

TOWN OF CONCORD BOARD PUBLIC HEARING  
2019 Preliminary Budget

October 11, 2018  
6:15 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  
DENNIS DAINS, Hwy Supt  
BRIAN F. ATTEA, Deputy Town Attorney  
DENISE CISZAK, Bookkeeper

KELLEN M. QUIGLEY, Springville Times  
COLLEEN MAHONEY, Springville Journal  
MARY JANE MIESS JOHN MIESS

Supervisor Drake opened the Public Hearing at 6:15 p.m. Town Clerk Schweikert had published the Notice of Public Hearing in the Springville Times on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The Public Hearing Notice was posted on the signboard at the Town Hall and on the Town's website: townofconcordny.com on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018.

Supervisor Drake advised that he would entertain any questions from those in attendance and then he would speak to some issues facing the Town with this budget.

Mary Jane Miess addressed the Board asking why she could not get a copy of the budget. Supervisor Drake advised that the Town has asked every department to cut back 10% on their office supplies. This budget is not exactly ten pages. Mrs. Miess said she would have paid for a copy. Supervisor Drake said she could FOIL it and she could've gotten one. The Town cannot be printing off 80 page documents for everyone. A copy will be available at the Town Clerk's Office if she would like to take it in a private room and look at it for as long as she would like, that is fine. A copy of the adopted budget will be posted on the Town's website. The Town is not trying to prevent anyone from seeing what we are doing but this is still a work in progress.

The Town has a budget that has a few quirks to it. First of all, Supervisor Drake advised that there is no penalty for going over the tax cap this year. This was just verified by the Office of the State Comptroller today. The tax cap for us is around 2%. There is a little volume adjustment but it is not going to move too much off that percentage. We are looking right now just for the general tax items at about 6%. General tax items does not include any special districts. One of the reasons that that is so high is the Springville Control Center. Sardinia is trying to pull out of that; it may go to a Court case. There is no definite determination right now if Sardinia is in or out. The Town has heard that the Sardinia Fire Company wants to still be here but their Town Board is looking elsewhere. The Town has to budget for the worst case scenario in case Sardinia does successfully get out of the contract. That is roughly \$40,000 more. That doesn't sound like a crippling amount but for the general tax rate we are taxing \$1,128,099. That is 3.5% of that 6% that he was talking about. The Town is in a situation where the Town has been using fund balances for years to keep under that tax cap so that everyone could get their tax rebate. The situation this year is that the only one that is on the line for the taxpayers losing the tax rebate is the school district. If the school goes over the tax cap, whatever their tax cap is, then the taxpayers could potentially lose that rebate. The Town and the Village have nothing to do with it.

The other item that is going up substantially is the Highway. The oil index is going up; diesel fuel prices are going up; salt prices are going up; and, of course, there

are always equipment repairs. The Town roads are in a lot better shape than a lot of the County roads or State roads. He doesn't feel that there is any resident in the Town that wants the Board to back off on maintaining the roads. Plus it is a safety issue; our number one priority is keeping the residents safe.

Another issue is that the Town has been using fund balances to keep under the tax cap in prior years. The Town is now in a situation where, just like your own personal savings account, you keep using it and using it and gradually it starts going down. The Town is getting to that point we really can't apply as much as we would have liked to. Supervisor Drake explained that in the general town tax items, last year we were able to put in \$346,000 to lower the tax rate. This year we are looking at \$202,000. The Town is getting to a level that could be dangerous. The Town has lost \$144,000 right there. Right now the calculation is that the Town would be over the tax cap by \$84,000; \$40,000 of that amount is for the Control Center; leaving \$44,000 that we have taken a hit on. Limited on what we can use of the fund balance and because of that the Board is asking is asking every office to cut back on their supply line. Ten percent (10%) was taken right across the board. There are a couple of exceptions to that if there are things going up that we knew for certain those have been protected but as general statement it is 10% across the board.

Another thing that the Board has done because the Town has old buildings; the library is talking about their parking lot being in bad shape; the Town Hall parking lot is not in good shape. When you have buildings this age, the Town has to start preparing for repairs. He is of the mindset that the Town should have some sort of reserve fund set up for that than to have to go out and do a 30 year bond or something on a parking lot that could only last 10-15 years at most. It just doesn't make sense. If the Town could start to build those funds up, then the Town can start to address some of these issues that we can foresee coming down the road on us. In that regard, the Board has put an extra \$20,000 into the reserve for Building Repairs.

Generally most of the employees were given a 2% increase. There were a couple of issues where we thought they deserved a little more based on surveys the Board completed with competing towns. There were a couple issues that the Board did try to correct. The general statement is a 2% across the board.

Supervisor Drake advised that this budget is still a work in progress; it won't be final until the Board adopts it. The Board is trying to do the best they can to be responsible for what they see in the future and in the future years. If the Town gets a break here and Sardinia does stay with the Springville Control Center, we would not have to spend that money so that is our hope.

Supervisor Drake asked the Board members if they wanted to make any comments. Councilman Snyder stated that this is one of the most important things that the Board does in our service to the Town is to formulate this budget and responsible use of taxpayer's dollars. Councilman Snyder noted that the Board and Bookkeeper Ciszak have spent a lot of time at a number of meetings going through these numbers and putting this together. This budget is not something that is taken lightly. Councilman Snyder noted that he has been one of the people who in the past had advocated using the fund balance to minimize or eliminate any tax increase. The Town may have been able to do that successfully over the past few years but we are getting to the point now that we need to look at these capital improvements and do the items that Supervisor Drake mentioned. Councilman Snyder feels that this is a responsible budget.

Councilman Drozd asked the members if this is the first time that the Town would be going over the tax cap. Supervisor Drake stated yes.

Supervisor Drake asked Mr. Donhauser if he had any questions on the budget since he had been at most of the budget meetings. Mr. Donhauser noted that he will wait until the budget is adopted; some of the things that he was there for, he didn't really agree on but he will talk about it. Supervisor Drake advised Mr. Donhauser that his door is open; he'd much rather have Mr. Donhauser come discuss his issues before the budget is adopted.

The Public Hearing remained open until 6:40 p.m. No one else addressed the Board.

Motion by Councilman Krezmien, seconded by Councilman Zittel, to close the hearing at 6:40 p.m. Councilmen Krezmien, Zittel, Snyder & Drozd; Supervisor Drake, voting aye. Carried.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Darlene G. Schweikert  
Town Clerk