

April 7, 2022

President Cook called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Engle stated the Chief of Police wants a Public Relations person. He suggested cutting the suggested \$5,000 raise and giving a smaller amount across the board for everyone.

Mr. Richardson discussed 17 exempt versus non-exempt employees and an across the board raise.

Rev. Davis asked how the budget would be sustained.

Mr. Silverstein asked for documentation regarding salaries for other agencies.

The Town Manager discussed this being the hardest budget. He stated this is a 36-million-dollar budget which includes 8 million dollars of ARPA money added in.

Code Enforcement

Susan Filbird was present on behalf of Jackie Naylor who is out on medical leave. She stated they are consistent with approximately \$42,625 in rental licenses, 7200 rental inspections which is down due to covid. She stated the inspections are a three-year cycle. She stated billing for rental licenses is still occurring. Ms. Filbird stated that the fee is \$25 for the license and \$100 for the inspection. She stated that the extra person has been eliminated and they are ok with that adjustment.

Engineering, Public Works, Parks and Recreation

Rick VanEmburch, Town Engineer was present to discuss Engineering, Public Works and Parks and Recreation. He suggests funding design work for projects and put funding in later for construction.

Mr. VanEmburch discussed fiber optics for lights that would make them all cameras. He stated that some of the funding that has been cut is going to be funded thru ARPA.

Mr. VanEmburch discussed staying in compliance and doing what is required for the MS4 permit. He discussed the three major storm drain projects.

Public Works – pg. 88.

Public Works is now purchasing employee's clothes instead of renting uniforms and cleaning which is a cost savings.

The Republic recycling contract was discussed.

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Grass cutting around town was discussed. Sierra is going to draft a map showing what contractors cut, what Public Works cuts and what is cut by Parks and Recreation. Mr. VanEmburch stated the town is acquiring more parks. He stated there is a request or a full-time position for the construction crew side although the shift should now be for a maintenance mechanic.

Mr. VanEmburch stated that the town is using salt brine on the roads instead of salt for bad weather.

Mr. VanEmburch discussed the request for a utility trailer to leave on job sites to make them more efficient.

Mr. VanEmburch asked that the bobcat be added back in.

Mr. VanEmburch stated that Jerome Pierce was set to retire. He discussed the need to advertise for a construction inspector. Mr. VanEmburch asked that funding be reinstated for paving.

Parks & Recreation

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Mr. VanEmburch asked for a grounds person and stated that has been deducted. He stated parks are getting bigger, expanding and workload is getting larger.

President Cook asked if artwork could be added to the brick tennis wall.

Mrs. Gould discussed lights for fields and the use of the fields that are used.

Mr. Abbatiello stated that Hunter's Mill wants a park. He stated that the residents want a playground.

Mayor Willey stated that DNR grants might be available to improve the lot for a park.

Rev. Davis suggested that one department be designated to cut grass. He stated there's no need for a grass crew under different departments.

Mr. Silverstein asked for a handicap restroom at North Easton Park.

Mrs. Gould asked for a vehicle for her use.

The skid steer for the bobcat is under Parks and Recreation budget.

Mr. VanEmburch stated that he will work with Trevor and the Building Facilities Department for repairs and improvements to the concession stand.

Economic Development

7:05 PM

Anthony Kern and Holly Dekarske were present on behalf of Economic Development.

Mr. Richardson stated that there is money there but the aid for other organizations is included as well as promotional activities. Mr. Richardson stated there is \$412,000 in the proposed budget. Mr. Kern stated that Holly raised \$39,000 from sponsors for Fire and Ice.

Mr. Silverstein asked that merchants on Marlboro Road be included in activities as well as music downtown.

Discussion occurred regarding entertainment that would cross all diversity for the downtown.

Mr. Kern and Ms. Dekarske departed the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

Mr. Richardson stated that the rest of the budget is lease services, and debt service adjustment regarding OPEB (Other Post Employee Benefits). He stated OPEB will be funded through the account and not taken from our coiffeurs.

Mayor Willey stated that adjustments may be made and re-distributed to the council with revenue outlined.

Mr. Abbatiello discussed three employees working 35 hours per week. Mr. Richardson stated that making the three employees 40 hours, has a costly effect.

Adjournment

At 7:30 p.m., the budget meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy M. Ruf, Town Clerk