

Minutes of the Town Board Budget Meeting held by the LaFayette Town Board on September 25, 2007 at 7:00 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
Thomas Bailey, Councilor (Arrived 7:42 p.m.)
Adrian Shute, Councilor
David Knapp, Councilor (Arrived 8:40 p.m.)
William McConnell, Councilor
Scott Kushner, Library Director
Connie Foot, Library Board
Katie Whitney, Library Board
Nancy Kirby, Library Board
Teresa Mech, Library Board/Community Council

Recording Secretary: Mary Jo Kelly, Town Clerk

Others Present: Tom Chartrand, Bookkeeper

Supervisor Scammell called the Budget Meeting to order at 7:29 p.m.

The Town Clerk took the Roll. Councilmen Bailey and Knapp absent. All else present.

LIBRARY

Scott Kushner reviewed the budget.

Discussion took place regarding preparation of the 990's.

Connie Foote believes it's expensive for the work that is done.

Tom Chartrand said it would be wise if they estimated within the budget for this.

It was decided to change this line item from \$4,000 to \$4,200.

Connie said they propose a 3% raise for their staff.

Scott said Membership Dues/Professional Development saw a substantial increase. This includes going to workshops for staff and conferences. It's really a progressive thing. They feel it's justified and essential. This line item went from \$650 to \$1,150.

Assemblyman Stirpe called Scott and asked if he had a wish, what would he want for the library. Apparently the beginning of the fiscal year the state legislature put in for some extra funds. He sent Scott an application and Scott filled it out with items totaling about \$3,000. Scott was told to add some more items so they are getting merchandise for \$4,892. They will be getting a projector, some furniture, etc.

The response to their survey regarding interest in expanding the library was very good. Scott said at least 70% of the people were in favor of this.

Councilor Shute asked if he would email the Board the results of this survey.

Councilor Bailey asked if there are a maximum number of users the wireless can handle at one time.

Scott isn't sure how many can use it at once. So far they haven't had a problem with too many users.

Supervisor Scammell asked what the largest item under the nonbook line is.

Scott said it's a toss up between DVD's and audio books.

Connie said they do need to hire a consultant at some point in time. She doesn't know if that would be part of their budget.

Scott asked if the Board would like him to come before them with the presentation of their proposal.

Supervisor Scammell said it's up to him whether he comes to the Board or sends emails.

Scott said he will start with emails.

Nancy Kirby asked if the Board knew what space they wanted.

Connie thought the town was interested in more storage space. They want the space to broaden their space for the community programs that they wish to do.

Supervisor Scammell said he was waiting to see what they were proposing to do first.

Scott said he talked to Ken Schoeck and one of the things he said is if the septic is the only obstacle, don't let that determine your decision. In the great scheme of things, that would be about \$3,000 to move. The town will have to be on board with this as they own the building.

Councilor McConnell introduced Dave Rodgers and Bob Malzyck who were present to discuss the Service Award Program.

Dave Rodgers said the Service Award Program is unique. They are expanding the options for the fire fighters. They were given 10 options and the target maturity fund. It's expandable so as time goes on, they can replace some of the funds. The town can go online and look up financing information too. They have met with the fire fighters. He assumes they intend to meet as a group on Monday and come to the Board with their decision. They are hopeful to do this beginning January 1, 2008.

Bob said they currently do plans for Kinney Drugs, St. Joseph's, etc. They are taking this same technology and using it for the Service Awards Program.

Councilor McConnell confirmed the statements will go to the individuals and not to the town.

Bob said that is correct. As the plan sponsor, you can look online at the overall plan. You can't make changes for anyone. A person can go online themselves and look at their account balances.

Dave said they will notify Penflex that this is going on and they will cooperate with them.

Councilor McConnell asked them to explain how the town benefits from this type of service.

Dave said the fiduciary liability will be passed on to the fire fighters. He thinks the flow of information will be a lot better and it's easier. It's a cleaner process.

Bob said they have the ability to withhold federal taxes.

Councilor McConnell asked for their estimate of cost.

Dave said the administrative fee is a \$500 flat fee and \$36/head. There were 54 active people last year. His best guesstimate is 60-65 people are being accounted for. You are going to be looking at about \$2,500 for the annual administrative fees each year.

Bob said it's \$36/head for anyone who has an account balance.

Councilor Bailey asked about rollovers.

Dave said right not you can't. There are two legislative acts being discussed right now. One is to make these accounts tax free and the other is to allow them to be rolled over.

