

**TOWN OF WHITEHALL
BUDGET WORKSHOP @ 6:00PM
57 SKENESBOROUGH DRIVE
WHITEHALL**

OCTOBER 5, 2022

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: John Rozell, Supervisor
David Hollister, Councilperson
Christopher Dudley, Councilperson
Timothy Kingsley, Councilperson
ABSENT: Stephanie Safka, Councilperson

OTHERS PRESENT: Patti Gordon, Town Clerk; Louis Pratt II, Highway Superintendent; Joel Carpenter, Budget Officer; Joan Douglas, Historical Society; Julie Millett, Historical Society; David Kingsley, Youth League President; Brooklyn VanGuilder, Brianna Eddy, Melanie Vandenburg, Louis Pratt, Ava Ruby, Nora Combs, Jaydah Sherwood, John Chaplin, Ashlyn Groesbeck, Madison Gould, Braydee Benjamin, Lily Stone, Emma Parker, Amanda Dickinson, Kaiden Bowers; Whitehall Senior Class members.

Notice of the Budget Workshop was Posted on the Town Clerk sign board and in the Whitehall Times.

Supervisor Rozell opened the Budget Workshop at 6:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Supervisor Rozell asked the Board Members and the other members present if it would be alright to allow the Senior Class to speak before the budget workshop began and everyone agreed.

Louis Pratt, class representative and Student Council President told the Town Board that they would like to continue tradition of having a bonfire for home coming. This tradition was stopped because of COVID and they would like to restart it again. Mr. Pratt stated that they are aware of the two issues that concern the Town. They are clean-up and harmful objects on the field. They are prepared to clean-up Friday morning during their first morning class and people are donating wood and they will be using wood from the Amish. There will be no pallets. David Rathbun, Youth League President also has concerns about the bonfire being held on the ball fields. He agreed that this year it would be ok but would like them to possibly find another location for the fire in the future. He stated that between the Town and the Youth League there has been over \$7,000.00 invested in the ball fields this year to repair them, some of damage was caused by previous bonfires and nails being left in the pallets. Superintendent Pratt stated he spoke with NYMIR (the Town's insurance company) and that it will be a controlled burn and the Whitehall Fire Department will be present. Councilperson Dudley stated that as long as it was on a year-to-year basis he did not have an issue with it.

Motion to allow the Whitehall Central School to have a bonfire at the recreation center on 10/13/2022 made by Councilperson Dudley and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

ADOPTED **AYES** 4 **Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Kingsley**
 NAYS 0

Supervisor Rozell began the Budget Workshop at 6:20pm.

Supervisor Rozell stated that state minimum wage would be increasing to approximately 9%. All Town employees will be getting a 3% raise across the board.

Supervisor Rozell asked if anyone had any questions on the tentative budget.

Julie Millett from the Historical Society asked Supervisor Rozell to explain line item A7997.2 museum equipment.

Supervisor Rozell explained that that line item was originally from the roof repayment. In 2018 the Town paid the final payment of \$10,000.00 for the Museum roof. In 2019 the Town reduced that line item to \$5,000.00 gave the Historical Society \$5,000.00 in 2019 & 2020. At this time, the Town does not know if that money was put toward repairs or not and in 2021 the Town reduced the line item again to \$2,500 to keep the line item open but did not give it to the Historical Society directly but held it to use toward future repairs. Supervisor Rozell stated that the Town owns the building and is ultimately responsible for the repairs necessary and the Town will address them as they arise. He also explained that line item A7989.4 Museum Contractual is used to pay for the fuel and electric bills and that line item A7510.4 is for the contract with the Historical Society. Joan Douglas, asst. treasurer from the Historical Board was also present and thanked Supervisor Rozell for explaining it. Supervisor Rozell also asked if the Heritage Director was in charge of the museum operations and Ms. Douglas said no, the Historical Society Board is in charge. Supervisor Rozell stated that the Town is in the process of updating the Heritage Director duties and contract.

Budget Officer Joel Carpenter stated he had gotten the taxable values amounts they were as follows:
Town Wide estimated at \$3.41 now estimated at \$3.39 per thousand.
General Outside estimated at \$0.11 remained the same per thousand.
Highway Outside estimated at \$1.34 now estimated \$1.33 per thousand.
Totals estimated at \$4.86 now estimated at \$4.82 per thousand.
Fire District estimated at \$1.03 now estimated at \$1.07 per thousand.

Supervisor Rozell stated that the main things that had to be raised in the budget for next year were postage, electric bills and insurance premiums. Budget Officer Carpenter estimated a 20% over all increase to the insurance premiums; actual premiums went up 12% and the deductible was raised from \$4400 to \$5000 per two-person household. He also allotted more in the contingency fund mainly due to the increase in fuel prices. Minimum wage will be increased to \$14.20 from \$13.20 as well.

Highway Superintendent Louis Pratt suggested to the Town Board to consider giving the full-time employees only a one-time incentive bonus of \$500 to \$1,000 this year only. The Town Board will take the proposition under consideration and will discuss it at the next Town Board meeting.

Motion to made to approve the 2023 Tentative Budget without changes as the 2023 Preliminary Budget made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

ADOPTED **AYES** **4** **Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Kingsley**
 NAYS **0**

Motion to schedule a Public Hearing to adopt the 2023 Final Budget on October 19, 2022 made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister

ADOPTED **AYES** **4** **Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Kinglsey**
 NAYS **0**

Motion to close Budget Workshop and adjourned at 7:53pm made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

ADOPTED **AYES** **4** Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Kingsley
 NAYS **0**

**Adjourned,
Respectfully Submitted**

**Patti Gordon
Town Clerk**