

September 28, Special Town Board Budget Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Special Budget Town Board Meeting held by the La Fayette Town Board on September 28, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. in the La Fayette Commons Office Building at 2577 Route 11 in the Town of La Fayette.

Present: Supervisor Gregory Scammell
David Knapp, Councilman (Arrived 5:46 p.m.)
Thomas Bailey, Councilman
William Mc Connell, Councilman
Adrian Shute, Councilman

Recording Secretary: Mary Jo Kelly, Town Clerk

Others Present: Thomas Chartrand, Bookkeeper
Rainer Brocke, Env. Board
Judy Brocke
Jim Moore, DCO
Scott Kushner, Library
Phyllis Olmsted, Library
Mike Appel, Community Council
Dan Meldrim, Community Council
Nancy Kirby, Library
Maureen Perrin, Justice Dept.
Shawn Adam, Assessor Chair.
William Turner, Assessor
Doug Scholes, Dep. DCO

Supervisor Scammell opened the Budget Meeting at 5:46 p.m.
Councilman Knapp absent. All else present.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Mike Appel and Dan Meldrim were present.

Mike Appel presented the budget proposal for Community Council.

Councilor McConnell asked how many kids might go to Skaneateles or other beaches for swimming lessons.

Mike Appel said he didn't know. It's a pretty good program for the kids in the After School Program. The majority of the kids taking the lessons are from the After School Program.

Supervisor Scammell asked what will be new in the technology support.

Mike Appel said to update their website. They would like to attach it to the Town of LaFayette site. It would have the sheets to sign kids up for activities right online. They are working with Mike Forte on this.

Councilor McConnell asked where the line in their budget is for the person who takes care of the fields.

Mike Appel said under personal services for parks and maintenance.

Councilor McConnell asked if the person doing it is getting spread thin.

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Mike Appel said yes.

Councilor McConnell said he talked to the gentleman this summer and he said he was fine.

Mike Appel said they are looking to find someone to help with these responsibilities.

Councilor Bailey confirmed they are looking for a 2% increase overall.

Dan Meldrim said a little less than that.

Tom Chartrand asked why they are reducing the cost to prepare their 990's as the cost goes up every year.

Dan Meldrim said everything they submit to Bruce Donohue is in Quick Books now so it should reduce the cost. They did get some competitive bids in case this doesn't reduce the cost.

Scott Kushner said it hasn't reduced the cost for the Library.

Dan Meldrim said if it doesn't, they will have to do something about it.

JUSTICE DEPT.

Maureen Perrin was present. She reviewed their budget and the changes in the court system. They have put in for grant money but haven't seen anything yet. They are requesting more time for the two Deputy Clerks to try to keep up with the paperwork. They are requesting a 5% raise across the board. There's a lot more work.

Councilor McConnell asked if the additional 25 hours request3ed will be shared among the clerks.

Maureen Perrin said it will be shared between the two Deputy Clerks. Eva is already full-time.

Councilor Shute asked about the increase in postage.

Maureen Perrin said more and more paperwork must be sent out.

LIBRARY

Scott Kushner reviewed their budget. There is an increase in 3 areas. Preparing the 990's is the largest increase. One would think the Quick Books would lessen the time required as this is what they submit. The 990's cost is based on the fact that Bruce Donohue told Connie Foote he figures a 5% increase each year.

Councilor Shute asked if a full audit is required.

Scott Kushner said he didn't know. He thinks they just submit the 990's to the state. If the Board thinks there's a way to reduce this, he's fine with it. He doesn't think it has to be a full audit every year. The other increase is a 3% raise for the employees. The only other thing they increased was the nonbook line by \$500. They kept everything else the same.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Jim Moore and Doug Scholes were present.

Jim Moore reviewed their proposal. He discussed the citations they write. They have basically asked for a 5% cost of living increase. He would like to request a cage for transport for his vehicle. He thinks he can get one for less than \$100. They asked for an extra \$100 for training. They ran a little short this year. They would like to do the enumeration but they realize this probably won't be possible this year.

ASSESSORS

Shawn Adam and Bill Turner were present.

Shawn Adam said they requested a salary adjustment. The RPS is going to go up \$200. He discussed the training they are required to take.

Councilor McConnell asked where the training is held.

Shawn Adam said all over the state. He's been fortunate to take his state courses downtown. It depends on what course you need as to where it might be offered.

Bill Turner said he has to go out of town for his class.

Shawn Adam said they have managed to keep the training costs within the operating budget for the last two years. They haven't gotten a pay increase in the past few years.

Councilor Shute asked Tom Chartrand if this was correct.

Tom Chartrand said in 2006 they received \$7,320. In 2007 they received \$7,620. In 2008 they received \$7,850 and in 2009 they received \$8,090. It looks like there's been a raise every year since 2006. He can go back further if the Board would like him to. It looks like it's been about 3% every year.

Councilor McConnell believes every year we have put money away for a reval.

Tom Chartrand said we haven't done this for several years. There's about \$5,000 in that account.

Councilor Knapp said since our equalization rate is staying okay, he doesn't think a reval is really needed.

ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD

Rainer Brocke was present. Their budget is the same as last year. They will try to keep the flower boxes going to the extent they can but will try to replace a few of them. They will see if they can get an acceptable price.

Councilor Knapp asked if they would stay with the wood or go to plastic.

Rainer Brocke said they would probably stay with the wood. He wondered if he could get a deal on boxes, is there an extra \$5,000 besides the \$1,000 in their budget?

Councilor McConnell would hope they could take some money from the Economic Development Fund.

Tom Chartrand said you would still have to follow the Procurement Policy.

Councilor Knapp confirmed after you hit \$3,000, bids are required.

Tom Chartrand said over \$3,000 requires 3 bids and over \$10,000 there is a lot more requirements.

Councilor McConnell said there is a program at the school that is looking for projects to help with if he would like their help removing the boxes and storing them for the winter.

Rainer Brocke said he usually does this himself but might look to YCIP to help build a couple of new boxes.

Councilor McConnell said in the spring he went down to get some mulch at the Green Thumb. The owner said we didn't accept their offer for free flowers. Is there a way to lower the budget expenditures by accepting the flowers from them?

Rainer Brocke said he has a lot of problems just getting this done. Last year they gave the flowers from the Green Thumb a try. When you do something for free, you don't do as good

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of a job. They gave us the smallest flowers in their greenhouse. It turned out it was a bad selection of flowers and it was a bad show last year. There are thousands of people that go through this town every day. The question is do you want to take a chance? John Harper has always done well by them. He gives us good quality flowers. It was a pretty good show this year. His recommendation is to stay with Harpers. It is nice of Maines to donate flowers but then again, we have our own interests to look out for. When you put out your boxes in the spring, you're stuck with whatever you put out there. For \$500, he doesn't think this is too much.

Councilor Knapp asked how many boxes there are.

Rainer Brocke said 28.

Councilor Knapp said he talked to Senator DeFrancisco's Office last week and they said the Governor has started releasing the money for the grants and they have had several of theirs from last year paid. The good news is that the fire departments paperwork is all set. There really isn't a set criteria for who is getting paid so they can't say where the fire department is on the list. It will be sooner rather than later.

The Special Budget Meeting closed at 6:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Kelly
Town Clerk

Adopted 10/26/09

