

BUDGET WORK SESSION
October 6, 2016

The Gerry Town Board met at 5:00 PM, October 6, 2016 for a budget work session.

Present were: John R. Crossley, Supervisor
 Gary J. Swan, Councilman
 Richard C. Heath, Councilman
 Linda D. Bartholomew, Councilwoman
 Recia L. Myers, Town Clerk
 Brian Anderson, Highway Superintendent

Proof of publication was provided by the Town Clerk.

Supervisor Crossley commented that after the last meeting he realized the 3% raise was over the tax cap and other issues came up as well. The problem is the 2% tax cap and the fund balance has been used a lot since 2012 when this came in to play which is now catching up to us. The accountants gave an estimated breakdown of the fund balance since 2012 and the predictions for 2017. Supervisor Crossley noted if we keep using the fund balance it will most likely get used up by 2020 and a high tax rate will go into play then.

Supervisor Crossley asked Laura, the town's accountant, if we get penalized for going over the tax levy and she said no only residents will not receive a rebate check. The rebate check is small amount and by weighing the odds Supervisor Crossley feels he would rather not raise taxes then get a small rebate check. The accountants suggested having a small meeting to go over planning ahead for the future and let the board know it was nobody's fault there was no way to build money up without increasing the tax rate.

Supervisor Crossley produced a copy of the latest 2017 budget that they removed the pay increase for the part time mower and reduced the court clerk's contractual line with a 2% pay increase for all employees. Brian Anderson, Highway Superintendent, noted that to help reduce the tax rate and stay below the tax cap he would be willing to cut his machinery line and general repair line together about 8 thousand. He feels they are in good shape right now and could be okay for next year. Supervisor Crossley also said the fire department contributions could be reduced to a 2% increase as well. Supervisor Crossley will discuss all the options with the accountants and present a new budget for the next meeting.

Supervisor Crossley spoke with Beth Korcyl, Insurance Representative, and she said the current plan the town has is supposed to raise 10 and a half percent for next year. He is meeting with her Thursday to go over this and suggested re-scheduling the meeting with the Highway Dept. for next Tuesday. Councilman Swan commented that he would like to see new employees that if their spouse has insurance they must take it as all companies are leaning towards this right now. Supervisor Crossley said that would be a good idea to have a highway committee meeting to discuss insurance and options too. A budget meeting with the Highway Department was scheduled for Tuesday, October 11th at 5 pm.

Supervisor Crossley spoke with the Court Clerk and she explained what she needed but was fine when they reduced the line to \$3,500.00 and she let him know an OCA grant is not available right now as it's the end of the cycle.

Supervisor Crossley reported on the merging of the towns and said they have not received a letter yet for phase 2 which is the hiring of someone to go through all the budgets. It turns out the grant money keeps getting lower and the town/village representatives are not happy and it looks like the probability of the towns/village and school merging is not going to happen. They are working on an emergency meeting with the State Senator to go over everything now.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Minutes Taken By,

Recia L. Myers,
Town Clerk