

TOWN BOARD

The Town Board, Town of Highlands, held a budget workshop on Monday, September 15, 2014 at Town Hall, 254 Main St, Highland Falls, NY at 6:00pm.

PRESENT:	Mervin R. Livsey	----	Supervisor
	William Edsall	----	Council Member
	June Gunza	----	Council Member
	James Stradley	----	Council Member (arrived 6:40pm)
	Kelly Blauvelt	----	Comptroller
	June Patterson	----	Town Clerk

Supervisor Livsey opened the budget workshop at 6:00pm.

Supervisor Livsey stated that the Water District #1 & #2 Points and Sewer Points have been provided to the Town Clerk.

Supervisor Livsey said Ms. Blauvelt provided preliminary numbers and they show the tax levy to be well over the 2% tax cap. The Supervisor said the Police and Highway vehicles may have to be removed from the budget.

Library

The Board reviewed the budget with Mrs. Brahm.

Mrs. Brahm explained the reason for her increase.

Mr. Koustaradous further explained the needs of the library.

Council Member Gunza said she would like to see the library get more money if the Town can afford it.

Planning

The Board reviewed the budget with Erik Smith.

There was a discussion on the salary of the secretary.

Council Member Edsall brought up the revenue. Mr. Edsall stated that he believes more revenue is brought in than is shown.

The Board discussed Escrow and Trust & Agency funds.

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Ms. Blauvelt said Trust & Agency is a separate bank account and it is not revenue.

Mr. Smith said that the only revenue is the application fees.

Mr. Smith said the Town should take advantage of David Church's offer to help with the Code.

Building

Supervisor Livsey thanked Mr. Hager for his work on the points.

The Board briefly discussed the points.

Mr. Hager said if the school is not hooked up to water, their points will need to be changed.

The Board continued to review the budget, which stayed almost the same.

The Board discussed a vehicle and the reserve fund for a vehicle.

Codification

Mr. Hager said this line was reduced last year and there is no change this year.

The Board discussed what this budget is used for.

The Board discussed the Building Department revenue.

Mr. Hager asked the Board to consider a raise for his secretary.

The Board discussed the equipment line and reduced it by \$1,500.

Insurance

Ms. Blauvelt said Mr. Liebert is raising his cost by 5%.

Supervisor Livsey said he informed Mr. Liebert that if was going to raise his cost, the Town would be going out to bid for insurance.

Association Dues

Ms. Blauvelt said the dues are up a little.

Contingent

The Board reviewed this and discussed it briefly.

Supervisor Livsey said he would like to remove \$10,000 from the Contingent account.

The Board agreed.

Ms. Blauvelt stated that the estimated Unexpended Fund Balance is approximately \$469,000 for this year.

Ms. Blauvelt said if the big ticket items are removed from the budget, the Town will be close to the 2% tax cap.

Receiver of Taxes

Ms. Blauvelt said this budget went up approximately \$300.

The Board reviewed the budget.

Zoning

Ms. Blauvelt said she was told by the Chairman to keep the budget the same. Ms. Blauvelt questioned the amount that was in the legal line.

Recreation

The Board reviewed this budget and discussed raising Recreation fees.

Supervisor Livsey asked Ms. Blauvelt to sit down with Mr. Willis and discuss the fees.

Benefits

The Board reviewed the information provided by Ms. Blauvelt.

Debt

Ms. Blauvelt said the debt can't be changed.

Historian

The Board agreed to not take over the Village's portion of that salary.

Supervisor Livsey said the Board will look at it when they discuss salaries.

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Assessor

Ms. Blauvelt said this budget went up about \$15,000 which is, in part to the \$20,000 put in for the re-valuation. Ms. Blauvelt said a full re-valuation might not have to be done. Ms. Blauvelt suggested taking this amount out of the budget and taking the money from somewhere else if needed.

Ms. Blauvelt said Ms. Talman is asking for a \$1,500 stipend to do the re-valuation.

Supervisor Livsey said the Board would discuss that when salaries are discussed.

Ms. Blauvelt said no revenue was put in this budget.

Ms. Blauvelt said she will look at Chief Quinn's calculations for salaries.

Council Member Stradley made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

MOTION CARRIED: 4-eyes (Livsey, Edsall, Stradley, Gunza)
0-nays
1-absent (Voltaire)

Attest,