

The Town Board met this afternoon at 4 PM at the Gardiner Town Hall to discuss department head requests for the 2011 budget. Present were Supervisor Katz and Councilmen, Koenig, Mele and Wiegand. Councilwoman Lemmon was absent. Also present were Town Clerk/Tax Collector Michelle Mosher, Superintendent of Highways Charles Haynes, Building Inspector Hank Vance, Acting Assessor Maureen Gallagher and Justice Savago and Court Clerk Jean Savago. There were no audience members.

ASSESSORS

Ms Gallagher requested an increase of \$1800 in her conference line. Board members discussed with her how the State reimbursement works for her conferences. Commented that the new clerk/fieldworker has started working 20 hours per week at a salary of \$15.00 per hour. She has decrease her budget by \$12,000 this year.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Superintendent of Highways Charles Haynes was present to discuss the budget request for the Highway Dept. Union contract negotiations are currently taking place and no decisions have been made to date. Superintendent Haynes is requesting \$28,000 in his budget for the purchase of a new pick up truck. Board members discussed permanent improvements at some length with Mr. Haynes.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Building Inspector Hank Vance was present to discuss his budget requests. The most important issue is to upgrade the software system that he and his clerk use on a daily basis. Other than salaries no other changes have been made.

JUSTICES

Justice John Savago was present with his clerk to review and explain his department's budget requests. Mr. Savago would like to increase the line of the Jr. Clerk to accommodate for a 15-20 hour work week at \$15.00 per hour. Due to the adoption of Leandra's Law, trials will increase on DWI's which will make it difficult to keep up with the work as currently staffed. He also stated that court is in need of a new computer. They will apply for a grant as they have in the past. Another need is sunscreens/shades on the windows in the justice clerk office.

TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR/BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Michelle Mosher was present to review her requests for the various departments she manages. There are basically no changes except for salaries. Mrs. Mosher explained in a memo to the Town Board her reasoning behind the increases. Board members stated that discussion of salaries would not take place today. She asked when she would be able to discuss the increases. This is a part of her budget and the only part with an increase. No one advocates for the town hall employees except for the department heads, where the highway dept. negotiates a salary through the union. Hank Vance supported this discussion. Board members agreed to have the Supervisor do two (2) drafts of the tentative budget, one with salary increases and one without.

TOWN BOARD

Councilman Koenig state that he feels that the salaries of the Town Board members should be reduced, as he feels that serving on the Town Board is a civic duty. Councilmen Wiegand and Mele were both in agreement. Since the economy is struggling it would be sensible to reduce their salaries, although it may discourage others to serve. This was discuss at length with no decision made.

The remainder of the budget was reviewed which resulted in a decrease in the Supervisor Contracted Services line to \$3,000 and an increase in the Attorney – Cell Tower line to \$10,000. The Board requested the fire department budgets to be included in their copies of the budget for review.

Supervisor Katz will insert the new numbers and will have a tentative budget ready for the Town Clerk to distribute by Sept. 30.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Councilman Koenig, seconded by Councilman Wiegand and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle L. Mosher
Town Clerk