

Minutes of September 18, 2018 Germantown Town Board Budget Workshop meeting, held in the Germantown Town Hall, Germantown, NY, commencing at 6:35pm.

Present: Supervisor Beaury  
Councilwoman DuFresne  
Councilman Kukon  
Councilman Sullivan

Absent: Councilman Moore

Recorded by: Town Clerk, Joyce Vale

Supervisor Beaury opened the Town Board Budget Workshop meeting and led with the Pledge to the Flag.

Motion to open the Town Board Budget Workshop made by Councilwoman DuFresne, seconded by Councilman Sullivan, with all in favor and none opposed.

Supervisor Beaury said that we rely on sales tax more than other municipalities. The first three lines are 63% of our revenue comes from real estate and sales taxes plus mortgage recording taxes. Supervisor Beaury said there are four divisions, Town, Highway, Sewer and Lighting where it gets split into to make it work. Supervisor Beaury put in the preliminary budget for \$300,000 in sales tax and said that is a substantial amount but if that get cuts by 50% that money will need to come out of the fund balance. Supervisor Beaury explained that the fund balance is the money that is kept in reserve. Supervisor Beaury said 41.39% comes from real estate taxes and 21.55% comes from sales tax. Supervisor Beaury said that our real estate taxes are very low. Supervisor Beaury said that for 2019 our tax cap is 1.02% and he recommends going for this. That 1.02% tax cap will net us \$13,700 which will go towards union and full-time employee raises and health insurance.

Supervisor Beaury said there is a request for 3 trucks: 2 for Highway, 1 for Sewer totaling \$300,000. Councilwoman DuFresne asked what type of trucks. Supervisor Beaury said a dump and pick-up truck for Highway and pick-up truck for sewer. Supervisor Beaury said we should have a plan for replacing these vehicles and we may want to look into leasing. Councilman Kukon asked what will these vehicles be used for? Councilwoman DuFresne said should they be plowing with it? Councilman Kukon thinks George's truck needs to be replaced. Janet asked if they wanted her to go back through the bills for George's truck for 2018. Councilwoman suggested getting a utility truck and not to use it for plowing just to use going back and forth to the sewer plant. Councilman Kukon suggested getting together with Rich and George to discuss the trucks before the next meeting. Supervisor Beaury said he would arrange the meeting.

Councilwoman DuFresne asked what the big difference in youth and recreation? Supervisor Beaury said it was summer camp. Supervisor Beaury said we should not go below 2018 amount of \$656,695 he recommended we go to \$689,093 our income and expenses effect the tax cap calculations.

Supervisor Beaury said there will be no raises this year just 2% for the Highway, Maintenance and Sewer departments. Will discuss personnel raises in executive session.

With regard to real estate taxes, Supervisor Beaury said the county will be doing the re-assessment for us for the amount of \$13,500, which would be spread out over 3 years, if the Board approves. Supervisor Beaury recommends doing the re-assessment.

Supervisor Beaury said he just renewed the town insurance for \$35,000 last week with a couple to changes to the policy. The town has \$1,000,000 liability for the entire town, with an umbrella of \$2,000,000. Supervisor Beaury increased the umbrella to \$3,000,000 over \$1,000,000 basic liability coverage. Councilman Kukon said that he thinks what your net worth is should be what your liability is. Supervisor Beaury increased the umbrella from \$2,000,000 to \$3,000,000 and also purchased cyber insurance. Councilwoman DuFresne said there is a giant liability with the police department. Supervisor Beaury said we can't protect ourselves from that. Discussion on police department and the liability. Supervisor Beaury put the police in contractual not salary in the preliminary budget. The only time we pay for additional services is on DA night for a minimum 3-hour shift at between \$47 and \$67 an hour comes out to a maximum of \$2,400 per year. Councilman Sullivan suggested if needed to take money out of the \$20,000 police budget instead of cutting anywhere else. Supervisor Beaury said if we took the \$20,000 out of the police budget that would balance the budget on the expense side. Supervisor Beaury will re-do the budget for the next workshop meeting.

Motion to close the Town Board Workshop meeting made by Councilwoman DuFresne, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Workshop closed at 7:36pm.

Respectfully submitted,