

TOWN OF CONCORD BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
2018 Preliminary Budget

October 12, 2017
6:00 p.m.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY GARY A. EPPOLITO, SUPERVISOR

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: GARY A. EPPOLITO, SUPERVISOR
JAMES M. KREZMIEN, COUNCILMAN
CLYDE M. DRAKE, COUNCILMAN
KENNETH D. ZITTEL, COUNCILMAN

EXCUSED: WILLIAM F. SNYDER, III, COUNCILMAN

ALSO PRESENT: DARLENE G. SCHWEIKERT, Town Clerk
DENNIS DAINS, Hwy Supt
BRIAN F. ATTEA, Deputy Town Attorney
DENISE CISZAK, Bookkeeper
ELEANOR ESCHBORN, Senior Director
NANCY JAMES, Nutrition Site
CAROLYN ROBINSON, Dog Control Officer
COLLEEN MAHONEY, Springville Journal

GEORGE DONHAUSER BILL KREBS
MARY JANE MIESS JOHN MIESS
CONNER JUDKIEWICZ PHILIP DROZD
NORMA LIGHTCAP BARRY EDWARDS

Supervisor Eppolito opened the Public Hearing at 6:00 p.m. Town Clerk Schweikert had published the Notice of Public Hearing in the Springville Journal on September 28th, 2017. The Public Hearing Notice was posted on the signboard at the Town Hall and on the Town's website: townofconcordny.com on September 19, 2017.

Supervisor Eppolito noted that the budget process is the most important job as an elected official of the Town. Supervisor Eppolito gave a brief background of the budgeting process; it's a yearlong process. Department heads send in formal requests in August. All departments come in with their actual needs. A worksheet is then prepared by Bookkeeper Ciszak and the Town Board members work on the next year's budget. For 12 years now, every budget passed has been prior to Election Day. A budget is not required until after the General Election. The reason being that Supervisor Eppolito's personal opinion is that the public should have the right to know before Election Day before the residents vote. Supervisor Eppolito thanked all in the Town government for keeping costs down for our taxpayers. Concord is a large town in area with a large elderly population. Many people in our community are struggling to maintain their homes. It is extremely important that the Town take the residents' needs under consideration. This is the philosophy that the Town has followed. Supervisor Eppolito stated that this 2018 Budget is a zero increase budget and is exactly everything that had been funded in 2017. This budget does provide a 2% increases for employees with the exception of the Town Board members; the Board did not receive an increase. The only accounts that went up at all were those that were bound by contract (fire contracts). The Town has worked very hard to keep the budget in line to what our taxpayers can afford.

Supervisor Eppolito asked if anyone had any questions or concerns.

Mary Jane Miess questioned the Board regarding:

- Where in the budget were the costs for the Senior Center other than the Senior Director's pay. These are all throughout the budget including utilities and van. Bookkeeper Ciszak answered that most of the Senior Center is under Programs for the Aging A6772 and answered Mrs. Miess' questions regarding specific lines within Senior Services.

William Krebs had questions relative to:

- The budget appropriations increase of about 5%; Bookkeeper Ciszak noted that the majority of that is going from a BAN to a Bond. The interest rate went in 2017 was a little over \$8,000 and the interest to go to a Bond for the Senior Center/Highway Equipment/Craneridge Sewer/Cattaraugus Street Water is going up to \$70,000 and that is the interest alone.
- The budget line increases: Buildings and Programs for Aging Personal Services covers two new employees. Transportation in General Fund-Townwide are things that are needed at the garage A5132 line, Hwy Supt Dains' salary is A5010 plus anything miscellaneous (physicists, etc. for the Highway crew).
- The unappropriated fund balance. Bookkeeper Ciszak noted that approximately \$120,000 was used in the 2017 Budget and about that same amount is being used in the 2018 Budget so there is approximately \$200,000.
- The estimated Revenues (dog licenses, mortgage tax which is calculated by Erie County).
- The unexpended fund balance. Bookkeeper Ciszak advised that this is just not money that wasn't spent just last year; it can be a buildup of the last 20 years. She discussed what was being used for 2017 and the projected for 2018 and that is the net balance. The Town does not want the tax rate to spike and drop.
- Capital Improvement Fund. Bookkeeper Ciszak stated that the Town has a Capital Improvement Fund for Buildings with an estimated \$200,000 and a Reserve Fund for Highway Equipment with about \$175,000.

George Donhauser had a concern regarding:

- Erie County Petitions. Bookkeeper Ciszak advised that if a property is sold with an tax exemption and the new owner is not entitled to that exemption that is money that the Town owes back to Erie County.
- Highway Communications line increased \$500. Bookkeeper Ciszak stated that the Control Center costs went up. CodedRed comes out of Public Safety and that budget line dropped.
- Senior Center Clerk. Where is that in budget? Bookkeeper Ciszak noted A6772.1 Programs for the Aging.
- Where there is a line with *****(such as Refuse & Garbage) what does that mean? Bookkeeper Ciszak noted that is now included in General Fund A. It is a new line so no change can be included.
- What is the cheapest interest? A BAN or a Bond? Supervisor Eppolito noted that it depends on several factors. Bookkeeper Ciszak noted that the last BAN on Capital Projects, it was about 1.25%. Municipal Solutions is projecting the rate to rise to 4.75%. A Bond would be a longer term but it would be a lower rate. Municipal Solutions and Bond Counsel John Alessi assists the Town with these matters.
- CEO budget line increase. Bookkeeper Ciszak noted that the CEO Office will be getting a new Williamson Law Book software program and the training.

No one else addressed the Board.

Motion by Councilman Drake, seconded by Councilman Zittel, to close the hearing at 6:43 p.m. Councilmen Krezmien, Drake & Zittel; Supervisor Eppolito, voting aye; Councilman Snyder, excused. Carried. Supervisor Eppolito and the Board thanked Bookkeeper Ciszak for her efforts in the budget process.

Darlene G. Schweikert

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Town Clerk