

A Budget Meeting of the Town of Avon was held on Thursday, October 1, 2009 at 5:00 P.M. at the Avon Town Highway Barns with the following members present:

PRESENT: Supervisor David LeFeber, Deputy Supervisor Kelly Cole, Councilman Donald Cook, Jr., Councilman James Blye (left at 6:30 P.M.), and Councilman Thomas Mairs (arrived at 5:50 P.M.)

OTHERS: Town Attorney James Campbell, Highway Superintendent Robert Ayers, Assessor Tami Snyder, Water Superintendent Daniel McKeown, Justice Peter Piampiano, Town Historian Maureen Kingston, Recreation Board Chairman Kim McDowell, and Town Clerk Sharon Knight

VISITORS: Jill and Rob Peterson

Supervisor LeFeber called the meeting to order by reading the following legal notice at 5:10 P.M.

TOWN OF AVON
LEGAL NOTICE

A special meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, October 1, 2009 at 5:00 P.M., at the Town Highway Barns, 5390 Agar Road Avon, New York, 14414 for the purpose of discussion of the 2010 Budget and any other business that may come before the Board.

By order of the Town Board of the Town of Avon, Livingston County, New York
Sharon M. Knight, CMC/RMC, Avon Town Clerk
Publication Date: September 23, 2009
Dated: September 18, 2009

There was discussion on several residents request for water service on Henty Road that included the following:

- Ways to financially support the project
- Requesting quotes for bond anticipation notes.
- Hook-up costs
- Water charge is \$50.00 for 8000 gallons and \$6.08 for an additional 1000.
- A Public Hearing would be required
- Residents will be sent notification of the hearing
- BOND resolution considered by Town Board after hearing
- Permissive referendum waiting period

Attorney James Campbell will report on quote information at the next meeting.

DISCUSSION – 2010 TENTATIVE BUDGET – WATER DEPARTMENT

Water Superintendent McKeown reviewed his portion of the budget with the board highlighting there are no extras to be proactive with saving dollars. He stated we need to wait and see where we are financially to determine what projects could be accomplished. Replacing hydrants are a part of the request.

DISCUSSION – 2010 TENTATIVE BUDGET – WATER DEPARTMENT-continued

He questioned his raise stating that in 2009 he received a five percent raise and has once again asked for the same percent and is only receiving two point five percent. Only water money collected pays his salary, not any tax dollars. The Water Department is doing well and they do a lot to save money. Water Superintendent McKeown stated that he has given the Town an additional twenty days, in the last two years, due to his inability to take vacation.

There was discussion on the recommendation of St. John & Baldwin and the industry standards regarding increases in salaries. St. John & Baldwin stating the cost of living has gone down while Bausch & Lomb started at three percent and then lowered to 2.5 due to the harsh reality of the economy. Councilman Cook thanked Dan for doing a great job and discussed the need for the Board to provide back-up to allow him to take vacation.

DISCUSSION - ATTORNEY

Attorney James Campbell asked the Board how they would like to move forward regarding Tom Tremer's continually not providing required back-flow inspection reports. The Board requested the Attorney James Campbell prepare for the court hearing.

DISCUSSION – 2010 TENTATIVE BUDGET HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway Superintendent Ayers reported on his portion of the budget highlighting the need to raise four accounts from previous years and a reduction in the account that we receive CHIPS money.

Supervisor LeFeber stated St. John & Baldwin suggested raising the budgeted amount for of the cost of salt. He also reported that MVP is discontinuing the plan that we currently have and we will need to review alternative options.

Highway Superintendent Ayers reported that there are concerns of his employees regarding health care and the lack of not having an updated employee handbook.

There was further discussion on the plan to take the International to auction, the need to put dollars aside for future large purchases, and a request for a five year plan of large purchase needs.

The older pick-up is for sale, legal requirement of notice for bid is in the legal paper, notice in the Penny Saver for two weeks and a listing on Craigslist. Opening is set for the 8th of October. The blue book lists the truck at \$15,000.00 to \$17,000.00. The board has a right to reject all bids.

DISCUSSION – 2010 TENTATIVE BUDGET HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT-continued

Highway Superintendent Ayers stated that he recently learned of his retirement situation. He asked for support of the Board to help increase his final average salary. Many people have his number and he continually is available to assist others. He believes he has done more than his part. Deputy Supervisor Cole questioned if he would be interested in operating the systems at the Opera Block as a new position is being created. Highway Superintendent Ayers responded stating he is interested in the walk through to see all of the operating systems.

