

September 27, 2010 Special Town Board Budget Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Town Board Budget Meeting held by the LaFayette Town Board on September 27, 2010 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: Adrian Shute, Supervisor
David Knapp, Councilman
William McConnell, Councilman
Andrew Ohstrom, Councilman

Absent: Jerry Doolittle, Councilman

Recording Secretary: Mary Jo Kelly, Town Clerk

Others Present: John Greeley, Deputy Highway Supervisor
Thomas Chartrand, Town Bookkeeper
Mike Appel, LCC
Dan Meldrim, LCC
Maureen Perrin, Justice Court
Mary Doster, Sr. Citizens
Phyllis Olmsted, Library
Scott Kushner, Library
Connie Foote, Library
Marshall Taylor, Assessor
Shawn Adam, Assessor Chair.
Bill Turner, Assessor

Supervisor Shute called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

The Town Clerk took the Roll. Councilman Doolittle absent. All else present.

Justice Dept.

Maureen Perrin was present. She asked if anyone had any questions on the Justice Dept. proposal.

Supervisor Shute asked if they came up with anything for the grant.

Maureen Perrin said the bench work should be started next week. The design is completed. She explained what the new bench will look like. They have estimates coming for all new carpeting. They will be purchasing a T.V. and DVD player. There is more money available now. They are also getting 4 to 5 nice chairs for the District Attorneys, Prosecutors, etc. This is from the grant they got two years ago and have just received the money. There is up to another \$30,000 per court that is available now. She said postage has increased as they must notify all defendants now.

Councilman Knapp said our court continues to be the fourth busiest in the county.

Community Council

Mike Appel and Dan Meldrim were present.

Mike Appel said they came in at about 5% less than what they were at last year.

Councilman McConnell said believes their budget lives within the spirit of the letter the Town Board sent out. He asked if they felt the quality of the programs would reflect their decrease.

Mike Appel said no. They can make up the difference within their small budget.

Councilman McConnell asked about the increase in equipment.

Mike Appel thinks it's partly the mix they use on the fields.

Tom Chartrand said the first column is what they spent in 2009. The 2010 is what they asked for in this years budget. We are not at the end of the year yet so they may spend it all by then. In 2009 they requested \$9,150 and spent \$3,000. They reduced the budget for 2010 by \$100. They are still working with the programs this year.

Library

Scott Kushner reviewed their budget request with the Town Board.

Connie Foote said media is a big ticket item which is why they proposed an increase there. They are working with Bruce Donohue and he is talking about holding his salary at what he charged them last year. They are looking to see if there is another accounting service that could handle what they need to be done.

Scott Kushner said he talked with Bruce Donohue about this and he asked what exactly was being done. Was it just the 990 or a full audit? Bruce told him there's compilation which adds a lot of work. Is it necessary for them to have this done every year? He is going to look into other bids and will let Bruce Donohue know what he finds out.

Sr. Citizens

Mary Doster said it is proposed to keep their budget the same as last year.

Councilman McConnell asked if they would be taking the same number of trips.

Mary Doster said yes. The distance of the trips may vary so the expense may vary.

Assessors

Shawn Adam said the budget they have submitted shows a \$500 reduction. They requested a 2% salary increase for the 3 of them. They reduced equipment and everything else they held the line on.

Town Clerk

Mary Jo Kelly said her budget proposal remains the same. The increased expense in dog licensing tags, BAS Program updates, etc. will be incorporated into her existing budget.

Financial Consultant

Tom Chartrand reviewed his proposal.

Ropes Course

Supervisor Shute said Sandy Smith brought him the Hibbs Insurance application. Mr. Skeele thinks he can incorporate this under the town insurance which would save us a lot of money.

Councilman Ohstrom said this year it's significantly down in expenses and usage. We will definitely have a lot less revenue.

Tom Chartrand said on keeping the insurance separate, we are able to submit it to Youth Services.

Councilman Knapp asked Tom Chartrand if the budget was adopted as it is tonight, what would we be looking at.

Tom Chartrand said right now we would be at 31 cents/\$1,000. A \$100,000 home would go up \$31. The tax rate would go from \$5.83 to \$6.14. This is roughly a 5 % increase.

Councilman Knapp said we did not fill the retirement position in the Highway Dept. but it is still on the books.

Tom Chartrand thought when we got closer to snow season, we would be filling this position.

Supervisor Shute confirmed it's still in the budget.

Tom Chartrand said yes.

Councilman Knapp asked if the first \$50,000 from Community Development had been received.

Tom Chartrand said not yet.

Councilman Knapp asked to let him know when this is received.

Councilmen McConnell moved and Knapp seconded the motion to close the Special Budget Meeting. Motion passed.

The Special Budget Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Kelly
Town Clerk

Adopted 10/25/10