

TOWN OF WHITEHALL
BUDGET WORKSHOP 11 AM
57 SKENESBOROUGH DRIVE

September 25, 2017

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: George Armstrong – Supervisor
John Rozell-Councilperson
Stephanie Safka – Councilperson
Timothy Kingsley-Councilperson
David Hollister-Councilperson

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Clerk, Julie Millett; Highway Superintendent, Louis D. Pratt II; Heritage Director, Carol Greenough; Rec. Leader Julie Eagan; Town Assessor, Bruce Caza; Budget Officer, Joel Carpenter, John Millett Jr S.E.P. Rep., Representatives for the Whitehall Volunteer Fire Company, Brian & Bryan Brooks.

Notice of the Budget Workshop posted in the Whitehall Times on 9/7/17 and on Town Clerk's signboard and town website on 9/7/17.

Supervisor opened up the budget workshop at 11 AM.

Joel Carpenter stated that he used the 3% raises per the settled union contract with the highway and 2% for everyone else. He has heard that health insurance may go up as much as 13%. Worker's Comp. used the prior year amount. We try to stay under the 2% cap. The Town Board went over each line item.

Julie Eagan had a question on the Youth Program (A3820) because we did get some money from the county in the past. Hopefully we will be getting some money next year. Cost of court contractual has gone up because of the computer license program. NYS has purchased the company now so that amount might change.

Julie Eagan worked her numbers for Rec. help and thinks we can reduce that line item.

Bruce Caza would like to hire a part-time clerk for \$10,000.00 and reduce his salary by that amount. That clerk would get the necessary training from Bruce and hopefully be qualified to take over in two years when he retires. Councilperson Kingsley would like Bruce to stay on for the rest of his term. Town clerk asked if it was going to be one day or two days. Bruce stated one day a week and he will be with the new clerk all day long. Town clerk would also like a separate phone line put in for just the assessor's office because right now she answers the phone for everyone and January is crazy in here. She collects the assessor's forms, taxes and answering the phone. Town clerk checked out prices and it will be \$125 for the line and

monthly charge for assessor's line. Town clerk would like a separate entrance for the assessor's office. Councilperson Hollister thinks it is a good idea to train someone for two years.

Carol Greenough stated that there are many things that need repairs at the museum and with the minimum wage going up again that will be an additional cost. They just paid for the replacement of the flat roof at the museum. She feels that any repairs to the museum is the responsibility of the town.

Supervisor also mentioned that next year the town will have to take over the Sciota Cemetery because they will be out of money and that job will have to be put out to bid.

Planning Board would like the Planning Board Secretary to receive a 3% raise this year. His salary will go up to \$3,061.00 and the rest of the Planning Board will receive 2%.

Fire Company would like to get \$1.10 per thousand instead of \$1.08 that is listed in the Tentative Budget.

Joel Carpenter pointed out that the 2% levy mandated by the State of New York includes the fire company. If the fire company gets a bigger % then we will have to cut somewhere else in the budget. Brian thought the fire company was out of the 2% cap. Joel stated that if the fire company was a separate district you would have your own 2% cap.

Joel ran the numbers and at the 1.10 it would be an increase of \$2,637.00

Councilperson Hollister stated that we are trying to stay under the 2% cap and we have been able to do it so far. We should try to stay as close to a 2% increase as we can. If we can do that and give the fire company a little bit more money without going over the 2% we should do it. Councilperson Kingsley and Rozell feel that they are getting enough with the 3%.

Motion to give the fire company an additional amount of \$2,000 above the 3% in the Tentative Budget made by Councilperson Hollister and seconded by Councilperson Safka.

ADOPTED **Ayes 3 Armstrong, Safka, Hollister**
 Nays 2 Rozell, Kingsley

Board would like to change the following line items of the Tentative Budget.

	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
A1081	\$ 1,500	\$ 3,000
A6772.4	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,300
A7140.1	\$21,820	\$19,020
A1000	\$35,512	\$31,512
B1120	\$ 3,050	\$ 3,106
B8020.1	\$ 5,306	\$ 5,358
B9030.8	\$ 615	\$ 619
DA1001	\$263,036	\$262,036
DA1000	\$ 10,000	\$ 11,000
DB1001	\$141,118	\$140,118
DB1120	\$ 34,000	\$ 33,944

DB1000	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,056
SF1001	\$123,326	\$125,326
SF3410.4	\$123,326	\$125,326

Motion to approve the Tentative Budget as the Preliminary Budget with the noted changes made by Councilperson Hollister and seconded by Councilperson Safka.

ADOPTED **Ayes 5 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Kingsley, Hollister**
Nays 0

Public Hearing on the 2018 Preliminary Budget will be scheduled for October 18, 2017 at 7 PM where the public may be heard.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 1:50 PM made by Councilperson Rozell and seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

ADOPTED **Ayes 5 Armstrong, Rozell, Safka, Kingsley, Hollister**
Nays 0

Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Millett
Town Clerk