The Board thanked Dave and Bob for coming.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Teresa Mech was present to discuss the Community Council budget. She said it's pretty much the same. They went with the basic 3% raise for Regina Reinschmidt. They added a line per Marshal Taylor's advice for Regina's computer lease as her computer warranty runs out in November. He recommended \$1,000/year and it's a 3 year lease. The only other changes she had were that they went down \$500 for the ski transportation as they increased it last year due to the fuel prices and they took out \$350 for the tennis/basketball courts because the Optimist Club took care of the basketball courts and the school bought the tennis nets.

Councilor McConnell asked how the \$700 worked for the maintenance of the ballfields.

Teresa said it worked out perfect.

Councilor McConnell said the gentleman did a great job on them this year.

Tom Chartrand said over \$1,500 was spent for him on salary.

Teresa asked about the Beach. At this point in time, the Community Council Board has decided to leave things as they are. A couple of members are planning on working on the lacrosse box repairs that need to be done. They are not looking to move the box lacrosse from where it is.

Tom Chartrand advised the Board he passed out an analysis of the checking and savings between M & T, Alliance and HSBC Banks. He also passed out a comptroller's guide to conducting internal audits and information from the comptroller regarding Reserve Funds.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Leon Cook was present to discuss the Highway Budget. He reviewed the 5-year equipment plan. In 2011 a 10-wheeler will need to be replaced. Last year it cost \$126,000 with a trade-in. With the new environmental law, they have gone up \$17,000. He figured his salary increase at 3.25 %. The transfer to the Reserve for 2008 is \$50,000 and not \$35,000. Last year the Highway Committee suggested instead of buying a new pickup to buy a used one. The state has several pickups they are putting up for auction at the end of October.

Councilor Knapp said the main use for this pickup is for the lawnmower guy to transport the mower in the summer and to run for parts, etc.

Councilor Bailey asked if there is a way to get a pickup at a state auction without high mileage.

Leon said that is what they are going to look for.

Leon said they kept the cost for road signs the same at \$2,000.

Tom Chartrand said it was about \$800 last year and it's at about \$700 this year.

They have added \$2,100 to the garage budget. He doesn't know how much longer they can keep the furnace fixed up.

Supervisor Scammell asked how old it is.

Leon thinks 10-11 years.

Tom said the furnace was purchased in 1991.

Councilor Knapp asked if he should talk to Danny Bush to get a price for this.

Leon said he talked to a couple of places and that is why he put \$2,100 in for it.

They started out that once they bought a new mower they could trade it in and pay \$500/year for a new one with a one-year warranty. It then went to \$800/year. This year it went to \$3,100. Last year he put a thousand in and he's putting a thousand in now. We have to change the blades and maintain it now. When it gets old, they will have to buy a new mower.

Cleanup Days stayed the same at \$10,000.

Councilor Knapp asked what we ended up paying this year. He thought we saved quite a bit of money this year.

Tom said this year it was \$4,300 in expenses and you brought in about \$5,000 for the scrap so we actually made money this year. We made about \$800 not including the payroll expense.

LAFAYETTE FIRE DEPT.

John Harper, Greg Hoxie and Ken Jerome were present.

Greg said the biggest issue at this point is the paid EMS staff and Medics. They are looking to make it 7 days a week, 24 hours a day for a paid Medic for advanced life support. They may need to do something for a driver to be in-house too. So far they have been doing very well with the volunteers. They implemented the paid staff about 4-5 years ago. They are looking at about \$130,000 to have someone there 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In reality, they are looking at about \$80,000. They are requesting about \$77,600 to help offset the cost.

Their total request is \$370,300. This is a \$40,000 increase over last year.

Councilor Knapp said their next piece of equipment will be the ambulance.

Greg thinks with the Capital Reserve they will have the funds to do it. He will get the Board the updated equipment sheet. Starting October 1st, all of their apparatus has GPS and Rural Metro is going to be a part of their system. All the police are on this too. It's going to send the closest apparatus to the patient. He guesses this will increase their call volume about 20%. They have been averaging about \$60,000 a year in receipts from billing for their services.

Ken said out of the \$60,000 they bought all the medical supplies. The drugs also come out of this as well as the money for the paid paramedics. They are trying to be self-sufficient with the billing but at this point in time, they think they may come up a little short. Next year it could be a different story. They started the billing in 1991. Generally the town's people get a bill for transport and whatever the insurance company pays out of this bill is what they take. If it's 80 %, they get 80%. They send a letter to the individual stating there's 20% that wasn't paid for. If the town's people wish to pay it, they can. They do not go after them for this. Someone on Route 81 would pay the full 100 %.

Greg said they have to take a discount on the rates with Medicare but the money is sent directly to the LFD. There are a lot of insurance companies that send the money directly to them now too. The new billing company they are using is a 4% less cost than the one they were using.

