

**TOWN BOARD MEETING
TOWN OF COXSACKIE
BUDGET WORKSHOP
October 21, 2021**

PRESENT: Richard Hanse, Supervisor
Thomas Burke, Councilman
Patrick Kennedy, Councilman
Michael Veeder, Councilman
Linda Wilkinson, Councilwoman
Bambi Hotaling, Town Clerk
Karen Pautz, Budget Officer
Wanda Dorpfeld, Town Justice

Supervisor called the meeting to order at 6:12 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Judge Dorpfeld addressed the board advocating for salary increases for Court Clerks Jackie and Norma. Wanda reported that the Court has suffered duress due to COVID, bail reform and ever-changing rules and regulations. Both of the clerks have done great jobs this past year stepping up to meet the challenges. Judges Dorpfeld and Warren are supportive of increasing Jackie's salary by \$1.50 per hour and by raising Norma's salary by \$2,000 per year. Wanda went on to say that the Court would be hard pressed if we lost them. Discussion ensued. It was noted that the budget calls for 4% salary increases across the board.

Town Clerk has requested a \$2.00 per hour increase for clerk, Lorraine Tremmel. Tom Burke disclosed that he is related to Lorraine. Discussion ensued.

Budget officer stated that currently the budget is exactly at the tax cap; cannot spend one more dollar. Karen discussed the following:

- Worker's comp is up by \$80,000
- PILOTS are lower
- Minimum wage is going up to \$13.20 per hour effective 12/31/21 (up 70 cents)
- Budgeted \$46,000/year for new ambulance, other than that no equipment requests from Nadine have been received
- Health insurance numbers are not available yet
- Budgeted \$110,000 for highway equipment – tractor/mower; money absolutely cannot be spent this year. Tom says letter of intent is required to hold price. Mike is going to reach out to the vendor.

Discussion ensued on whether to bond new ambulance and highway equipment.

Discussion on salary increases. Again, the budget calls for 4% across the board including the elected officials.

A motion to increase the salary of Jacqueline Foster to \$17.32 per hour and an increase of Norma Johnson's salary to \$43,259 per year was made by Patrick Kennedy seconded by Michael Veeder and duly carried.

Ayes: 5 – Hanse, Burke, Kennedy, Veeder, Wilkinson

A motion to increase the salary of Lorraine Tremmel to \$14.81 per hour was made by Patrick Kennedy seconded by Michael Veeder and duly carried.

Ayes: 4 – Hanse, Kennedy, Veeder, Wilkinson Abstain: 1 – Burke

A motion to set the elected officials' salaries as presented which includes a 4% increase was made by Thomas Burke seconded by Patrick Kennedy and duly carried.

Ayes: 5 – Hanse, Burke, Kennedy, Veeder, Wilkinson

It was noted that after the public hearing the elected officials' salaries can be decreased but not increased.

Patrick and Mike have been in negotiations with Hose 3. The contract will be for one-year with a \$6,000 increase.

Tentative budget calls for an overall increase of 6.93% in the Village and 1.82% in the Town.

A motion to accept the tentative budget as the preliminary budget as presented was made by Thomas Burke seconded by Patrick Kennedy and duly carried.

Ayes: 5 – Hanse, Burke, Kennedy, Veeder, Wilkinson

A motion to schedule a public hearing on the preliminary budget (previously scheduled) for November 3 at 7:00 pm was made by Patrick Kennedy seconded by Michael Veeder and duly carried.

Supervisor asked for a motion to create a full-time laborer position in the highway department at a starting salary of \$17.26 per hour (per union contract) contingent upon the vacant motor equipment operator position remaining vacant until such time as the laborer position is vacated. When the laborer position is vacated, it will automatically be removed from the budget and the motor equipment operator position may be filled. Thomas Burke offered the motion which was seconded by Patrick Kennedy and duly carried.

Ayes: 5 – Hanse, Burke, Kennedy, Veeder Wilkinson

At 7:45 pm a motion to adjourn was made by Thomas Burke seconded by Patrick Kennedy and duly carried.

Bambi Hotaling, Town Clerk