

Minutes of the Town Board Budget Meeting held by the LaFayette Town Board on September 22, 2008 at 5:30 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
David Knapp, Councilor (Arrived 5:38 p.m.)
Thomas Bailey, Councilor
William McConnell, Councilor
Adrian Shute, Councilor

Recording Secretary: Mary Jo Kelly, Town Clerk

Others Present: Leon Cook, Highway Superintendent
Tom Chartrand, Bookkeeper
Pete Paul, Dep. Supervisor
Mary Doster, Tax Collector
Pat Keefe, Informational Officer

Supervisor Scammell called the Budget Meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

The Town Clerk took the Roll. Councilor Knapp absent and all else present.

- Sr. Citizens (Doris Guinn)

- Receiver of Taxes (Mary Doster)

Mary Doster said she put in for a raise and it's because she is in the office 4-5 times a week from 1-4 hours. Obviously we don't have 50 calls on the answering machine anymore and people appreciate the fact that someone returns their calls. She doesn't think the bank codes were updated and they must be updated all the time. You need to have a Tax Collector that is available during the day. If you have someone just coming in during the evening like before then you might just as well go with the county to collect the taxes. It's not that she thinks this is a good idea but if you are only going to have someone in at night, you can at least call the county during the day. When she accepted this position she was told the pay was more than what she found out it was. She will be collecting taxes during the day on Monday and Tuesday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and whenever she is in the office she would take payments from people. She will also collect Wednesday evening from 6-8 p.m.

Councilor McConnell asked if these hours will be in the Newsletter.

Mary Doster said no. She just worked the hours out this afternoon but it will be on the tax bills. These hours would be for January. In February she would do 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday and 6-8 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. In March she would do the same. This increases the hours. If she's in the office, she will take the taxes.

Supervisor Scammell appreciates the work she has done to make things work a lot better. A lot of the calls went over to him and there was nothing he could do about the bank codes, etc.

Councilor Knapp said there are a handful of people that pay by December 31st.

Mary Doster said she will be here.

Councilor Bailey asked if there was a percentage of people who walk in as apposed to those that mail in their taxes.

Mary Jo said a lot of folks come in with cash during the day. She appreciates the hours Mary has put in as she is not receiving any calls looking for tax receipts for closings like she got in the past.

- Town Historian (Greg Titus)

- Town Justices (Malcolm Knapp/Maureen Perrin)

- Code Enforcement (Ralph Lamson/Jack Sutton)

Councilor Knapp asked what the conferences were for.

Ralph Lamson said the state is going to limit the number of classes they offer for Code Enforcement to get the 24 hours of required education each year. They will have to go to the conferences that are put on around the state. Hopefully they will be able to hit the one in Syracuse. He thinks that one costs \$300/person. Currently they get the classes for free.

Councilor McConnell said every year there is a sizeable increase in salary for the Code Enforcement Officer and his Deputy. Can he explain this.

Ralph Lamson said every year the work load increases. There are more requirements from the state and more work people need done. He could easily put in 30-40 hours a week and still have work to do. They haven't done inspections on the businesses in town in 2-3 years.

Councilor McConnell asked if the increase would mean these other things would get done.

Ralph Lamson said the increase reflects what he thinks they should be making now.

Councilor McConnell said with the salary increase the other work wouldn't get done yet.

Ralph Lamson said they would do what they could get done. He still has a couple more classes he has to take. After that he hopes to get to the businesses in town.

Councilor McConnell asked if the salary is based on a fee or some formula.

Ralph Lamson said he called around and found out that he is just about the lowest paid Code Enforcement Officer in the county.

Supervisor Scammell asked if he has an estimate on hours a week he works.

Ralph Lamson said he tries to keep it under 10 hours a week but sometimes it's over that.

Supervisor Scammell asked about Jack Sutton.

Ralph Lamson said between 5 and 6 hours. Jack goes to Florida in March.

Councilor Knapp asked if Jack Sutton is O.K. to continue on next year.

Ralph Lamson said as far as he knows. He certainly hopes so.

Supervisor Scammell asked what's in the legal contractual.

Tom Chartrand said a portion of Kevin Gilligan's retainer is here.

Supervisor Scammell asked if Ralph senses any big changes.

Ralph Lamson said the big change that he knows of is the state classes. Hopefully they will be able to hit the Syracuse classes.

- Assessment Grievance Board of Review (?)

- Animal Control (Jim Moore, Doug Scholes)

Supervisor Scammell would think everything is going well as he is getting a lot less calls.

Councilor Shute believes the Board discussed car repair before and it should be taken care of under the mileage payment.

Councilor McConnell asked if he is asking for a town-wide rate.

Tom Chartrand said that is his understanding

Councilor McConnell said there is a separate line for the enumeration. The Town Board hasn't made a decision on the dog enumeration so obviously the Board must decide this sometime before the budget is set.

Discussion took place regarding dog enumeration. Maybe in the future the town could coordinate with Dr. McMackin about a time that folks could get dogs vaccinated and licensed at the same time.

- Assessors, Marshall Taylor, Shawn Adam)

Councilor McConnell noted there is a budget proposed for 3 positions and we have only filled one.

Councilor Knapp said actually two and we discussed the third position at the last Town Board Meeting.

Councilor McConnell asked who the second Assessor is.

Councilor Knapp said Shawn Adam. Bill Turner will be on the ballot in November.

Councilor McConnell said the Chairman is currently Marshall Taylor, correct?

Tom Chartrand said you currently don't have a Chairman.

Councilor McConnell noted Shawn Adam is now on the Planning Board and an Assessor.

Councilor Knapp said this was already checked into. He had to resign from the Assessment Grievance Board of Review when he was appointed as an Assessor. Bill Turner will have to do the same.

- Cleaning/Maintenance (Shari Wheatley/Greg Scammell/Herb Salladin)

- Attorney (Kevin Gilligan)

- Jamesville Fire Dist. (Kevin Carver)

It was noted no increase asked for.

- Information Officer (Pat Keefe)

Pat Keefe said she won't have the numbers for mailing until next week. She requests the town-wide rate for salary increase.

- Town Clerk (Mary Jo Kelly)

- Planning Board (Jim Nakas) – Secretary (Mary Jo Kelly)

- Zoning Board (Stephen Beggs) – Secretary (Mary Jo Kelly)

- **Environmental Board (Rainer Brocke)**
- **Safety Officer (Tom Rezsnyak)**
- **Financial Consultant (Tom Chartrand)**
- **Town Supervisor (Gregory Scammell)**
- **Deputy Supervisor (Pete Paul)**
- **Town Board (David Knapp, Tom Bailey, William McConnell, Adrian Shute)**

Review of other Expenses (Building, etc.

Supervisor Scammell said there have been complaints from the neighboring property owners about the fence at the Community Center. It's in pretty bad shape. He got a couple of estimates of about \$4,000 to replace it. The walls in the town office building really need painting as well as some of the carpet needs to be replaced. There's outside work too.

Councilor Knapp said depending on what was left in the budget at the end of the year, we were talking about replacing one more heat pump.

Councilor Shute said Scott Kushner discussed the new pump leaking all over when it defrosts and the library rug gets wet.

The Budget Meeting ended at 6:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Kelly
Town Clerk

Adopted 9/30/08