

**TOWN OF TUNBRIDGE
SPECIAL SELECTBOARD MEETING**

Tuesday, December 21, 2021 7:00pm, Town Offices and Via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 7:18pm

Present: Mike McPhetres, Gary Mullen, John O'Brien, Mariah Cilley, Becky Hoyt, Betsy Race, Maureen McCullough, Fern Strong

Discussion of Budget Draft #1

Discussion of budget items line by line. O'Brien asks about the surplus from last year. Hoyt states we have a General Fund surplus of \$138,221.87 and a Highway surplus of \$156,180.50. The Highway surplus will be broken up with \$100,000 being moved to the paving fund and the remaining would be moved to the disaster relief. The General Fund surplus needed to be voted on at Town Meeting. Mullen asks what created the surplus and if some of it was created from the delinquent taxes. Hoyt says yes, some was from delinquent taxes which we do not budget for, as well as federal grants etc. for COVID. Health insurance was less as well which helped put money in the surplus. The delinquent tax surplus only stays in the General Fund. The General Fund pays the school, highway and allocates to other funds. The General Fund is always the fund that takes a deficit. The tax rate is set with the total budget number in mind.

ARPA Money- Where does the money sit until we can use it? McPhetres asks if we think we can keep track of all the expenses on our own or if we should hire someone to do it. Hoyt and Cilley think that between the two of them they can keep the money tracked and all set.

O'Brien asks where we stand for money for holiday bonuses? He would like Hoyt to find \$500 for employee bonuses for this season to include the highway crew, AA and transfer station attendant.

Hoyt states she is going to switch credit card companies because they charge us fees.

The computers and office equipment budget needs to be increased substantially because we are going to need to purchase a new server as well as upgrade some of our computers.

Cilley will contact the ambulance services for their new contracted price.

Discussion of transfer station fees. Mitch Taylor from Casella's will be coming to a future meeting to discuss if we should increase the cost of our trash tickets to help offset recycling fees. Cilley will reach out to Sarah Wraight to see if ARPA funds will also help cover the cost of a second transfer station attendant.

Need to get an estimate for outside library repairs.

Judy Howe was bumped up to \$18.00/hr.

Discussion of a furnace budget at the Town Hall.

There will be a phone and internet cost increase at the Town Offices because we have switched to EC Fiber, but we will be removing two lines for our fax numbers which we no longer use.

RB's will do a new router and service in the Town Hall.

Hoyt will start working on another budget draft.

McPhetres motions to adjourn. O'Brien seconds. So moved. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Gary Mullen, Chair

Mike McPhetres, Vice Chair

John O'Brien, Clerk