

Minutes of the Special Budget Meeting held by the LaFayette Town Board on September 27, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the LaFayette Commons Office Building at 2577 Route 11 in the Town of LaFayette.

Present: Gregory Scammell, Supervisor  
Sandra Smith, Councilwoman  
David Knapp, Councilman  
Thomas Bailey, Councilman  
William McConnell, Councilman

Recording Secretary: Mary Jo Kelly, Town Clerk

Others Present: Karen Godsoe, Town Attorney  
Kevin Bailey, LaFayette Rd.  
Anne Smith, Historian  
Marshall Taylor, Assessor/Clerk  
Mary Doster, Assessor Chair.  
Maureen Perrin, Town Justice  
Malcolm Knapp, Town Justice  
Tom Chartrand, Bookkeeper  
Jim Nakas, Planning Board Chair.  
Andy Peebles, Planning Board Member  
Ralph Lamson, C.E.O.  
Vince Maher, Resident  
Duane Dix, Jamesville Fire District  
Nelson Bishop, Jamesville Fire District  
Ron Witty, Jamesville Fire District  
Julee Johnson, Southern Hills Preservation  
Bruce Freund, Sentinel Hgts. Rd.  
John Aiken, Grievance Board of Review

Supervisor Scammell opened the Special Budget Meeting at 5.06 p.m.

The Town Clerk took the Roll. All present.

Pledge to the U.S. Flag led by Kevin Bailey.

**Councilwoman Smith moved and Bailey seconded the motion to accept the September 13, 2004, Town Board Meeting Minutes as submitted by the Town Clerk. Motion passed unanimously.**

The Town Board reviewed the following budget requests.

**SR. CITIZENS.**

No one was present to represent this group. Supervisor Scammell noted they are requesting the same amount as last year. He noted generally they use these funds for trips.

Tom Chartrand said they had a little left over last year.

**RECEIVER OF TAXES.**

Supervisor Scammell said she is looking for a slight increase in office supplies. She is requesting town-wide rate for salary increase.

**VOTING MACHINE CUSTODIANS.**

Supervisor Scammell said Mr. Fox said new machines might be a factor in the budget.

Tom Chartrand has heard lots of rumors but nothing concrete about these.

Councilman Knapp asked if the other towns are putting anything in their budgets for this.

Tom Chartrand said he has been maintaining the same level as they had for this year with the additional primary so if the situation does arise there will be a little extra there. He has not budgeted for machines as he doesn't know what is asked of us.

Supervisor Scammell believes so far they have failed to sell the program to those of us who would have to purchase the machines.

#### **TOWN HISTORIAN.**

Anne Smith was present.

Supervisor Scammell asked if there were any long-term things she could see.

Anne Smith said the town will need to buy a printer for the computer she has donated to the town. It might be \$100 or less. She feels privileged to be paid for her in-service training.

Supervisor Scammell thanked her for serving

Councilman Bailey asked if she had any projects in mind for 2005.

Anne Smith said they are doing a list of the burials in Cardiff Cemetery which will be a big project. They have to go through the cemetery and be sure each grave is marked as it should be. She is going to have an exhibit at the Town Offices for Election Day again. It will be the exhibit that is in Jamesville right now.

Councilman Knapp asked how that is doing.

Anne Smith said they have had a lot of people coming in to see it.

Councilman McConnell asked if there was ever records for the Cardiff Cemetery in the past.

Anne Smith said there have been records but they are kind of haphazard. She will put the information on a spread sheet and have the accurate information.

Councilman McConnell asked what drives this. Is there a law pertaining to this?

Anne Smith said there is no law but it is nice for people who are looking to locate their dead ancestors to be able to go and find them.

Councilman McConnell asked about the LaFayette Rural Cemetery.

Anne Smith said the town is not involved with that as they have their own Cemetery Board.

Councilman Knapp asked if this could be put on the website.

Anne Smith said that would be a good idea and she thinks it could be done.

#### **TOWN JUSTICES.**

Malcolm Knapp and Maureen Perrin were present to discuss their budget request.

Supervisor Scammell asked if they knew about how many copies they make a month on their copier.

Maureen Perrin doesn't know but will get the information.

Councilman McConnell asked if under other expenses that amount would cover the copier.

Maureen Perrin said that amount would cover everything but salaries. Postage, office supplies, etc. all fall under here.

Councilman McConnell asked what the increase was due to.

Maureen Perrin said mostly postage.

Tom Chartrand said the credit card machine costs some too. This wasn't budgeted for last year.

Maureen Perrin said it runs about \$800-\$900 for that. They are using it for 6 months to a year to see how it works on collecting fine money.