Supervisor LeFeber called for a recess, Time 6:20 P.M., the meeting was called back to order at 6:45 P.M.

DISCUSSION – 2010 TENTATIVE BUDGET – ASSESSOR DEPARTMENT

Assessor Tami Snyder reviewed her portion of the budget stating this morning she began the 2010 update. Extra hours will be required for the update and include reviews in October and November and informal hearing will be held in March. A 6-10 percent increase is expected.

The state is providing \$5.00 per parcel which would total \$13,600.00. For the update in 2006, we received approximately \$12,000.00. This may be the last time the State will pay the \$5.00 per parcel as it is expected to decrease in future years.

The line item for Assessor equipment was changed to reflect reducing the amount of a copier and adding a conference table and chairs.

Assessor Snyder reported that her work load includes duties of the Clerk as the Clerk is unwilling to complete specific tasks such as stuffing envelopes. Once updates are completed a re-evaluation of the position is planned. Supervisor LeFeber stated the Clerk should be completing tasks that are assigned and should not continue in the position of Clerk if he is unwilling to complete the tasks.

Both the Town of Geneseo and Caledonia pay \$1.00 per parcel for update years. And once again a request will be made for the additional salary when the update is complete. Deputy Supervisor Cole reported that St. John & Baldwin stated that Towns are not paying the additional amount.

DISCUSSION – 2010 TENTATIVE BUDGET – JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

Justice Piampiano addressed the Board with the following information:

From January 2009 to September 29, 2009 there were 2059 cases before the court. 842 were for speed and 41 for DWI.

DISCUSSION – 2010 TENTATIVE BUDGET – JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

The amount of revenue for Justice Piampiano is \$84,955.55 and \$55,365 for Justice Torregiano.

Justice Piampiano stated he has been called out 42 times since the first of the year. There was a lengthy discussion of being called for other Towns and the need to make a large number of calls to other courts the one time he was ill and unable to come out to do an arraignment.

The court is very busy and averages 80 to 165 people during DA night.

Deputy Supervisor Cole reported we will know by early November if the Court grant was approved. The grant would provide table and chairs for the Court room.

DISCUSSION – 2010 TENTATIVE BUDGET – HISTORIAN DEPARTMENT

Historian Maureen Kingston addressed the Board stating there was not much variation in her budget. She requested markers of historical significance continue to be displayed. Deputy Supervisor Cole suggested an additional \$1,000.00 be a part of the budget for a second desk and other equipment.

DISCUSSION – 2010 TENTATIVE BUDGET – TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR DEPARTMENT

There was discussion on the recent personnel resignation of Lisa Anderson and the amount of time it takes to train a new employee. Lisa and Stephanie Schweitzer were hired to serve during Mary Rizzo's absence and then both were asked to stay on one day a week. Lisa had chosen Thursday and to work on records management while Stephanie had chosen Friday and to work on other things including special projects. With the resignation of Lisa, Stephanie has been asked to work both Thursday and Friday on a temporary basis. If there is a need to change personnel again it's hoped additional time would be available for interviews prior to hiring.

Town Clerk Knight stated that with all challenges of the year she felt the office was run efficiently and asked the Board to share their perception. No comments were shared.

Deputy Supervisor Cole requested a one time amount of \$10,000.00 be added to the equipment portion of the Records Management budget. Town Clerk Knight would like the opportunity to apply for a grant to include the cost for the equipment. She further stated that we are still waiting for approval or disapproval of our grant application that would allow us to put information in an electronic format.

DISCUSSION – 2010 TENTATIVE BUDGET – RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Recreation Director Kim McDowell addressed the Board stating she is willing to accept the position of Director and work with a three person Board. At the beginning of the year advertisements could be made to fill the two vacancies. Registration was just completed

DISCUSSION – 2010 TENTATIVE BUDGET – RECREATION DEPARTMENT-continued

for grades 3-6 Mini hoops basketball. Winter sports include grades K-2 basketball, grades 3-6 indoor soccer for boys and girls, grades 3-6 travel basketball boys and grades 3-6 wrestling. The Board shared their appreciation of the hard work of the board. Supervisor LeFeber asked if any other sport was looking at splitting-off other than lacrosse. Kim's response was all other activities have been and continue to be very successful. There was discussion to bring back the Saturday morning swimming lessons and the need for cell phones for summer recreation was discussed.

Supervisor LeFeber stated that the Planning Department, Board of Assessment Review and Code Department will be discussed at the next meeting.

On motion of Councilman Cook, seconded by Councilman Mairs, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by _____
Sharon M. Knight, CMC/RMC Town Clerk