SESSION ON 2015 BUDGET

Present:

Councilman Cheryl L. Earl  
Councilman Lenard R. Hochadel  
Councilman David L. Montgomery  
Councilman Douglas J. Morrell  
Supervisor Beverly Gambino

Also Present:

Highway Superintendent Donald Hopkins  
Town Clerk Betsy Marsh  
4 Guests

The Sardinia Town Board held a Special Meeting/Works Session on October 22, 2014 at the Sardinia Town Hall for the purpose of reviewing the Tentative Budget for 2015. Supervisor Gambino called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM. The legal notice of the meeting had been published in the Arcade Herald and the Springville Journal.

Supervisor Gambino stated that there were a few typos in the Tentative Budget and a few changes she needed to make. She stated that she would go through those first, and then the Board can decide how they want to go through the entire Budget, be it line by line or just where they have concerns. She stated that on page 9, Operations of Buildings, Town Hall Improvements, there is a typo, it should have been \$10,000, not \$1,000; the next change is on page 11, the amount of the annual insurance premium, which Knight Agency has contacted and suggested we add more, so she is changing that from \$35,000 to \$36,400; the next change is on page 17, Programs for the Aging, the Supervisor stated she had forgotten about the Seniors' Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, and would like to add \$2,000 to that line, making the total \$12,000 instead of \$10,000. She stated that also on page 17, she stated that Rural Transit Van is asking for a donation of \$220, which she would also like to add to the Programs for the Aging line, which would bring that total budget line to \$16,220. She noted that the last change is on page 19 playgrounds & Recreation. After discussion, it was decided to be left as it is, but some of the totals are incorrect and Drescher & Malecki will retotal everything when the Preliminary Budget is submitted to them and will be corrected before the Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget.

Councilman Earl stated she would rather go through the Budget line by line, and the Board members agreed. The Board then went through the budget line-by-line.

Supervisor stated that she was conservative with the revenues, and Tom Malecki suggested they be raised somewhat, and she has done so.

Councilman Earl stated that the Supervisor has decreased the Town Justice Personal services line by \$4,000, a \$2,000 decrease for each Justice, and felt that was not right. The Supervisor stated she had done so because it was strongly suggested by the head of the Magistrate's Association, since both Justices are new, with one having served 1 year, and the other coming in in January. She stated that she didn't feel it was fair that they should come in at the same salary as the former Justices, who had been in office for years. She stated she put the excess in their contractual account for more training, but it is not set in stone, if the other Board members feel it should be changed. Councilman Earl stated that if the Justices salaries are being reduced, then none of the elected officials should get raises. Councilman Hochadel and Morrell felt it should be left at the reduced salary, and the elected officials should get pay increases. The appropriation lines were adjusted accordingly, with the Town Justices remaining at \$18,000 and no pay increases for the other elected officials. The Supervisor pointed out that she also adjusted the Town Prosecutor line because she has been doing 2 Prosecutor nights a month, and the 2014 Budget did not have enough funding to cover the extra night, so she put extra funding in that line. The Auditor line was discussed, with the Supervisor stating she increased the Annual Auditing and Accounting line \$3,100 because that is what Drescher & Malecki asked for. She stated she intends to keep them on as the Town's accounting firm because they are aware of the Town's finances and have done a good job for the Town.

The Supervisor asked the Board what they felt should be done with the hourly employees, and Board members felt they should be given the 2% increase that is in the Tentative Budget.

The Supervisor stated she has reinstated the Town Clerk's medical stipend. Councilman Earl felt that the amount should be decreased to \$1,500, rather than the \$3,900 in the Tentative Budget. Councilman Montgomery asked if she was covered by her husband's health insurance. The Clerk stated she is, but that is not the point, that she has had the stipend for the last 4 years, given by the former Supervisor, and had never asked for it, but was grateful for it, and then it was omitted in the 2014 budget. She stated that because she does not need the health insurance, she gets no benefits, as other employees do. She stated she is not asking for the same amount of money as health insurance costs, which is far more expensive than \$3,900. Councilman Morrell and Councilman Hochadel, as well as the Supervisor, stated they would like to see it left at \$3,900, therefore there was no change to that line in the Tentative Budget.

The Operation of Buildings line was discussed. The Supervisor stated she added \$5,000 to the building repairs because she would like to fix some of the major problems with the building. A leak in the roof is suspected, and the Highway Superintendent stated he had gone on the roof and there are patches that need to be re-patched. He stated the question is if the leak is the rubber roof, or are the rafters in need of repair. The windows are also losing the glazing, also. Councilman Montgomery suggested we look into replacing the windows. The Board also felt that the Town Engineer should look at the problems with the building. No changes were made to those appropriation lines.

The Board continued going through the budget line-by-line, with the Supervisor noting changes made. Board members were in agreement with the changes.

The Supervisor stated she has increased the streetlighting fund by \$1,000 because of the new streetlights at Davis

Hill and Pratham Rd. and Foot and Pratham Rd.

The Programs for the Aging Budget was discussed and Councilman Earl stated she would like to raise it back up to \$14,000, even though they have used less than budgeted for last year. All agreed to raise the Programs for the Aging line back up to \$14,000.

There were no changes in the Tentative Budget for any of the recreation appropriation lines; the Historical Society's Meeting House building was left at \$25,000, but the Supervisor noted that the contract is up this year, and will need to be re-negotiated. The remainder of the General Fund Tentative Budget was left as is.

In the Highway Fund Budget, the Highway Superintendent explained some of the changes, including an increase in Road Construction materials, stating that he would like to repave some roads in a 5 year rotation. Councilman Earl asked about the increase in the equipment fund from \$5,000 to \$80,000. Mr. Hopkins explained that he would like to replace equipment on a regular basis before it becomes valueless. The Highway equipment was discussed, and Mr. Hopkins stated he wants to replace his Dodge pickup this year, and the chasis is all that needs to be replaced. Supervisor Gambino asked about the all-wheel drive large plow truck that hasn't been used for 2 years. Mr. Hopkins stated he would like to get rid of it. The remainder of the \$40,000 in the equipment line was discussed, and hesitated he wanted to use it to replace his pickup. The Supervisor stated that if the money is in the budget, it doesn't mean it will be spent. She also stated that she had to increase the State Retirement amount from \$49,000 to \$66,000 after and estimate was received from the Retirement System. She stated that there will be an estimated 9% increase in the Health insurance in 2015, and she has adjusted the budget accordingly.

In the Fire Protection District Budget, the Supervisor stated that this amount is per their contract with the Town. She stated that she did add \$1,000 for dry hydrants, which was not in the 2014 Budget. The Supervisor stated this is also in their contract. There were no changes in the Tentative Budget for Fire Protection.

There were no other questions or concerns about the Tentative Budget for 2015. Supervisor Gambino stated she would like to schedule the Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget for 6:15 PM on November 13, 2014, preceding the November meeting. **On a motion by Hochadel, seconded by Earl, the Public Hearing was scheduled for November 13, 2014 at 6:15 PM. Carried, 5 ayes, 0 noes.**

**On a motion by Montgomery, seconded by Earl, the Special Meeting/Work Session was adjourned at 11:22 AM. Carried, 5 ayes, 0 noes.**

Respectfully Submitted

Town Clerk

