

TOWN OF CONCORD BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
2021 Preliminary Budget

October 29, 2020
7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING OPENED BY CLYDE M. DRAKE, SUPERVISOR

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: CLYDE M. DRAKE, SUPERVISOR
JAMES M. KREZMIEN, COUNCILMAN
KENNETH D. ZITTEL, COUNCILMAN
WILLIAM F. SNYDER, III, COUNCILMAN
PHILIP DROZD, COUNCILMAN

ALSO PRESENT: DARLENE G. SCHWEIKERT, Town Clerk
BARRY A. EDWARDS, Hwy Supt
LUELLA TIMMEL, Bookkeeper

GEORGE DONHAUSER

Supervisor Drake opened the Public Hearing at 7:02 p.m. Town Clerk Schweikert had published the Notice of Public Hearing in the Springville Journal on October 22, 2020. The Public Hearing Notice was posted on the signboard at the Town Hall and on the Town's website: townofconcordny.com on October 16, 2020.

Supervisor Drake asked Mr. Donhauser if he had any comments. Mr. Donhauser noted that he went over the budget and feels it is a pretty good budget but he did have a couple questions: (1) Zoning Board of Appeals Line B8010.42 was always \$0 and now there is \$1,000 in that line. Why? Supervisor Drake advised that it costs \$500/meeting for the ZBA to meet and the Board does not know how many times in the year it will be necessary for the ZBA to meet. The resident pays the \$500 filing fee but the last meeting cost \$561 with the meeting fee and the cost of publication of the notice. (2) Street Lighting Line A5182.4. Mr. Donhauser noted that the Town spent all that money on new lighting and in 7 months we only used \$3,792.28. The budget has \$15,000 in that line. He thought the Town was to save money with the LED lights; that it would be cut in half. Supervisor Drake advised that the 2020 Budget had \$15,000 in that line and it was cut by \$5,000 and is \$10,000 in the 2021 Budget. The reason it was higher in the 2020 Budget was to pay the cost of installation of the lights. (3) Culture and Recreation Youth Programs Special Programs JY7310.41 went from \$55,400 to \$120,000. Why? Supervisor Drake answered that this was just a line switch between Personal Services JY7310.1 and Special Programs JY7310.41; the amounts did not change. This is because SYI is doing their own payroll. Supervisor Drake advised that because of this COVID pandemic, SYI was not able to have all of their programs so SYI is getting about half of the 2020 budgeted amount. (4) Buildings Library Maintenance A1620.44. Why is there an increase of \$10,000 to make that line now \$12,000? Supervisor Drake answered that that money is for a replacement boiler. Mr. Donhauser noted that the boiler at the library isn't that old. It appears that the current boiler may not be the correct model for the size of the library. Councilman Drozd advised that the Town will research a new boiler and have a manufacturer representative come to the library to make sure the Town gets the correct one for the size of the library. (5) Concord Fire Protection District showed an Appropriated Fund Balance of \$40,000 in 2020. The 2021 figure is zero. Supervisor Drake advised that when the auditor finished the 2019 Audit there was a fund balance of \$49,000 at the end of December 2019. This budget does not use any fund balance so that is why it is a zero. If everything goes perfectly in this budget year, the fund balance will still be there; if the Town spends more money, then it will come out of the fund balance.

Mr. Donhauser noted that the Highway budget looked good; there were a lot of cuts and savings.

Mr. Donhauser asked if the Board had made any other major changes in the budget. Supervisor Drake advised that the Board met five times in work sessions in preparing the budget and scrubbed all the accounts to get rid of the "fat".

Longevity will be taken away. Over the years it had not been applied correctly or equally. In making this decision, Supervisor Drake reached out to the Village and other towns and they did this a while ago. This is a gain of \$3,800.

