

SECOND 2020 BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING

SEPTEMBER 25, 2019

Present: Supervisor Evera Sue Clary; Town Council Members: Marcus Blanck; Bruce Ferguson; Howard Law; Harold Gilchrest; Town Clerk-Patricia Gilchrist; Clerk to Supervisor-Kathleen Chambers

Others present: Travis Keys-Highway; Al Cormier-Deputy Historian; Rebecca Brown-Water Clerk/Library; Kim Erbe-Planning Board/Library

Public Present: Bob Jarvis; Brenda Levey

Absent: Eric Rogers-Water & Highway

6:00 p.m.-Budget workshop meeting called to order by Supervisor Clary, followed by Pledge of Allegiance.

REVIEW OF FIGURES FOR 2020 BUDGET (FROM 2020 BUDGET WORKSHEETS)-HIGHWAY DEP'T.

DA5110.4-General Repairs-Contractual (Summer Road Repair)-Travis requesting increase from \$70,000 to \$110,000 (a \$40,000 increase). Need several large culverts replaced; need to fix drains in former area of Village. Highway's use of calcium has been decreasing every year; this is used to control dust to help stop dust erosion. The dirt roads all need to be graveled & calcium put down to avoid this erosion (dirt roads have been let go for way too long). Budget increase would allow us to purchase more calcium to help w/the dust & erosion. Hills need to be ditched & dams put in for erosion control. We could also fix problem spots & roads in their entirety, rather than just spot fix or combing it together, only to return to do the same thing again. All summer fuel comes out of this account also. Culverts-\$20,000; Calcium-\$10,000; Gravel-\$40,000; Strom Drains-\$5,000

DA5112.2-Improvements (CHIPS)-Requesting increase from \$130,000 to \$175,000 (\$45,000 increase)

CHIPS is a state regulated program that is a reinvestment to the Town. Mainly for black-topping or other ten-year projects. Typically, the program increases every year by a small percentage; currently have about half of what we get in CHIPS in the budget line.

DA5130.2-Machinery-Equipment (New)-Requesting an increase from \$50,000 to \$140,000 (\$90,000 increase)

The cost of new equipment rises every year; have been able to purchase good used equipment in 2019, which has helped tremendously. Two new dump boxes are needed for the tandems--'98 box is over ten years old & badly rusted out. '07 truck has a used box that was purchased last year & needs replacing. The price of a new stainless box is about \$47,000. Both pick-ups should be upgraded next year, allowing the town to get back some of their money back while still fairly new. A new or a used rake should also be looked into. Talking with four or five other towns re purchasing a 'hot box' together, which would be used for patching-cost between \$8,000-\$10,000. If this could be shared between four or five other towns, cost would be down for all.

DA5130.4-Machinery-Contractual (Equipment Repairs)-Budget increase from \$117,500 to \$120,000 (\$3,500 increase)-As equipment ages, it requires more repair & parts every year. Cost of parts seems to rise daily & with aging equipment some parts have to be special order. All repairs that can be done are done in-house but parts & fluids are still required.

DA5142.11-Snow Removal-Overtime-Budget increase from \$20,000 to \$25,000 (\$5,000 increase) Have never gone over in this line but very close for 2019. Line item is all weather-dependent--the more snow & ice that falls, the more we are out on the roads, especially during the week for school buses.

DA5142.4-Snow Removal-Contractual-Budget increase from \$90,000 to \$110,000 (\$20,000 increase) Have not gone over in this line item either, but fuel costs are increasing, along w/salt & steel costs. This line is very weather dependent; the more weather we get, the more fuel & supplies are used to keep the roads safe. Snow related repairs to plows, sanders, bed chains & much more also comes out of this line. Some one could also come in & screen some of the winter sand w/the increase. This will also allow us to get more work done in the summer when the weather is good. Winter sand screening-\$20,000-\$30,000

GM7450.12-Georgi-Personal Services-Jeanne Smith will have to be added here. (Grant writers, docents, etc. are not currently in the 2020 worksheet.) Money from weddings, etc. cannot be credited until received.