Councilman Bailey asked if there are any pros or cons to leasing or owning a copy machine.

Tom Chartrand said you would be getting the same machine if you leased or purchased one.

Usually the lease interest percentage is high.

Councilman Bailey asked how old the Xerox machine is.

Tom Chartrand said about 7-10 years.

Maureen Perrin said usually you lease and can own it at the end of the lease.

Tom Chartrand said the town would always get a service contract on it anyway. Currently in the Building Fund we have money for a copy machine. He thinks there's \$12,000 in the budget for this.

Maureen Perrin said they don't really need a machine like the one in the Town Offices. They don't need all those options on their machine. To buy a copy machine out-right for them would be much cheaper.

Supervisor Scammell said they need their copy machine to be able to use 8 ½” and 14” for paper size. He asked if they need it to be able to staple.

Maureen Perrin said no. The most at one time would be 5 pages. She would imagine the less expensive the machine, the cheaper the service contract would be.

Malcolm Knapp said on the speeding fines that the state is trying to grab, the latest update is that there is a bill in the legislature right now that will be voted on when they return in November. The legislators are so embarrassed that they are all ready to support this bill. He believes it will be rescinded.

Councilman Knapp said the Assembly has already passed it.

Malcolm Knapp said outside of loosing the revenue for a couple of months, he doesn't think the town will lose a penny on it.

Maureen Perrin said they will not be mailing out any more paperwork unless a prestamped envelop is included. There will be interstate patrol again as 4 new troopers have been stationed at the LaFayette Barracks. The only tickets coming in recently have been for the truck stop. They only had one guy working in LaFayette.

Councilwoman Smith asked how the credit card machine is working.

Maureen Perrin said very good. One of the reasons it's beneficial is for the truck stop. Usually the truck drivers are from out-of-state and want to get a ticket taken care of quickly. This allow them to pay by credit card over the phone from Canada or wherever.

Marshall Taylor said he has been talking to Xerox. There's presently a Xerox machine in the Community Center which isn't much good. This machine would have significant trade-in value on another machine. The representative said it's worth more than we think. The representative said it could be worth about \$1,000. Marshall just wanted to be sure this machine didn't get thrown out.

Councilman Bailey said there would be two machines then. One in Justice and one at the Community Center that could be used as trade-ins.

#### **JAMESVILLE FIRE DIST.**

Representatives from Jamesville Fire Dist. were present.

Supervisor Scammell noted they are requesting to go from \$32,000 to \$40,000. He asked them about a capital component in their budget.

A representative said they are going out for a referendum for \$950,000 for a new fire station. They would like to get a standby generator for the facility which will run about \$18,000 - \$20,000. In the 2004 budget they bought a boat for the Jamesville Reservoir, a defibrillator and they put on a paid custodian who is also a fireman for a quicker response to their calls. They also have a \$90,000 squad truck. They spent considerable money last year and expect to do so this year. If the Town of LaFayette can help them out on their budget, it would be appreciated.

Councilman Knapp asked what the new truck they purchased does.

A representative said they have a rope rescue team. This is mainly for that team. It's used primarily for the firefighter who is the custodian who leaves immediately for a call.

Councilman Knapp asked if it had fire fighting capability on it.

A representative said there are small tanks for grass fires on it. Their SCVA is on this too for the dive team.

Councilman McConnell asked if the divers and the boat are part of their fire department.

A representative said yes.

Councilman McConnell asked if they have used them much over the past year.

A representative said no they haven't.

A representative described what the boat is like. It can be used in the winter too.

Councilman McConnell asked if the custodian is one person for 7 days a week.

A representative said right now it's Monday through Friday when they are shortest in personnel. They usually have volunteers around on the weekends.

Councilman McConnell asked if their budget is for an increase for fuel, etc. or to offset their purchases for next year.

A representative said everything is going up. Part of it will probably go into the new building fund and equipment.

Councilman Knapp asked if the LaFayette residents would be allowed to vote on their referendum.

A representative said just the Jamesville resident's will be allowed to vote.

Councilman McConnell asked if they will be moving to a new location or renovating their existing building.

A representative said they will be renovating their existing building to accommodate their new equipment and equipment that might be purchased in the future.

Councilman Bailey noted the building was built in 1958.

Councilman McConnell asked in the overall scheme of their budget on December 31<sup>st</sup> of this year will they be over budget or on budget?

A representative would say they are on budget.

#### **ASSESSMENT GRIEVANCE BOARD OF REVIEW.**

John Aiken was present. He said they are deeply indebted to the Assessors who do a whale of a job. They are not asking for an increase.

Supervisor Scammell asked how many came before them this year.

John Aiken said 5.

Supervisor Scammell asked how many parcels are in the Town of LaFayette.

