

Minutes of the Special Town Board Budget Meeting held by the Town Board of the Town of LaFayette on October 2, 2002 at 6:00 p.m. in the LaFayette Commons Office Building on Route 11 in the Town of LaFayette.

Present: Gregory Scammell, Supervisor  
Norman Paul, Councilor  
Sandra Smith, Councilor  
David Knapp, Councilor  
Thomas Bailey, Councilor

Recording Secretary: Mary Jo Kelly, Town Clerk

Others Present: Tom Chartrand, Bookkeeper  
Marshall Taylor, Assessor/Clerk  
Leon Cook, Highway Superintendent  
Jack Sutton, LFD  
Ken Neuman, LFD  
Greg Hoxie, LFD  
Connie Foote, Library  
Nancy Kirby, Library  
Cindy Henderson, Library  
Andrea King, Library

Supervisor Scammell called the Special Meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

## **HIGHWAY**

Leon said he increased the payroll by 1 ½%. He said he didn't add too much extra in here for the Highway Fund. Oil will be going up. He reduced his miles of roads to be done to 7 ½ from 9. This will be \$6,324/ton which comes to a total of \$47,430 to do. The pipe replacement is estimated. He put in \$3,000 for pipe and \$5,160 for runer crush.

Councilor Knapp asked about the piping.

Leon said it's for culvert piping that has already been put in and needs to be replaced.

Councilor Knapp asked how long a pipe usually lasts.

Leon said around here the galvanized doesn't last 10 years. They are putting in plastic now which they say will last indefinitely. There's CHIPS reimbursement of \$31,975. This brings the total to \$36,485.

Tom said this is \$300 less than last year.

Leon said the International Truck payment is in there for \$18,528. There's \$16,500 for the road-side mower.

Councilor Knapp asked about the regular mower.

Leon said that will come out of the General Fund. Repairs is estimated at \$41,000. This is the same as last year. He increased \$1,000 for heat for the building

under general but he didn't increase fuel prices as he will try to work them into his budget.

Tom said they had hoped with the cost of salt going down it would offset this.

Leon said the balance of the road-side mower is \$45,000. This is a New Holland tractor with the mower, etc. on it.

Tom said this is more like a brush-hog. There is currently \$16,500 left in the 2002 budget. They are proposing to put an additional \$16,500 in the budget for next year for this mower and they would have to take \$12,000 out of the Reserve. There is \$25,000 in the Reserve now so this would take about ½ of it.

Councilor Knapp said we are in pretty good shape then with equipment.

Leon said we will have to get a new 1-ton truck in the future. The summer payroll is \$134,165. This went up just a little from last year. He cut the amount for salt, sand and fuel from \$59,000 to \$55,000. He reviewed the salary increases for the employees.

Councilor Paul asked if he listed the part-time rates for the part-time people and who they would be.

Leon said the last part-time help they had was paid \$11/hour.

Councilor Paul asked if this would be the same in 2003.

Leon said the guys who do the plowing in the winter would be about \$12.70/hour. Right now he doesn't have anyone for part-time for winter plowing.

Councilor Paul asked who he had last year.

Leon said Ralph Reese and John Harper.

Hallinan Road was discussed. Leon said whatever they decide to do will be worked out with the budget he is giving the Board. The only thing he is not happy with is the raise for the guys. He hasn't told them how much an hour he is requesting for them. They are already talking about the big increase in our county taxes.

Councilor Bailey asked if they got a raise last year.

Leon said just cost-of-living.

Tom said as it is now, he has a high percentage increase. He said Leon has also saved some money in this years budget so we will apply that to next years budget. The total was \$25,000.

Councilor Bailey asked if any equipment was going to auction in the spring.

Leon said no. He said there was an outsider who was going to pay for the tires they have collected at the landfill site. He waited and didn't get rid of any of them. He figured we would make a buck. The county came along and was going to use tires for electricity. It's been 7 years since we got rid of tires. We charge \$2 for a smaller tire, \$3 for a bigger tire and \$8 for big truck tires. Anything over that is 30 cents/pound. The Health Dept. has been saying they want us to get rid of tires. He couldn't get in touch with the guy in Williamstown. He finally found out he could only get in touch with him between noon and 1 p.m. when he came in to eat lunch. If he took the tires to Williamstown, the cost was \$1/tire. If the guy came down here to get them, it was \$2/tire and \$7/truck tire. The truck tires were \$4 if the Highway Dept. took them to Williamstown. He took all the tires to Williamstown to satisfy the Health Dept. He took twelve 10-wheeler loads up. It's going to cost us \$2,200 for the tires he took up there.

