

**TOWN OF CANTON BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING**

October 5, 2020

06:00 PM

Minutes

Present: Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley, Council members Bob Washo, James Smith, Tim Danehy and Council member Karin Blackburn by Zoom

Also, present: Town Clerk Tax Collector Lisa Hammond, Deputy Clerk Tax Collector Heidi Smith, Justice Michael Morgan, John Gray of Gray and Gray, Adam Atkinson of North Country Now

A. Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley called the meeting to order.

B. 2021 Budget Discussion.

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley went over the format of the budget and noted that the goal is to have a balanced budget. Ashley went on to say that the sales tax has decreased by 10%, CHIPS by 20%, State Revenue by 20 %. Committee recommendation was to increase contributions for health insurance to 25% for non-contractual and 35 % for retirees. Discussion was held on the decrease in Court Revenues with Judge Morgan commenting on the restriction that the Governor is placing on them. Discussion was held on increasing the part time court clerk hours to 780 hours at \$15.00 an hour. After discussion it was decided the pay would \$12.50. A five-cent increase in tax rate from 2.72 to 2.75 per thousand is being considered.

Currently the A fund is over in spending by 3,100.00. Consideration will be taken in eliminating the Labor Services under Attorney of 8,400.00.

Currently the B fund is under \$13,601.00 in spending. A Code Assistant was discussed at the cost of \$7,800.00 to \$8,900.00 of which the Village would pay half of.

Currently the DA fund is under in spending by \$58,011.00. DB fund is over in spending \$84,244.00. SF 275.000 to stay the same along with the Morley Lighting District will stay at \$4,000.00. The overall budget is under in spending by \$15,732.00. Ashley stated that what we need to do is balance the budget.

Supervisor Ashley and Council members went over funds and discussion was held. Transportation and Administration items were discussed along with an increase in WIFI services.

Supervisor Ashley recommended decreasing B fund by moving \$13,601.00 to the DB fund to balance the budget.

Discussion was held on pay raises for non-contractual employees at 1%. Supervisor Ashley wants to see fundamental fairness. Council member Danehy suggested that the Supervisor and Council members get no raise. Council member Washo suggested that Elected officials get no raise. Danehy stated that if Elected Officials that are in the Retirement System don't get a raise, it will compound every year down the line for their time in the State Retirement System that they are not getting credit for. Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley noted that the Justices are part time positions, and the Town Clerk and Highway Superintendent are full time.

Council member Bob Washo is concerned about infrastructure being kicked down the road and giving raises to employees.

Discussion was held on placing \$50,000.00 in contingency from the Equipment DA account. Council member Jim Smith suggested possibly taking \$5,000.00 out of brush and weeds, noting that nothing has been spent out of this account. DB has a deficit at this time of \$70,643.00 as proposed.

Council member Tim Danehy suggested holding discussion with both Town and Village boards about the cutting the budget by \$32,000.00 in the recreation account. Council member Bob Washo stated that he wants to know and see what is being cut with this \$32,000.00.

Cut of \$1,800.00 for the Recreation was proposed.

1% pay raise was proposed by Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley for all employees. Ashley noted that her original proposal was for a 2.5% raise. Council member Tim Danehy stated that he feels that the Council members should not receive a raise. Council member Bob Washo disagreed with this idea. In ending Council member Tim Danehy proposed a 1% raise for salaried, non-elected, non-contractual that would be Court Clerk, Assessor, Deputy Clerk, Historian and Code Officer. Council member Bob Washo proposed hourly employees also get 1% raises.

Council member Jim Smith proposed increasing no more than \$5,000.00 to the small Fire Departments, Morley, Pyrites and Rensselaer Falls. Putting balance in contingency of \$32,000.00. Discussion was held.

8:06 pm Motion to adjourn meeting by Council member Bob Washo, seconded by Council member Karin Blackburn. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lisa Hammond". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Lisa Hammond, Town Clerk