

11-14-2024 – PUBLIC HEARING – 2025 PROPOSED BUDGET

Present:

Councilman Matthew Krist
Councilman Kathleen Becker
Councilman Leonard R. Hochadel
Supervisor Beverly A. Gambino

Absent:

Councilman Ethan Dabolt

Also Present:

Highway Superintendent Christopher Dabolt
Town Clerk Jennifer L Bray
Town Attorney David DiMatteo
Approx. 10 guests

Supervisor Gambino called the Public Hearing to order at 6:33 p.m. Supervisor Gambino stated that this Public Hearing was regarding the proposed 2025 Town of Sardinia Budget. Supervisor Gambino noted that no one had signed in to speak but opened the floor for comments.

John Schiener stated that there was a tax levy of \$200,000.00 in the budget for Fire Protection and asked if fund balance could be used to offset this. Supervisor Gambino stated the public needs to be aware that the Fire Protection contract is almost \$500,000.00 and will increase over the next three years. It was noted that the \$200,000.00 will be split over all the taxable properties in the town and the actual amount on the bills will be based on assessment. Supervisor Gambino noted that Waste Management will not always be providing money to the Town and when that stops everything will have to be taxed. Next Mr. Schiener asked why there was 1,500,000.00 in the budget for the walking path again this year. Supervisor Gambino stated that it was to add additional parking that is needed at the park and with not knowing what black top will cost the line was left the same. She noted that what isn't used would return to the fund balance. Mr. Schiener questioned leaving that budget line high while adding tax for the Fire Protection. Supervisor Gambino stated that the Town can't just keep going with no taxes and then in 2038 when Waste Management closes you would end up with a big bill all at once. She also noted that currently the Town is able to do projects, upgrades and provide services without taxes. Comptroller also requires that the Town provide services and that the Town can't just sit on the money and do nothing. Supervisor Gambino noted that the Fire Protection contract is a lot of money and people need to be aware of that. She stated that the fire company needs that much due to regulations and required training.

Supervisor Gambino then asked for a second time if there were any questions, comment or concerns. Ben DePerno asked if there was any funding coming in from solar projects that were in the comprehensive plan. Supervisor Gambino stated that there are no pending or approved solar project in Town at this time.

Supervisor Gambino asked for a third time if there were any questions, comments or concerns. Mr. DePerno asked if there was a community group that plans capital improvement projects. It was noted that the Town Board plans the projects but community input is always welcome. Mr. Schiener asked what projects were planned for the Town Hall. Supervisor Gambino stated that there has been discussion on new entrance doors, the elevator project as well as revamping the gym and stage area. Mr. Schiener asked about the \$500,000.00 for a new salt barn for the highway department. Supervisor Gambino explained that there is also grant money available for that project and may cover up to 75% of the cost. It would be to build a new building to stop run off and water contamination.

Lastly Supervisor Gambino noted that just because there is money in the budget that doesn't mean that it should or will be spent frivolously. There were no other comments or questions from the public. **Therefor on a motion by Becker, seconded by Krist, the public hearing for the proposed 2025 Town of Sardinia Budget was closed at 6:48 pm. Carried, 4 ayes, 0 noes, 1 absent.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer L. Bray, RMC
Town Clerk