

TOWN OF WHITEHALL
BUDGET WORKSHOP @ 9AM
57 SKENESBOROUGH DRIVE

SEPTEMBER 26, 2018

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: John Rozell - Supervisor
Christopher Dudley Sr. - Councilperson
Stephanie Safka - Councilperson
Timothy Kingsley - Councilperson
David Hollister-Councilperson

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Clerk, Julie Millett; Town Highway Superintendent, Louis D. Pratt II; Budget Officer, Joel Carpenter; Heritage Director, Carol Greenough.

Supervisor called the budget workshop meeting to order at 9 AM.

Notice of meeting was on Town clerk signboard on 9/20/18, town website on 9/18/18 & Whitehall Times 9/20/18.

Corrections to Tentative Budget before we begin:

A7410.4 Library increase of \$5,000 (error in Tentative Budget)

A7997.2 Museum decrease of \$5,000 (error in Tentative Budget)

Fire District change on page 1 from 1.15 to 1.02 (error in Tentative Budget), but they are still getting a 2% increase. Brian Brooks was very happy with the 2% raise when he received a copy of the Tentative Budget.

1.15 increase would be a \$25,000 increase.

Last year they received 3% increase which would make it 1.03 for fire.

Councilperson Hollister would like to 2% increase to fire and 1st Responders.

Councilperson Safka would like to give a flat \$3,000 increase for fire.

Councilperson Kingsley agrees with a flat \$3,000 increase.

Councilperson Dudley doesn't mind increasing it if we can pull the money from somewhere else in the budget.

Supervisor would like to leave it at the 2%.

If we give 1st Responders the 2% increase looking at total A4540.4 \$10,812.

Take additional amount of \$212 out of fund balance and leave increase at 0.9%.

A2070 Rec. Lunch has no amount in it. There should be an amount in there because we received \$850 so far this year. Supervisor would like rec. lunch donations listed in there separate. Rec. leader has mentioned that she would like a refrigerator for Rec. Center so she needs to come to the Board and request a transfer of money and increase her contractual so she can use it.

Councilperson Hollister asked if we should start putting money aside for highway roof. Joel stated that we will be using around \$32,000 of fund balance for General TW, but we are going to be getting all of that back next year due to the mortgage tax being so high. We have already received a check for around \$69,000 for the mortgage tax. We also received the \$80,000 money for the grant applied for. We just have to submit vouchers for work done for rec. fence, etc.

The roof expense will have to come out of the general fund, not highway. Councilperson Dudley had a question on the A1972 Payment to County to Reduce Taxes. Joel stated that it is charges owed to the County for copying charges, if the assessor needs something. This also would include money if someone won a grievance of their assessment.

Dog Control Officer would like an increase of \$1,000 to cover yearly lease with the town. Most of our dog calls are in the village, but the town is paying for them.

Councilperson Safka pointed out that the village people are paying town taxes.

A8810.4 Cemeteries Contractual was raised due to situation of Sciota Cemetery. The town might have to take over mowing this cemetery. Councilperson Kingsley thinks we can hand them \$1500 to help with the mowing. The attorney will have to look into this to see if we can do it.

A7140.1 Wages for Rec. Attendants big increase due to minimum wage going up to \$11.10/hr.

A7110.1 Wages for Parks raised quite a bit to allow for increase in pay to be ahead of the minimum wage amount. He will be paid \$11.30/hr. beginning in January 2019.

Highway Town wide

DA5130.2 Hwy Machinery Equipment increase to \$70,000. We are planning on getting a new tandem. They cost around \$220,000, but we plan on doing a three - year plan. We would pay \$70,000 down on it and take a loan out for two years like we did with the excavator. Budget for \$70,000 each year. It takes 8 to 10 months to get the truck. Louie is trying to get ahold of Delurey's after budget passes and hopefully get the Board's approval to order it.

We would order that under state contract and that way you don't have to put it out for bid. The truck we are getting rid of is 20 years old. Will probably put old truck on Auction International and get between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

We would also move what is in DA2410 \$13,055.74 move \$10,000 of that for the salt barn this year. We would like to fill shed with dry salt right now.

DA2665 Hwy Sale of Equipment most should go back in to fund balance.

Highway Outside

DB2300 Hwy/OS -Other Gov't. Serv. \$7,281 is the county mowing contract. A lot of towns don't want to mow for the county anymore because they say they can't make any money. Louie feels Whitehall does fine.

DB3501 CHIPS money of \$121,106 is just a wash.

DB5110.4 for \$69,233 is used for gravel, culverts, fuel and blacktop.

Louie uses the CHIPS money and some from DB5110.4 to do the blacktopping.

DB9060.8 Medical Insurance will increase due to one man coming off of the buy-out and getting health insurance.

SF3410.4 Fire Protection

2% increase to \$125,793 for a one- year contract.

2% increase also to 1st Responders for \$10,812.

Motion to pass the 2019 Tentative Budget with changes to Preliminary Budget and set up a public hearing date of October 17, 2018 at 7 PM made by Councilperson Kingsley and seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

ADOPTED **AYES 5 Rozell, Dudley, Safka, Kingsley, Hollister**
NAYS 0

Louie would like to discuss Gould’s proposal to remove five trees in the town’s rights-of-way. Upper Turnpike Road and four trees on Hatch Hill Road.

Motion to approve proposal of tree removal by Gould’s for \$1,600 made by Councilperson Hollister and seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

ADOPTED **AYES 5 Rozell, Dudley, Safka, Kingsley, Hollister**
NAYS 0

Whitehall Field Club would like another 30- day waiver on their liquor license application because they failed to file the prior one on time.

Motion to waiver 30-day waiting period for Whitehall Field Club liquor license made by Councilperson Hollister and seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

ADOPTED **AYES 5 Rozell, Dudley, Safka, Kingsley, Hollister**
NAYS 0

Councilperson Safka wanted to know if anyone was arrested for stealing money out of the donation box in the pavilion. Supervisor Rozell hasn’t heard anything, but the police do know who it is. Supervisor would like to remove the box and have money go through the door slot like it did in the past. Supervisor will discuss with the police chief again tomorrow. Councilperson Safka will also talk to the mayor about it.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Supervisor Rozell and seconded by Councilperson Safka.

ADOPTED **AYES 5 Rozell, Dudley, Safka, Kingsley, Hollister**
NAYS 0

Adjourned
Respectfully submitted,

Julie Millett

Town Clerk