

BUDGET WORK SESSION
September 19, 2019

The Gerry Town Board met at 5:00 P.M., September 19, 2019 for a budget work session.

Present were: Richard C. Heath, Supervisor
Linda D. Bartholomew, Councilwoman
Randy J. Zahm, Councilman
Bruce Gustafson, Councilman
Recia L. Myers, Town Clerk
Brian Anderson, Highway Superintendent

Absent was: Gary J. Swan, Councilman

Proof of Publication was provided by Town Clerk.

Deputy Highway Superintendent, Tracy Butcher, gave the Town Board the budget requests from the Highway Department, which they are requesting a 4% wage increase, the health insurance contribution to remain the same at 13%, the eye care allowance increase to \$200.00 from \$150.00, if called in they would receive a compensation of at least a 2 hour minimum and vacation changes as follows:

1 year	5 paid work days
2 to 4 years	10 paid work days
5 to 10 years	15 paid work days
11 to 20 years	20 paid work days

Supervisor Heath said thank you and they will be going over everything and Councilwoman Bartholomew thanked the Highway Department for all that they do and she said it is nice to see everyone working together.

Myron Lanphere, Representative from the Sinclairville Fire Dept., brought in a 2017 990 and he noted that they cannot find the current one as they are having computer problems. Supervisor Heath requested for him to bring it in to the Town Clerk as soon as they find it. Mr. Lanphere noted that they are happy with whatever the Town decides on giving them. Mr. Lanphere said there are three new people dealing with the finances now and they have been there for only a few weeks, and they are unable to find the budget breakdowns right now. He said that they purchased masks last year, pagers and portable radios and Councilwoman Bartholomew asked about the required requirements the county was putting on them for the radios and he said yes some items they had to pay for as they were mandated.

Paul Atwell, Representative from the Gerry Fire Dept., gave copies of their Budget and bank statements to the Board from this year. Supervisor Heath asked how the rodeo went and he commented very well this year but they are still waiting on bills for a few stands they have to pay. A question regarding the foreign fire tax was asked and Mr. Atwell explained that it is given back by tax money but they have to use that to purchase certain items such as dress uniforms or coats. He explained that they done away with mileage and the fire dept. will possibly be paying off a truck this year. Councilman Zahm discussed using solar panels for the rodeo grounds and Mr. Atwell said they will bring that idea to their solar committee. The Town Board thanked Paul for all the paperwork and attending.

Supervisor Heath explained that the town will be losing 14 to 15 thousand dollars this year and Laura the accountant will be explaining everything at next week's Budget Session. He noted that he would like to go through the whole budget with Laura next week so she can explain everything in detail to everyone this year as it can be rather confusing. Highway Superintendent, Brian Anderson, discussed how he is concerned with the Highway Funds rolling over less and less every year as the cost of salt, sand and equipment keeps raising and he is concerned with using the reserves to reduce taxes. Supervisor Heath

noted that they have been putting extra money in the reserve though for the past two years to build that up again. They discussed that there is a way to be able to use CHIP fund money to use on equipment by switching certain accounts and Laura will explain that next week.

Highway Superintendent, Brian Anderson, said that they have been going by Supervisor's Heath advice on the re sealing of roads to a 3 to 4 year pattern instead of every year and so far its working and saving money. Councilman Gustafson asked how many miles of roads the town is responsible for and Mr. Anderson said 35 miles.

Supervisor Heath was left notes by the former Supervisor for the 2020 budget and he suggested on freezing the Part Time Workers wages and the fire departments and reducing the Court Clerk account as she received an extra \$1,000.00 last year and recommended to start reserving money for the possibility of re zoning Route 60 to commercial as well, Supervisor Heath is still waiting on an estimate for the cost and will let know once he receives. Supervisor Heath noted that the town most likely will not be able to stay under the 2% tax cap for next year as well.

Highway Superintendent, Brian Anderson, explained that he broke down the fire department's budget and the Highways and the fire department is receiving quite a bit more. Supervisor Heath commented that the fire department has to contract out though for repairs as the Highway does not and is hard to compare the departments.

Councilman Gustafson asked about the fire districts and Supervisor Heath noted that way back nobody wanted to change them and it fell on the County that would have to make the changes, not the towns. Discussions.

The meeting adjourned at 6:36 PM.

Minutes taken by,

Recia L. Myers, Town Clerk