Ken said they talked with the guys regarding the Service Award Program.

Councilor McConnell said Mr. Malzyck would take over the administration.

Greg thinks going to Fidelity is a great idea. His name has been misspelled for the last two years and he can't get anyone to change it.

Councilor Knapp said he knows the LFD has been frustrated and so has the town. Greg knows that Councilor McConnell has spent a lot of hours on this.

Councilor McConnell said all the dealings he has had with Dave Rodgers have been prompt and professional.

Councilor Shute asked if the gentlemen advised the LFD that they would be paying for some of the expenses. It could be 1 ½ - 2 ½ %.

Greg asked if they aren't already paying something now.

Councilor McConnell said yes but he doesn't know what the rate is.

Further discussion regarding the Service Award Program took place.

Councilor McConnell said the Town Board will need to know as soon as possible from the LFD if they decide to go with this program as the town will have to notify Dave Rodgers.

Supervisor Scammell asked Tom Chartrand if he got all the figures the LFD gave.

Tom said he tried to get them all but hasn't received anything from them in writing.

Greg submitted their proposal to Tom.

Greg said going back to the EMS and the concept of them looking to purchase a new ambulance. They are thinking of keeping the old ambulance as backup. The old ambulance will require some work. He thinks it will cost \$5,000-\$10,000 to keep it going.

Ken said basically they would eliminate the medicar by converting it into a second ambulance for backup.

Councilor McConnell asked if the LFD makes more money than they anticipate this year in billing for the ambulance, will the town get refunded any of the money they put into this?

Ken said they are anticipating they might pay to put another ALS on for the second ambulance.

Greg said the \$77,600 would go down if their billing increases. Hopefully the income will go up.

Councilor McConnell asked if they got their answer on how to pay the benefits.

Ken said not yet.

Councilor McConnell said that will come out of the operating costs.

Ken said yes. They have different avenues that they are looking at right now.

Councilor Knapp said it seems there should be someone they can get on a program with.

Tom Chartrand asked what they are currently estimating for active members who will qualify at the end of this year for the Service Award Program.

Greg said it will be the same as last year and maybe a little less. It was at 52.

Tom said if the number is more than 52, it could be a problem for the town as \$40,000 is what was authorized through the permissive referendum.

Greg will get the answer for this within 1 or 2 members.

Tom said as long as we don't incur any legal fees transferring this program to the new one, we will be O.K. as long as it doesn't go over 52.

Councilor McConnell asked where we would incur legal fees.

Tom said if the Board asks the attorney to review the new program.

John Harper advised him the new ambulance would be \$167,000. They have money coming in from the billing.

Tom said the Board needs to know what the anticipated salary will be so we can fund for workers compensation.

Greg said it will be \$130,000. They are planning on paying \$15/hour for 365 days a year.

Tom confirmed this is the gross salary.

Greg said the maximum would be \$130,000.

Tom said he will need the exact amount next year.

Greg said that is the maximum.

Councilor Knapp said \$131,400 is \$15/hour, 24 hours a day for 365 days. He asked what we paid last year for Workers Compensation for the L.F.D.

Tom said it was \$26,500 for the LFD in general. We paid \$28,500 based on last years number. In his other towns, separate contracts were required for the emergency staff. The Town of Pompey contracts wit the Town of Manlius for the fire and ambulance separately. The total salary and expected revenues would have to be listed in the contracts. This is a legal question and he just wanted to let them know it may be required.

Councilor McConnell said there is a survey going out this week to the businesses and homes in the Hamlet area to find out income levels for grants and what the quality and quantity of water is. It's a survey to find information on the desire for water.

Councilor Knapp said it's just to see what the level of interest is. He thanked them for putting the budget together. He would ask these guys to remind the LFD Members that the town has gone up \$700 per firefighter and the worker's compensation has gone up and there are some behind the scene costs the town incurs on behalf of the LFD. The Board is doing what they can and wants to work with the LFD.

Tom advised there is \$20,000 as an unexpended balance. Right now we are looking at 10 cents/1,000 increase or a 9.41 % increase. This is a 7.63 % tax rate change.

The next Budget Work Session will be October 2nd at 5:30.

Councilor's McConnell moved and Knapp seconded the motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Motion passed unanimously.

The Town Board went into Executive Session at 9:51 p.m. and Supervisor Scammell called the Board Meeting back to order at 10:45 p.m.

Councilor's Knapp moved and Bailey seconded the motion to approve the following bills:

TRUST & AGENCY FUND # 8483

Motion passed unanimously.

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

The Special Town Board Budget Meeting adjourned at 10:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Kelly, Town Clerk
Adopted 10/2/07