Tom said there is enough money in the Contingency Fund to cover this.

Marshall wished to discuss the trash fees on the tax bills. The trash selection card was sent out to the public. This mailing was for the bids. If we are going to resend all these cards again for people to select their trash, he doesn't have any questions.

Councilor Knapp said we will not be doing another mailing.

Marshall said people were assigned general service.

Councilor Knapp said this is going to be about \$125 for 3 bags.

Marshall submitted some mailers where people noted they weren't interested and they were assigned the \$125 service.

Mary Jo said she told anyone who asked her about the mailers that by filling them out, it wouldn't affect their tax bills but was for bid purposes only as this is what she was told by the attorney from DeWitt who is handling everything for the committee. She is concerned this wasn't true. She was also advised people that didn't want the service would be assigned the lowest rate for bid purposes. This didn't happen either.

Councilor Knapp said they had a quick meeting last week. For people who didn't fill out a card or didn't say what they wanted, the committee will resend a mailer if the referendum is passed.

Marshall said right now, we cannot affect the tax bills after October 9<sup>th</sup>.

Tom said he spoke with Karen at the county who said normally after the budget meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup>, he will submit a budget with the rate changes. The county puts them in and sends them back asking if these are the correct rates. Until he signs off on this, they can't print the tax bills. He can hold these sheets until all the assessors have put in the right amounts. Their deadline is the day before Thanksgiving.

Marshall said according to his records, we would have to resend letters to 605 people. His suggestion is that we now know what the costs for the services will be so why don't we send the mailer out now so we can find out what these people want? Right now everyone is coded for general service and the assessors must upgrade the exceptions. He was told the exceptions would be about 30%. Right now it's about 70%.

Tom said we can't figure out the total money to be collected until all the codes are entered on the tax bills.

Councilor Knapp said there will be a mailer that goes out prior to election to let folks know the rates and to tell them if they want to change the services they signed up for previously they should call the clerk.

Mary Jo would support the mailer letting people know they can change the service they picked and whatever they decide to pick will be on their tax bills if the referendum passes.

## **LIBRARY**

Connie discussed restructuring possibilities for the library.

Supervisor Scammell asked how Trustees would be selected then.

Connie believes they would be elected.

Nancy said if they do decide to be a legislative district, it would require them to work out a lot of things with the town, i.e. sharing the building, etc.

Supervisor Scammell asked how they are with capacity.

Connie said her dream is to put a Community Room off their level downstairs and for the upstairs Community Room to become part of the Town Offices. Their storage space isn't as useful.

Councilor Smith asked if they change over to the special district, what area would it cover?

Connie said they are only eligible for the Town of LaFayette.

Nancy said they can't be a school library because of the Onondaga Free Library.

### **LAFAYETTE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Tom asked if they had a number they were estimating for the number of people qualifying for the Service Awards next year.

Greg said the same as last year.

Jack said they review the members at the end of the year but it will be close.

Supervisor Scammell asked about the \$30,000 for equipment.

Ken said they usually end up spending it for pagers at \$500 each, etc. It use to cost approximately \$2,200 to outfit a person to go into a fire.

Councilor Bailey asked what the shelf life for the personal protection is.

Ken said someone's might be 25 years and another might be 6 months.

Greg said it depends on the usage.

Councilor Knapp said power washers, etc. fall under here too.

Jack said the big thing is the Capital Reserve.

Ken said they put in for a little more than \$95,000 last year and the Town Board cut them. They took some out of the Capital Reserve. Unfortunately, prices of equipment keep going up and up. We are trying to stay on the 20-year plan.

Councilor Knapp asked if we have to.

Ken said pretty much. The engines are about 15 years. The tankers are about 15 years. As the town grows, you need to grow with the engines.

Supervisor Scammell asked the balance in the Capital Reserve now.

Ken said they have a Rescue Truck to be completed the 28<sup>th</sup> of October.

Councilor Knapp asked the cost of that.

Jack said about \$390,000.

Ken said unfortunately most of the equipment, when you are done using it, has no value.

Supervisor Scammell asked if the balance is \$390,000.

Greg said it's \$150,000.

Ken said they took money out for the chassis.

Supervisor Scammell asked how much it was for the chassis.

Greg said \$175,000.

Ken said the whole idea of keeping the Capital Reserve is when we go to buy this stuff we can pay cash for it and not have to pay interest on top of it. They started doing this in 1985 and its worked fairly well right along.

Councilor Knapp asked if there would come a point where leasing would be an option.

Tom said it's special equipment so they don't lease. The equipment is too specialized by the department to lease.

