

VESTAL TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2021

BUDGET REVIEW SESSION

Board Attendance: Supervisor Schaffer; Board Members Fitzgerald, Messina, Fletcher, Ellis

Also Attending: Town Comptroller Laura McKane, Deputy Town Comptroller Nick Angeline, Fire Chief John Paffie, Assistant Fire Chief Doug Rose, Secretary to the Supervisor and Town Attorney Andrea Kintner, 1st Deputy Town Clerk Heather Webster

Supervisor Schaffer **convened the Budget Review Session at 5:00 PM.**

AGENDA FOR 10-18-2021 BUDGET WORKSESSION

- **2022 Salaries for Elected Officials**

Town Comptroller McKane reviewed the 2022 Salary Proposals for Elected Officials. There will be a 5% increase for all elected officials, minus the Town Justices.

Councilman Ellis stated that the Town Supervisor position should match the pay of the Vestal Town Clerk position. Thus in 2022 he recommends bringing the Supervisor's position to an annual salary of \$69,782.00. Ellis stated since the Supervisor's position has been made full time, the associated responsibilities that go with the position should be matched monetarily. The majority of the Town Board members were in agreement and this request will be adopted to begin 2022.

- **Request to Amend 2021 Budget to pay off EMS Building debt.**

Town Comptroller Laura McKane stated that this debt will be paid off in full for \$300,000 which will save the Town \$100,000 in interest.

- **2022 Budget for 200th Anniversary Celebration. The Law allows up to \$25,000 for publicity. Budget has \$5,000 (A6410)**

The agreed upon budget for the 200th anniversary will be \$10,000 total. \$5,000 in Publicity, \$5,000 in Celebrations.

- **Budget Versions with Liability Insurance and without.**

The Town Board agreed unanimously to obtain Liability Insurance. Town Comptroller McKane stated that we could absorb the costs with revenue from Sales Tax.

- **Sewer Rents Increase**

Town Comptroller McKane presented the Town Board with two separate proposals for sewer rent increases. There hasn't been a sewer rent increase in the Town of Vestal since 2018. The majority of the Town Board preferred proposal one.

- **Possible Use of Capital Reserves or ARPA Funds for Water and Sewer Districts**

Not Applicable

- **Town Swimming Pool and Related Budget Impact?**

The Town Board is awaiting information from Town Engineer Vern Myers for discussion on this topic.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion of Councilman Fletcher, seconded by Councilwoman Messina, the following was **ADOPTED**

Ayes 5 Fitzgerald, Messina, Fletcher, Ellis, Schaffer
Nays 0

Resolved the Board enter into Executive Session to discuss the following items:

- Personnel Matters
- Non-union wages/Performance
- Tentative Agreement with CSEA

The time was 5:20 PM.

On a motion of Councilman Ellis, seconded by Councilwoman Fitzgerald the following was **ADOPTED**

Ayes 5 Fitzgerald, Messina, Fletcher, Ellis, Schaffer
Nays 0

Resolved the Board leave the Executive Session. The time was 5:50 PM.

600 PM – Review of the 2021 Proposed Fire District Budget

Town Comptroller Laura McKane provided the Town Board with a brief overview of 2022 Fire District Budget. Fire District financial goals and strategies were reviewed. In addition McKane reviewed Capital Projects projected for six years and some long term Capital Projects for up to twenty years.

Some 2020 projects had to be deferred to later dates due to the impact of COVID-19. The Fire Department 2022 VS. 2021 Budget is below.

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Fire District Appropriations	Tax Levy	Tax Rate per \$1,000 of AV	Example \$100,000 Home
2022			
Proposed Budget: \$ 1,802,636	\$ 1,787,130	0.8844	\$ 88.44
2021			
Adopted Budget: \$ 1,606,738	\$ 1,597,708	0.8344	\$ 83.44
Change: \$ 195,898 *	\$ 189,422*	0.0500	\$ 5.00

** Increase is primarily for additions to the reserves as part of the long range building and equipment replacement plan*

Councilwoman Fitzgerald said she was impressed with the Fire Department Budget and thanked all of the Fire Department Volunteers for always putting their lives on the line.

Councilwoman Messina stated that the Fire Department Budget was clear and understandable and is proud of all of our Fire Department Members. In addition she stated that this budget work was a huge endeavor and was very well done.

Councilman Fletcher commended Fire Chief Paffie and the Assistant Chiefs on a job well done with the 2022 Fire Department Budget. He stated that working off of Reserves VS. Bond's by 2028 is an outstanding goal not yet met by any other municipality.

Councilman Ellis congratulated Fire Chief Paffie, Assistant Chief Rose and the other Assistants for a job well done. He stated he is very proud of our Fire Department and of being a member as well.

Supervisor Schaffer made the statement that his hat is off to Fire Chief John Paffie on his first budget presentation. He also stated that he is very proud of the Fire Department and all that they do to keep the Town of Vestal safe. Having attended some fire calls himself, Supervisor Schaffer said he is in awe of the work that they do to ensure that everyone gets home safely. In closing, Shaffer said he is very proud to be a Fire Department Commissioner.

Chief Paffie personally thanked the Town Board, his Assistant Chiefs and Town Comptroller Laura McKane for their continued support of the Fire Departments Fiscal Responsibilities.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion of Councilman Ellis, seconded by Councilwoman Fitzgerald, the following was **ADOPTED**

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Ayes 5 Fitzgerald, Messina, Fletcher, Ellis, Schaffer
Nays 0

Resolved the Board enter into Executive Session to continue the discussion of the following items:

- Personnel Matters
- Non-union wages/Performance
- Tentative Agreement with CSEA

The time was 6:35 PM.

On a motion of Councilman Fletcher, seconded by Councilwoman Messina the following was **ADOPTED**

Ayes 5 Fitzgerald, Messina, Fletcher, Ellis, Schaffer
Nays 0

Resolved the Board leave the Executive Session. The time was 6:55 PM.

Budget review of the Recreation Department continued for the remainder of the Work Session. Councilman Ellis requested clarification of the Recreation Departments 2022 Labor Cost Increases.

UPCOMING PUBLIC HEARINGS

11-03-2021 Sewer Rent Increases – Local Law E

On a motion by Councilwoman Messina, seconded by Councilman Fletcher, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Wallace, Town Clerk