Supervisor Drake noted:

Unallocated Insurance A1910.4 went down \$10,000 to \$72,000.
 Retirement A9010.8 went down \$13,150 to \$58,850.
 Historical Property A7520.49 went down \$1,000 to \$11,500.
 Adult Recreation A7620.49 went down \$1,000 to \$8,000.
 Mortgage Tax A3005 was increased by \$10,000 to \$110,000 since houses are being built.
 Fines & Bails A2610 was taken down by \$25,000.
 Street Lighting A5182.4 went down \$5,000 to \$10,000.

Supervisor Drake advised that in the A Fund there is not a lot of room to maneuver. In the A Fund, \$70,000 was taken out of the fund balance to try to keep the tax rate reasonable. The rate in 2020 was \$3.329992 and this 2021 Budget it is at \$3.477891. The tax cap general increase can be 1.56%. Supervisor Drake advised the Board that Bookkeeper Timmel put the numbers into the tax cap program to make sure the Town is still under the tax cap and we are. The Town had credits of \$12,993 from last year which is added to the 1.56% which brings it up to 2.01% increase and still stay under the tax cap.

Supervisor Drake moved on to Fund B. The only question on Fund B is what the Sales Tax going to be. We panicked all summer thinking that the sales tax wasn't going to bounce back. In WNY it was down about 2%. The budget drops Non-Property Tax Distribution by County B1120 6% down to \$707,012.70.

Town Share Control Center B3120.49 had a savings of approximately \$5,000.
 State Retirement B9010.8 had a savings of approximately \$3,000.
 To try to make up some of this, \$25,000 was taken out of Fund Balance.

There is a transfer from the B Fund to Highway DB to increase Equipment Repairs DB5130.49 by \$10,000 to \$65,000. The last couple of years this account has been over.

Chips DB3501 income received was 80% of the 2020 budgeted amount; down about \$16,000.

Retirement DB9010.8 a savings of \$7,000; Social Security B9030.8 a savings of \$8,000.

In the County Plow Contract, \$25,000 was increased for plowing County Roads. The Town was able to increase Equipment Reserve DB9090 by \$25,000. The Town was able to make these maneuvers was the highway serial bond was paid in 2020 so that was a \$100,000 savings.

The B Fund is funded totally by Sales Tax.

Joint Van remained pretty much the same as last year. The Board did reduce Social Security JV9030.8 by approximately \$400 and Workers Compensation JV9040.8 by approximately \$1,000.

Concord Fire Protection SF3410.41; SF3410.42 and SF3420.43 fire contracts went up 3% for an increase of approximately \$14,000.

Fire Company Expenses SF3410.45 was reduced by approximately \$12,000 because of worker's compensation.

Service Awards SF3410.46 had been overstated in the past and was reduced by \$30,000.

The Concord Fire Protection District rate in the 2020 Budget was \$3.851643 and in the 2021 Budget it will be \$3.938932.

Craneridge Sewer District. Last year a lot of work was done on the sewer district. Repairs/Maintenance SS1-8130.45 was reduced by approximately \$30,000; that budget line amount is now \$45,000.

The Craneridge Sewer District was \$750.43/rate per unit in the 2020 Budget and will be \$778.83/rate per unit in the 2021 budget.

Currently the Town has a contract with MDA Engineers to provide labor services. MDA Engineers want to get out of this type of business. Ben Slotman is leaving MDA Engineers and will be employed by Ellicottville. Supervisor Drake has had discussions with Mr. Slotman to determine if an Intermunicipal Agreement could be drawn up; this would benefit Ellicottville as well as the Town of Concord. It would benefit Ellicottville because these operators work by license class and our sewer district is bigger and would give them more experience and make them better qualified. This is in discussion only at this time. Caleb Henning at MDA advised that the price of the agreement with MDA will remain the same for now. Jim Thoman is the lead man at the district.

Kissing Bridge Water rates increased. Retirement SW1-9010.8 was been created with the amount of \$750 and Workers Compensation SW1-9040.8 was been created with the amount of \$25. The rate for 2021 will be \$258.52.

