

10-26-2017 BUDGET WORK SESSION

Present:

Councilman Cheryl L. Earl
Councilman Leonard R. Hochadel
Councilman Douglas J. Morrell
Councilman Mandy Quinn-Stojek
Supervisor Beverly A. Gambino

Also Present:

Highway Superintendent Donald Hopkins
Town Clerk Jennifer L. Bray
1 Guest

The Sardinia Town Board conducted a Budget Work Session on 10/26/2017 at 3:38 PM at the Sardinia Town Hall to discuss the Tentative 2018 Budget. Supervisor Gambino handed out an outline noting what the changes in the 2018 budget. Supervisor Gambino told the Board that she had put in a 3% wage increase for all Elected Officials as well as hourly employees. The Supervisor asked if the Board would like to discuss this or if everyone was okay with the 3% increase. There was no discussion and the Board agreed to the 3% increase. The Supervisor then began a line by line review of the Tentative Budget beginning with the General Fund lines.

The Supervisor stated that she had increased the line for the bookkeeper to allow for more hours but didn't feel that the increase would be needed so the line would not have a change. The next item was an increase of \$310.00 to the Auditor line for the AUD and annual audit as per the Towns accountants. The next item was an increase under the Town Clerk's contractual line to allow for training. The next item was an increase to the Engineering line due to the building repairs and aging infrastructure. The next item was an increase to the Administrative Grants line to allow for a grant writer to help with applying for CDBG funding to upgrade the bathrooms at Manion Park.

The next items were all under Operations of Building. The first change was to the Capital Improvements line and was an increase of \$280,000.00 to cover the cost of the boiler replacement and building back wall repair. After discussion and looking at the numbers from the bid opening it was decided that an increase of only \$230,000.00 would be needed. The next item was again due to aging infrastructure and was increase of \$10,000.00 under Repairs. Next was a decrease to the Computer line because the expense for the new computer server will be encumbered from this year. Lastly under Operation of Buildings was an increase of \$5,000.00 to the other expenses line.

The next item was an increase to the Central Storeroom Copier Expense due to the lease and maintenance contract. Next under Special Items was an increase to the Unallocated Insurance line due to pending and possible lawsuits. Next the Supervisor stated that she had increased the contractual line under Police for constable training but because the training had been approved this year the cost could be encumbered from this year so no increase would be needed. She then noted that the next item was for an increase under Building and Code Enforcement for a deputy but that the Code Officer didn't feel he needed one at this time so that increase was not needed. The next item was a small increase under the Highway Garage Other Expenses line. The Supervisor stated that the next item was an increase of \$13,900.00 under Codification of Laws. She stated that this was to properly update both the Town Code and Town Zoning books which had not been done in many years and was a liability to the Town. The next item was a small increase of \$236.00 under Programs for the Aging for Rural Transit program.

The next items were under Recreation and Parks. The first item was an increase of \$1000.00 for the Recreation Director's contractual line due to increased costs and more activities being done. The next item was an increase of \$1500.00 for the Parks Personal Services line due to more shelter rentals and the upcoming pool house improvements. Councilman Earl then asked if the Parks Equipment line was for playground equipment or tennis court nets. After discussion it was decided that this line would be increased to \$8000.00 to update some of the different playground equipment. The next item was a \$500.00 increase to the Field Trip Transportation line due to fuel costs. Next the Supervisor noted that the cost for the pool house renovations would be encumbered from this year so that line was lowered back to zero. She then noted that there was an increase of \$10,000.00 in the Special Facilities contractual line for upgrades to the pool like new tiles.

Supervisor Gambino stated that the next item for discussion was for the Sardinia Meeting House line. She stated that the contract with us up for renewal and asked Councilman Earl explain. Councilman Earl stated that when the Town turned the building over to the Historical Society that the building was in need many of repairs so the Town agreed to give the \$25,000.00 a year to get stated on the repairs that were needed and for the upkeep of the building. She stated that since that time that the Historical Society has done a very good job of running things. They are of getting 3 bids for work that is being done and they have been applying for grants to help with the cost of repairs. Councilman Earl stated that they still have some work to do on the building but they have built a nice cushion in savings of about \$75,000.00. Therefor Councilman Earl talked to Dan DeGolier about lowering the amount they get in their contract. She also offered to do an annual contract at the lower rate or a teared contract that went down in steps instead of all at once. The Historical Society preferred the teared contract. After discussion it was agreed that the contract amounts would be \$20,000.00 for 2018 and \$15,000.00 for 2019 and 2020.

Lastly Supervisor Gambino stated that there was a small increase in the Zoning contractual of \$75.00 and that there was an increase of \$1000.00 in the Social Security line. Supervisor Gambino then noted that 2018 is the last year that the Town will receive the \$25,000.00 for Environmental Control.

Supervisor Gambino then moved on to the Highway Department Fund. She then asked Highway Superintendent Hopkins explain the changes. Superintendent Hopkins stated that the only change was under the Highway Machinery Equipment and is an increase of \$267,000.00. Part of increase is for the cost of the new snow plow that had been discussed during last year's budget work session. He stated that he has already gotten three quotes and is waiting for one more. The Board then discussed starting a Capital Reserve fund to be used to update highway equipment so that money could be budgeted each year instead of needing a large amount all at once. The Board agreed to have Supervisor Gambino look into setting this up. Superintendent Hopkins then stated the other part of the increase was for replacement of the 1987 Ford tractor that they use for road sweeping and mowing. Supervisor Gambino then noted that there is a 3% raise for the Highway Employee's per their contract. Next she noted that Blue Cross & Blue Shield had proposed a 9% increase so that was reflected in that line.

Moving on to the Fire Protection lines. She noted that the figure for the dispatch service comes right from Springville Control. The Board then discussed looking into other dispatch options to see if we could get a better price. Supervisor Gambino stated that she would look into that. The next item was a decrease under the Fire Protection snow plowing because it had not been being used. After discussion it the board agreed to set the line at \$500.00. Moving on to the next item which was a 3% increase in the CNT Apparatus line as per the Fire Protection contract. Supervisor Gambino stated that the Town had received a bill for the old LOSAP plan earlier in year but because the funds had not been in the 2017 Budget for this bill Home Town Fire said it could be held and added to the 2018 Budget. Therefor is an increase of \$35,700.00 in the LOSAP line to cover the balance for the old plan. Lastly Supervisor Gambino stated that there was enough money in the fund balance for the lighting district to pay the 2018 budget amount and while leaving the minimum of 17% in the fund balance. There for there will not be lighting district taxes this year.

There being no other budget items to discuss the Budget Work Session was closed on a motion by Earl, seconded by Quinn, the meeting was adjourned at 4:39 PM. Carried, 5 ayes, 0 noes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Town Clerk