

BUDGET WORK SESSION

May 7, 2019

In Attendance:

Members Present: Mayor Janet Winkler, Commissioners: Larry Chapman, Jonathan Greer, Barry Mitchell, Rick Shew, Ann Smith and Bill Warren

Others Present: Town Manager, Rebecca Bentley, Assistant Finance Officer, Michelle Coffey and Town Clerk, Tammy Swanson

Call to Order:

Mayor Janet Winkler called the Budget Work Session to order, and Mayor Pro Tem, Bill Warren led the group in prayer:

Discuss FY 2019/2020 Budget:

Rebecca discussed the notes from the department heads review of the FY 2019/2020 budget. She stated that basically, they all said they had nothing that can be cut.

Examples: Police Dept. needs uniforms, Keith cannot cut dinner theater because of large fall production, Recreation Department needs a mower - Chuck did say that he cut his budget for the HCDA events he is involved with, and HCDA is funding the events. Janice Woodie did make some minor cuts for the HUB budget. Total of all the cuts - approximately \$20,000.

Rebecca commented that her estimates for this year are basically flat compared to the numbers from last year.

She made the following comments and suggestions.

- We have Powell Bill that we can stretch out.
- Don't know if we are going to get the PARTF Grant.
- Capital Lease is already in the budget for the Police Dept.
- Paving for CH Lathan Court – can be done with Powell Bill funds.

Public Works – Norman has indicated that they can live without a new chipper for a while longer. Typically, Norman's capital improvements are big dollar items. For the backhoe - will not be replaced in FY 2019/2020. Norman stated that he was good for FY 2019/2020.

It was the consensus of the Board to address repairs/issues with equipment for the Public Works Department as they arise.

Recreation Dept. – New Mower. If we get grant, we will have to have match money.

HUB Station –

Windows: We are in the third phase for window replacements and probably should complete.

Parking Lot: The east parking lot is not safe. If we pave CH Lathan Court, it should take care of that side of the parking lot.

Roof: The roof is leaking – can replace all at once or in phases. We have great differences in the bids. Roof Estimates - Conover Roofing – \$65,000 for Phase 1 – which covers the leaking. Campbell Roofing – Phase I – \$40,000, Phase II - \$40,000 and Phase III - \$40,000. Joe Icard – \$85,000 for all three sections. Joe also bid

in Phases - Phase I - \$26,000, Phase II - \$26,000 and Phase III \$30,000. Rebecca stated that Janice has the most confidence in Conover Roofing.

The Board favored Campbell Roofing or Joe Icard.

Refinishing Auditorium Floor: Bid is \$8,000.

Stage lighting: Keith Smith has developed a plan for improving the lighting for the next 4 years. The \$5,000 estimate he submitted is actually for bulbs for the lights we already have.

Painting Second Floor Hallway - Rebecca suggested that at least the hallway on the second floor should be consistent - the individual classrooms could be painted to reflect the artists more.

There were other items on a "wish list" for the HUB, but Rebecca suggested that these happen as the revenue is available.

Powell Bill - Include CH Lathan Court and Dogwood Street Extension. The engineering firm said that designing the extension will be quite costly. The engineer asked if it could be a narrow street. Plus, if we don't need the entire right-of-way, we could let Mr. Berry use what we don't use.

Commercial Sanitation – Republic Services has given us a list of businesses that use the Town services, and there are significantly more on their list than we currently charge. We will be billing all sanitation with the tax statements for the 2019 tax year.

Simply Green Recycling will no longer be picking up in Hudson – they are completing this month and then they will be through. Republic Service's household charge for recycling is \$4.50 per household.

Capital Improvements: Janet discussed the following list for Capital Improvements for FY 2019/2020 – HUB Windows - \$14,761, Refinish Auditorium Floor - \$10,000, Do Complete Roof at HUB - Joe Icard - \$85,000, Paving CH Lathan Court - \$43,224, Paving East Parking Lot - \$21,700, Dogwood Street Extension - \$25,000, Repaving Streets Designated - \$100,000, Police Dept. – Car Lease \$58,000, Tasers \$3,200 and In-Car Cameras \$3,000, Recreation Dept. Mower, \$12,800, Stage Lighting - \$5,000.

Rick suggested that we do repairs for the Council Room and other parts of Town Hall in phases.

Salaries: Proposed in budget - 2% COLA and 2% Merit

Rebecca stated that Chief Blevins had presented a report/request for salaries for the Police Dept. Chief Blevins has indicated that in order for him to be able to compete with other agencies for officers, he really needs more leverage with the salaries for his department.

Comments from Board:

Larry suggested that the merit be dropped to 1%. Larry also suggested that we once again look into using prison labor to help the Public Works Dept. He commented that a lot of towns around us are using them.

It was consensus of the Board to look at using prison labor again.

Janet asked the Board Members to comment on salaries – do they support the 2% COLA with a 1% Merit as suggested by Larry.

Jonathan discussed Larry's suggestion, and asked how many employees receive merit.

Rebecca stated that most of the employees do get merit. The Police Department gets their merit as a part of their promotion program.

Jonathan discussed what other counties and municipalities are doing with salaries.

Barry – Agrees with Larry’s suggestion.

Rick - Agrees with Larry’s suggestion - Police Dept. is a concern since there seems to be a competition going on between agencies to get officers.

Bill – Agrees with Larry’s suggestion.

Ann - Agrees with Larry’s suggestion.

Contingency - Rebecca commented that we will have a contingency of approximately \$100,000.

Next Budget Work Session Scheduled:

The next Budget Work Session was scheduled for Tuesday, May 21st at 5:00 pm, just prior to our May Regular Board Meeting at 6:00 pm.

Adjournment:

Motion: (Bill Warren/Larry Chapman) to adjourn the meeting. Unanimously approved.

Tamra T. Swanson, Town Clerk