Marshall Taylor said approximately 2,500.

Mary Doster said they only had 3 come in the year of the reval.

#### **ASSESSORS**

Supervisor Scammell noted there is a little decrease under equipment.

Marshall Taylor said they actually shifted the money from equipment to another area.

Councilman Knapp asked what they would use legal services for.

Marshall Taylor said during a reval year there could be suits filed. They are considering a reval for 2006. Currently there is \$10,000 in the account with another \$5,000 to be added in. He would hope the Board supports approving the reval.

The Board and Assessors discussed the reval and selling prices of homes.

#### **CODE ENFORCEMENT.**

Supervisor Scammell noted an increase was requested for salaries. The argument they have made in the past is they are one of the lowest paid CEO's in the county. A study reflected this was true.

Councilman McConnell asked if the comparison shows the same for Deputy CEO's.

The Board didn't know.

Tom Chartrand said the majority of towns don't have a deputy. A lot of them have a clerk.

Councilman McConnell asked under the section for legal and litigation, what things are they charged for?

Tom Chartrand said it's the part of our attorney contract that gets charged to this account. The numbers represent the numbers proposed by Kevin Gilligan.

Supervisor Scammell wanted to know what some of the other municipalities were spending overall on Code Enforcement and found out the following budgets for 2004: LaFayette - \$41,000, Marcellus - \$63,000, Onondaga - \$137,000 and Pompey \$40,000.

Councilman McConnell asked the difference in hours, size, etc.

Tom Chartrand said Tully's is variable. It contracts out for about \$15,000 and the person only does building inspections.

Councilman McConnell's concern is the office hours are one day a week in the evening. Through the week how much activity is being done for that size of increase?

Supervisor Scammell said there are weeks he sees Ralph Lamson in the office almost every day and other weeks he might not see him. That doesn't mean he's not in. He could just be in his office working.

Tom Chartrand said legal isn't charged against the \$15,000 in towns either. Pompey is \$30,000 just for the inspectors fee. Fabius contracts for \$6,000. Otisco is \$14,000 this year. They contract out.

Councilman McConnell asked how the towns handle the other tasks that Ralph Lamson does here.

Tom Chartrand said usually they do additional contracting with the company. Right now Otisco's and Tully's contract covers fire inspections, complaints, etc.

Councilman McConnell asked how they do new buildings.

Tom Chartrand said that would be a separate contract. In Otisco the actual spending in 2002 was \$12,288. In 2003 it was \$12,000 and in 2004 it went up to \$14,000. If they get more buildings, more expenses go against it.

**ANIMAL CONTROL**

Supervisor Scammell noted Jon Rogers has submitted his resignation effective at the end of the year. Sue Snavlin assumes she will move into Jon's slot and Madeline would move into her slot. Madeline can't make over \$2,200 a year. The Board hasn't discussed what they will be doing for the coming year yet regarding Jon's resignation.

Councilman McConnell asked if the money for the animal shelter is the existing contract and not for the new building Sue proposes.

Supervisor Scammell said that is correct.

Councilman McConnell said Sue has asked for a \$1,000 increase for the animal shelter. He asked what the shelter cost for this year was.

Tom Chartrand said \$3,000. This also covers the change the Board made to authorize Madeline \$20/capture.

Councilman McConnell asked if under equipment Sue advised what would need to be purchased.

Tom Chartrand said a cage for Jon and a ramp were purchased this year.

Councilman McConnell would like to know what this consists of.

Tom Chartrand said the only thing he has heard her discuss is a cage to be kept at the Highway Dept.

Supervisor Scammell will check with Sue on this.

Councilman Bailey asked where the Hearts of Stray ad is posted.

No one was sure.

**CLEANING**

No changes.

**ATTORNEY**

Supervisor Scammell noted the request reflects a 3% increase.

Councilman McConnell asked why 4 of 7 years reflected no increase.

Supervisor Scammell believes he just didn't submit one.

Tom Chartrand said the year the Developer Fees were instituted there was no increase.

**INFORMATION OFFICER**

Postage for the newsletter was discussed.

No increase requested.

**TOWN CLERK**

A salary study of all Town Clerk's in the county was submitted.

An increase in salary is requested.

**PLANNING BOARD**

No change requested.

**ZONING BOARD**

No change requested.

At this point the Board moved on to it's Regular Town Board Meeting and public hearings.

**PHYSICAL PLANT DEPUTY**

**ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD**

**SAFETY OFFICER**

**FINANCIAL CONSULTANT**

**TOWN BOARD**

**REVIEW OF OTHER EXPENSES**

The Special Budget Meeting ended at 6:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Kelly  
Town Clerk