L2705-Library-Gifts & Donations-Up; rec'd. \$500 from Stewarts Shops, \$5,000 Grant & \$3,500 Savings

Energy Efficiency Grant-BAN for \$20,000 (Town's commitment) @ 2.45% for four years would amount to a payment of approximately \$5,000/year, plus interest. BAN for \$20,000 for 5 years @ 2.5% would amount to a payment of approximately \$4,460/year (plus int.). If committing to the \$37,500 for the handicapped accessible grant (due 09/27/19), Supervisor Clary informed the Board that the rates would remain the same whether the amount were grouped as one BAN for \$57,500 or done as two separate BANS--one for \$20,000 & one for \$37,500. After some discussion, the Board wanted the \$4,460/year figure (plus interest) for 5 years @ 2.25% on a \$20,000 BAN plugged into the 2020 Budget to see where things stand.

Meeting of Library Board on Trustees on Tuesday, 10/01/2019, @ 6:30 p.m.; the Trustees of the Bancroft Trust are invited & should attend this meeting.

Grant for making building handicapped accessible-Rebecca Brown informed the board that this 2nd Grant Application was due on Friday, 09/27/2019, for \$225,000, (\$18,750 being the Library's match & \$37,500 being the Town's match). She would need a Letter of Intent signed by Supervisor Clary committing to the \$37,500 match amount, as was done with the \$20,000 match on the Energy Efficiency Grant. Rebecca felt that by the time the Library Board was informed if & in what amount the grant was approved, it would be at least the end of September, beginning of October, 2020. No payment would have to be put into the 2020 Budget for the \$37,500 commitment. **Resolution #80-Motion made by** Councilman Harold Gilchrest, seconded by Councilman Howard Law, instructing Supervisor Evera Sue Clary to sign the Letter of Intent for \$37,500, the Town's match, in support of the Handicapped Access Grant; passed 5-0 by the following Board members: Councilman Harold Gilchrest; Councilman Howard Law; Councilman Marcus Blanck; Councilman Bruce Ferguson; Supervisor Evera Sue Clary

F8320.4-Water Dep't.-Supply Power & Pumping-This line item is used for lighting expense; cleaning wells; tank inspections/cleanings, etc. Travis explained how costly this has become so increase in this line will go from \$9,000 to \$20,000

F8330.1-Purification-Increase from \$21,587 to \$22,000

F8330.11- -Increase from \$ 9,672 to \$11,000

F8330.4-Contractual-Increase from \$7,000 to \$9,000

F8340.4-Transp. & Distrib.-Increase from \$5,500 to \$9,000; paint hydrants; replace meters, etc. Percentage of no reads is about 15%; Travis would like it to be better.

F8389.4-Other Water Exp.-Up from \$15,000 to \$17,000; fuel oil; generator; training, etc.

F8397.2-Water Equipment-At 0; something needs to go in this line item (new truck?)

F9790.6-Debt Svc.-Serial Bond (Principal)-Loan payment goes from \$91,000 to \$92,000 (Inc. of \$1,000)

F2140-Income-Metered Sales-Up from \$95,795 to \$96,747

SLD5182.4-Salem Lighting Dist.-Down from \$23,000 to \$20,000

Appropriated Fund Balance-Salem Lighting Dist.-Up from \$5,000 to \$8,000

SL1001-Shushan Lighting Dist.-Real Property Taxes-Up from \$4,500 to \$5,000

Appropriated Fund Balance-Shushan Lighting-Down from \$1,000 to \$500

SF1-3410.4-Salem Fire Protection-Up 2% from \$162,152 to \$168,302

SF2-3410.4-Shushan Fire Protection-Up 2.6% from \$50,938 to \$53,060

TE1620.4-Bancroft Trust-Proudfit Bldg.-Remains at \$19,000

GENERAL FUND-All personnel currently at 2% raises

A410.11-Town Clerk/Tax Collector-Pers. Svcs.-Deputy-Clerk Gilchrist had requested this be raised from \$1,300 to \$2,000, as she could find no one to take the deputy position at \$1,300. On the last page of the budget, Deputy Clerk should be listed @ \$15/hr.--not \$12/hr.