Kissing Bridge Sewer went up also. When the Town looked at what properties were being charged in the district, there was a mistake made in the computation. There was a 45-acre parcel being charged for the service and only approximately 15 acres of that parcel are within the Kissing Bridge Sewer District. The rate for 2021 will be \$531.90.

Supervisor Drake advised that the Town had a surprise last week. The Cattaraugus Street Water District is staying pretty much the same; however, on Friday, October 23, 2020, Supervisor Drake received a call from the Village of Springville and learned that there was a leak and about 100,000 gallons of water had been used. Councilman Zittel and Hwy Supt Edwards went to the area and were able to locate the leak; it needs to get fixed. That 100,000 gallons of water will need to be charged to the residents in that Water District. The meter is read monthly and the usage jumped up in the September/October reading. The Village furnished the Town with documentation of this usage. The leak is where the line goes across the road but the owner did not connect to the water line; it is a dead end. Supervisor Drake has reached out to the contractor of this project and will also reach out to MDA Engineers. Once it is determined how the Town will proceed, the Board will need to review this account. The dollar amount to fix the leak is unknown right now. Supervisor Drake discussed a couple options that may be available: take a loan from another fund or take money out of the fund balance. Supervisor Drake hopes to know more information about this leak before the November meeting and will keep the Board members updated.

Supervisor Drake advised that he had asked all departments to project the number of hours any employee would be working so that these lines could cut the fat. The fund balance is not terrible but not great and he was hesitant to take the fund balance any further.

Councilman Snyder had a couple questions.

Assessment A1355.44 has \$9,500 in it and this has never been spent going back to 2015. He asked Supervisor Drake to look into this account.

The tax stabilization fund has \$34,000 in it. Were we going to transfer this? Supervisor Drake advised that this would be the year when something could be done with this account since the account can only be used in something unforeseen happens. Supervisor Drake will review this with Drescher & Malecki to see if the money can be used this year to offset revenues that the Town did not receive. Councilman Snyder asked what the fund balance was and Supervisor Drake advised that he can't really say for certain without getting to the end of the year. At the beginning of the year, it was \$242,480. DB has almost \$340,000 in fund reserves.

Councilman Snyder questioned if the Historical Society could be charged a rental fee for their use of the Bensley Center. Supervisor Drake advised that technically the

agreement with the Universal Church said that the Town could not. Councilman Krezmien wondered if a maintenance fee could be charged the Historical Society. The Chamber of Commerce is in that building too. Supervisor Drake noted that the Historical Society just submitted invoices with a total cost of about \$10,000 in a COVID year.

Transfer to Capital Plan Reserve A9900.9 had nothing in 2019 and then \$40,000 in 2020/2021. Supervisor Drake stated that the Town is starting to put money in there for reserves for any capital expansion (new building or new highway building). It is not defining a project; just a capital project.

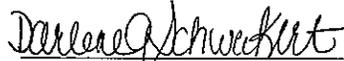
Aim Related Payments A2750 is a new line which was State Revenue Sharing A3001. The amount stayed the same at \$45,000.

Non property Tax Distribution by County B1120 has \$535,000 being transferred to DB; where did the rest go? It still has the Grant Writer B1989.4 has \$10,000 in it; Contingent Account B1990.4 of \$2,000; Traffic Control B3120.41 of \$2,000 and Control Center B3120.49 of \$64,457.70. It also included Code Enforcement.

Councilman Drozd questioned why Skate Park B7310.46 went from \$2,500 to \$1,000? The Skate Park got a lot of use this summer and he doesn't think this should be cut. Supervisor Drake advised that the amount expended for years as been \$1,000 for the insurance and the excess funds were taken out of the account.

The Public Hearing remained open until 7:55 p.m. No one else addressed the Board.

Motion by Councilman Krezmien, seconded by Councilman Zittel, to close the hearing at 7:55 p.m. Councilmen Krezmien, Zittel, Snyder & Drozd; Supervisor Drake, voting aye. Carried.



Darlene G. Schweikert
Town Clerk