

**TOWN OF HECTOR
BUDGET WORKSHOP
October 4, 2018**

Members Present:

Alvin J. White, Supervisor
Robert Barton, Councilman
William Preston, Councilman
Jessica Rodgers, Councilwoman
Justin Boyette, Councilman
Elizabeth Martin, Councilwoman

Others:

Jane M. V. Ike, Clerk
Robert Stapleton, Water Superintendent
Keith Caslin Dale Walter
Jason Kelly Nathan Mayo
Steve Crout Mike Hicks
Chuck Fitch

Called to order at 6:00pm by Supervisor A. White, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor A. White presented the 2019 Tentative Budget; reviewed the tax cap requirement allows \$97,512 increase in levy. Councilwoman Rodgers asked for clarification; Supervisor White explained appropriations, revenues, expenditures and fund balances.

Mecklenburg Volunteer Fire Company: Nathan Mayo, Fire Chief presented their request for \$134,640; 2% increase; final truck payment was made this year; new cancer insurance requirements could be \$275-\$300 per person per year for every interior fire fighter (14 people now); must carry coverage for 5 years after person leaves service; no accurate numbers yet; expect a decrease in workmen's comp. Questions were asked regarding reserve funds; Mecklenburg does have some and will provide the figures; recommended they continue to save when they can for unexpected expenses.

RESOLUTION #156 – offered by Rodgers, seconded by Barton

Resolved to accept Mecklenburg Volunteer Fire Company's budget request at \$134,640 for 2019.

Ayes 6, Nays 0

Odessa Volunteer Fire Department: Odessa requested a 3-year contract with a 1% increase in 2019 at \$11,169; 0% increase in 2020 at \$11,169 and a 1% increase in 2021 at \$11,281

RESOLUTION #157 – offered by White, seconded by Boyette

Resolved to accept Odessa Volunteer Fire Department's request for a 3-year contract request with 2019 at \$11,169, 2020 at \$11,169 and 2021 at \$11,281. Ayes 6, Nays 0

Valois Logan Hector Volunteer Fire Company: Mike Hicks presented their request for a 6% increase to \$228,000; they have reserve funds for truck purchases and ambulance; expected cancer insurance coverage amounts to ½ the amount of the increase. Discussion of total Town budget increase – fire departments are taking 32% of the allowed increase; must justify.

RESOLUTION #158 – offered by Martin, seconded by Preston

Resolved to accept Valois Logan Hector Volunteer Fire Company's budget request at \$228,000 for 2019.

Ayes 6, Nays 0

Village of Burdett: Supervisor White reported that the Safety Committee met with the Village to review contract options. Mayor Dale Walter reported the request for a 3-year contract with a 10% increase each year. Supervisor White explained that the board is not sure that is the best option. Discussion of past increases; tax cap; coverage area and proposed boat purchase. Keith Caslin reported that Burdett Fire covers 52 square miles; approximately ½ of the Town of Hector; anticipate the cancer insurance coverage to be around \$20,000 per year; have 11 new members. Supervisor White expressed concerns for the tax payers footing the bill; with an annual payment for the new firehouse on top of the contract; the Town prefers a 1-year contract; 10% a year for 3 years is questionable. Mayor Walter requested a 12% increase for 2019 if only a 1-year contract. Councilwoman Rodgers suggested we split the difference and offered 11%. Councilwoman Martin asked for a better breakdown of budget number and expenses from the Village. Mayor Walter indicated they would be provided when they knew the actual contract numbers. and \$121,570.44 firehouse payment. Keith Caslin argued the amount of coverage area vs VLH and the differences in contracts. It was pointed out that VLH only contracts with the Town; Burdett also gets funding from the Village.

RESOLUTION #159 – offered by Martin, seconded by Preston

Resolved to accept the 1-year contract request at 11% with a 2019 budget figure of \$173,140 plus \$121,570.44 firehouse payment for a total of \$294,710.44 for 2019. Ayes 5, Nays 0, Abstain 1 (Barton)

Village of Trumansburg Fire Department: Requested \$18,014.00 for 2019; a 2% increase; based on 3-year average of calls.

RESOLUTION #160 – offered by White, seconded by Barton

Resolved to accept the proposed 2% increase for the Village of Trumansburg Volunteer Fire Department for 2019 for a total contract of \$18,014. Ayes 6, Nays 0

Trumansburg Ambulance: Contract request for 2019 - \$37,907.00; due to an increase in calls into Hector.

Mecklenburg Ambulance: Contract for 2019 will be \$42,512.00. Response times have been cut in half by contracting with Trumansburg.

RESOLUTION #161 – offered by Martin, seconded by Barton

Resolved to accept the Trumansburg Ambulance contract for 2019 at \$37,907.00 and the Mecklenburg Ambulance contract for 2019 at \$42,512.00 Ayes 6, Nays 0

Water District: 2019 Tentative Budget reviewed line by line starting at 7:20pm. Summary of appropriations and revenues reviewed; took out use of fund balance; EDU's cover the loan payment. Salaries include the \$.45 per hour increase. Discussion regarding division of salaries; determined that both Water Superintendent and Assistant's salaries will be moved to SW8310 section of budget.

Computer issues recently; added a new computer to be able to access the server; budgeting for portable radios, security cameras and a metal detector. VPN will be set up by SCT at the Town Hall on October 31.

Discussion regarding total appropriations; could raise contingency some; revenues discussed; anticipate gallons used to change due to upgrades at Smith Park. Will look at water rates for 2019. Currently we have only 3 non-working meters in the system. Changing process to balance budget; took out appropriated fund balance.

Oldest pickup truck is a 2010 and has 94,000 miles; service body is beginning to leak; repairs have been getting expensive; looking to rotate trucks in separate years; replace the 2010 in 2019 and the 2017 in 2020; need a lift gate on one and a snowplow on the other. Truck with service gate and no plow is approximately \$41,000; will look a fund balance in February before making final decision.

Other Business:

Fourth Annual NYS Local Government Innovation Conference to be held in Albany in Nov. 16th. Association of Towns training in NYC in February 2019.

Sexual Harassment Draft Policy given to board to read – will need to be approved at next meeting.

FEMA Federal Disaster designation; State fixed Camp Meeting Road; 21 people are on the list needing debris removal; as these are not a public safety issue the Board will need to make a decision as to how to proceed. Attorney Halpin will be asked to come to October 9th meeting to discuss options; cannot fix private roads; can remove debris. VOADs have been meeting to discuss help needed; an unmet needs committee has been formed also. Public safety issues on some of the private roads have been repaired; others still need to be repaired.

Motion by Martin, seconded by Rodgers to adjourn at 9:11pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane M. V. Ike
Clerk