A1420.4-Attorney-Contractual-Up from \$4,000 to \$4,500

A1920.4-Special Items-Municipal Assn. Dues-Up from \$799 to \$900

A1620.43-Buildings-Contractual (Med. Clinic)- Up from \$0 to \$3,000

A3120.4-Pubic Safety-Crossing Guard-Up from \$5,576 to \$7,000

A4540.4-Ambulance-Contractual-Up from \$11,000 to \$15,000

A5010.4-Sup't. of Highways-Contractual-Up from \$2,000 to \$3,000

A5132.4-Garage-Contractual-Up from \$27,500 to \$30,000 (Travis has requested \$34,000) Upgrades need to be made to the bldg. (lighting, upgrading heating system, fixing/replacing overhead doors). Upgrades would help save on energy costs. Estimate done last year on lighting & was told the amount spent would be re-paid in energy savings within three years. Barn is getting older--need to look to the future & not stay in the past!

A6989.4-Economic Development-Up from \$1,000 to \$2,000

A6989.42V-Economic Development-Contractual-Sewer-Up from \$0 to \$3,000

A6989.4V-Economic Development-Sr.'s-Down from \$300 to \$0

A7310.4-Youth Programs-Down from \$9,000 to \$6,500 (Expended to 08/31/19-\$4,025 out of \$9,000 budget)

A7510.4V-Historian-Historic Preservation-Up from \$500 to \$800

A8810.4-Cemeteries-Contractual-Up from \$2,750 to \$4,000 (includes Revolutionary War Cemetery mowing)

A9010.8-Employee Benefits-State Retirement-Up from \$9,685 to \$13,962

A1120-Non-Property Tax Items-Sales Tax Money-Up from \$21,090 to \$22,136 (Revenue)

A2189-Departmental Income-Bus Fees-Down from \$650 to \$0 (Revenue)

A2610-Fine & Forfeited Bail-Down from \$5,000 to \$0 (Revenue-Due to changes in the law)

A2770-Citizens Funding Grant-Amount of \$133,047 was rec'd. (Revenue)

A3001, A3005, A3820-State Aid-Revenue Sharing; Mortgage Tax; State Aid-Figures not known at this time.

Kathy Chambers, Clerk to Supervisor, handed out an account balance sheet to the Board, showing balances from January-August 31, 2019 in the following accounts: General; Shushan Lighting; Salem Lighting; Comm. Ass't. Fund; Highway; Water; Water Reserve; Georgi; Library Savings; Bancroft Trust

Board of Assessment Review-Letter rec'd. from Laura Chadwick, Dir. of Wash. Co. Real Property Tax Svcs., informing the Board that Neil Adams's term on the BAR will expire on 09/30/2019. Either Neil or someone else (if he doesn't want it) needs to be appointed, term to begin 10/01/2019-09/30/2024. A training session would also be required in the spring of 2020; Assessor Jean McLenithan will call Neil to see if he wishes to serve for another five (5) years.

Eagleville Bridge Issue-Meeting @ co. bldg. on 09/24/2019 re this issue. Sue e-mailed everyone the power point presentation given that day, showing issues on the Battenkill, w/some remediation that has taken place already. Town of Jackson has already passed a local law limiting parking on the Town of Jackson side of the bridge. Should the Town of Salem look at doing the same thing on one side of the road?? Travis Keys noted that parking was limited on the Salem side of the bridge & felt that the Tackle Box Bridge was going to be the big issue--people are already using this as a rest point coming down the river & are jumping off the bridge. Travis will check on the cost of "No Parking" signs & report back to the Board.

Big, Big on the Battenkill Kayak & Tubing-It was brought to Supervisor Clary's attention that this business was listed on-line, listing an address of Service Road; Shushan, NY that apparently does not exist. Concerns were expressed to the Supervisor as to whether this might not be a legitimate business. Two board members responded that they knew of the business & they operate out of Arlington, VT.

Motion to adjourn-Motion made by Councilman Marcus Blanck, seconded by Councilman Bruce Ferguson, to adjourn the second budget workshop meeting for the 2020 budget process; passed 5-0 by the following Board members: Marcus Blanck; Bruce Ferguson; Harold Gilcrest; Howard Law; Supervisor Evera Sue Clary. Meeting adjourned @ 8:00p.m.

Next Budget Workshop Meeting-will be held on Wednesday, 10/02/2019, @ 6 p.m. at the Salem Town Office.

Respectfully Submitted:

Patricia A. Gilchrist-Town Clerk
Town of Salem