Supervisor Scammell said if they put \$175,000 down for the chassis and there's \$150,000 left in the Reserve and the truck is \$390,000, the difference will have to be made up somewhere.

Jack said they will be pretty close.

Ken said he can't give the exact figures but it's suppose to be covered with what they have. He can get the exact figures if the Board would like them.

Councilor Bailey asked if the new rescue rig has water carrying capability.

Greg said they didn't feel it was worth \$4,000 to have it carry water when they already have the apparatus for that.

Ken said the DEC keeps getting tougher and tougher. 2002 was scheduled for engine 21 and 2005 was scheduled for the rescue truck.

Supervisor Scammell asked what they thought the replacement cost for engine 21 would be.

Ken said they have it at \$363,000 but he thinks it will be more than that.

Councilor Knapp asked what size they need.

Ken said they really need to meet with the chiefs and see what they need to come up with. Their policy has always been to move the engine from Station 1 to Station 2 and put the new engine in Station 1. However, the last truck won't fit in the Cardiff Station.

Supervisor Scammell asked what's in the Building and Grounds Line.

Ken said they still have to do some more work on Station 2. They would like to do the driveway at Station 1. They would like to improve the driveway at Station 2 also.

Supervisor Scammell asked about the vehicle maintenance.

Ken said that takes care of the labor and the oil changes, brake work, tires, etc.

Jack said Dan Sawkins and Dan Alexander come in and do the work.

Supervisor Scammell asked what's coming up after engine 21?

Greg said the ambulance in 2008.

Councilor Knapp asked what the deal with the Tully ambulance is. Do we owe them money?

Greg said no. Mr. Lund wants us to pay him. The letter he sent never should have been sent to the Town Board. He wrote them a letter last year and Greg isn't even going to write one to him this year. He has 5 full-time personnel plus his ambulance. They are trying to take their total expenditures and spread them out over all the calls.

Councilor Knapp said the letter indicated they were making a lot of calls in LaFayette.

Greg said he's trying to get everything paid for so the taxes are low. He explained their ambulance service billing.

Councilor Knapp said Mr. Lund didn't show any of the money coming back in for their calls from the Town of LaFayette. He asked about the Jamesville Fire District and the ambulance.

Greg said the ambulance response to Jamesville is entirely up to the chief of Jamesville. To get that changed, you need to talk to the Jamesville chief.

Councilor Knapp said that's why he asked this because now is the time we can talk to them about it.

Ken would like to see Jamesville use the LaFayette ambulance if they want to use it.

Councilor Paul said he does not see any way logistically that the LaFayette ambulance can respond to Route 91 or the end of Bamerick Road at the same time the ambulance for Jamesville can.

Greg said all the supplies for the ambulance, etc., are funded from the ambulance fund. Most of the items in the budget are fire apparatus.

Councilor Knapp said if requested, the residents in Jamesville should be able to get the LaFayette ambulance if they want it.

Jack said the point is LaFayette can cover Smokey Hollow and Barker Hill Road but can't cover Coye Road. If a resident down there wants LaFayette, they should be able to have it. He had a stroke last year and it took 45 minutes for an ambulance to come from Jamesville. He had to pay \$750. Is that right when he pays taxes to LaFayette? He believes resident's should have a right to request LaFayette when they are paying taxes for it.

Councilor Bailey said he is working on funding and will be trying to get to defibrillators for the chief cars and 2 for the town and possibly 2 for the school.

Ken said anytime they have something that doesn't look or sound right to the Town Board, they would be glad to try to arrange a time for everyone to be together and hash it out.

The Buildings budget was reviewed. A lot of the increase in the buildings is due to phones.

Supervisor Scammell discussed a meeting he and Mary Jo attended regarding the website. It would be \$45 a month for this service.

Legal fees were discussed.

Councilor Knapp said personally he doesn't feel people should be charged for the little things. Would it be easier if we said the Town would give you the first \$350 on the Town and anything over that you have to come back. It was decided a meeting should be set up with Kevin Gilligan regarding the legal contract and what it covers.

Tom distributed a sheet "Overlapping Tax Rates". This sheet gives all the equalization rates and compares the town, county and school rates to give you the towns' final rate.

Supervisor Scammell said we are 23-30. At a quick glance, the numbers for LaFayette look pretty good.

Tom said right now before the Work Sessions take place, if everyone gets what they want, the tax increase would be a 35 cents per thousand increase which is 6.23%. General Fund is 15 cents per thousand.

**Councilor's Smith moved and Knapp seconded the motion to adjourn.  
Motion passed unanimously.**

The Special Budget Meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Kelly  
Town Clerk