**10-20-2016 – Special Board Meeting / BUDGET WORK SESSION**

Present:

Councilman Cheryl L. Earl

Councilman Lenard R. Hochadel

Councilman Douglas J. Morrell

Supervisor Beverly A. Gambino

Absent:

Councilman Mandy Quinn-Stojek

Also Present:

Deputy Clerk Jennifer Bray

Highway Superintendent Donald Hopkins

1 guest

The Sardinia Town Board held a Special Meeting/Budget Work Session on the 2017 Town Budget on October 20, 2016 at the Sardinia Town Hall. Supervisor Gambino called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The Supervisor handed out several forms for Board members to review, including the 2016 Estimated Mortgage Tax Receipts, 2016 Elected Officials Salary Study, Sales Tax Distribution Analysis and Sales Tax Estimates for 2016 & 2017.

The Supervisor then stated that there are positons that are going to be available on the Planning Board, the Zoning Board, the Board of Assessment Review as well as the Secretarial Pool. She asked the board to think about who they might want for those positions. It was also discussed that there are current members who may be moving out of town or have already moved. It was decided that the Supervisor would run an ad for the positions and get letters of intent from the members whose residency is in question.

The Supervisor then began on a line by line review of the Tentative Budget. She told the Board that she had put in a 3% wage increase for all Elected Officials as well as hourly employees. Councilman Earl said she would prefer only 2% because with continued increases the returning life guards are getting closer to what the Highway employees make. Supervisor Gambino said another problem is that if we don’t give a 3% increase that our recreation staff won’t be at the new minimum wage for next year. There was discussion on what the minimum wage is going to be next year as well as setting a starting wage for life guards & recreation staff. Supervisor Gambino asked Councilman Earl to work on a wage scale for the employee handbook. The Supervisor asked after the discussion if everyone was okay with the 3% increase for everyone. Councilman Earl said she was okay with 2% for Elected Officials and 3% for the hourly employees. **The Board agreed to the wage increases of 2% for Elected Officials and 3% for the hourly employees on a motion by Councilman Earl, seconded by Hochadel, passed and carried 4 ayes, 0 noes, 1 absent.**

The Supervisor continued the line by line review of the budget. As she went she highlighted items that had decreased or increased over the 2016 budget. The first was the Town Prosecutor line due to increased expenditures. Next she stated that after speaking to our Accounting Firm Drescher & Malecki that the cost for our audits and AUD would be $15,750. Continuing to the Town Clerk line Councilman Earl asked if Betsy Marsh was staying on as Town Clerk or not? Supervisor Gambino said that the figure was bases on Jennifer Bray taking over as Town Clerk. Councilman Earl questioned what the pay rate for a deputy clerk would be because the new person wouldn’t have the same experience. Deputy Clerk, Jennifer Bray, stated that the amount that is in the budget line for a deputy is to cover the wages and that if and when someone is appointed that the board could set the rate of pay at that time.

The Supervisor then noted that the Attorney line has been decreased by $3,000. Under the engineering line, the Supervisor stated that because of the DASNY grant for the pool house she increased that line to cover anticipated engineering costs. Moving on to the buildings line the Supervisor noted that the amount in the capital improvement line was an estimate for the boilers and work on the back wall of the building. Also under the buildings line she has increased the computer line because of anticipated server replacement. The next item that was discussed was under the copier line. The Supervisor explained that we purchased the copier and that the company that was servicing it had gone out of business. She received a letter that they had opened back up however are not local anymore. The board discussed the age of the current copier and the potential cost differences of buying another copier that would have a warranty and a service agreement or going back to leasing a copier. It was decided that the line should be increased to $3000. **A motion from Councilman Earl, Seconded by Gambino, passed and carried 4 ayes, 0 noes, 1 absent, to increase the line and get estimates for replacement of the copier.**

The next increase was in the dog control line. The increase is about 5.3% bringing the total line to $3000. The Supervisor explained that not only has the dog control officer had dogs in his care for long periods of time, as in the dangerous dog case, but he also gets calls at all hours of the night form law enforcement to pick up dogs whose owners are driving impaired. Supervisor Gambino then moved on. The next line with an increase was the recreation director contractual to cover the cost of supplies for the rec picnic. Under the parks lines the contractual line and the utilities line both have increases. There was a discussion regarding the pay phone at the park. The cost of over $1000.00 a year for that phone and it is only being used for seconds a year. **A motion was made by Councilman Hochadel, seconded by Councilman Earl, passed and carried 4 ayes, 0 noes, 1 absent, to remove the pay phone.** The next items that were discussed were under playgrounds. The first was an increase that the ball clubs asked for. It was decided that the line should not be increased this year and should remain at $2500.00. Next it was noted that the playgrounds expense line was decreased due to a decrease in spending on that line.

The last items in the general fund that were discussed were under the Special Recreation Facilities lines. The first line discussed was the equipment line. There was discussion about the need to replace the diving board at the pool and it was decided that Donald Hopkins would get bids for the next regular board meeting so that it can be replaced this year and not added to next year. Next the Supervisor stated she had added a line for the Pool House Improvements in the amount of $75,000. The DASNY grant will cover $50,000 and the Towns share will be approximately $25,000. Lastly the Supervisor discussed the contractual line. She stated that she has increase the line to $5,000 due to increases in the cost of bromine for the pool as well as the health department permit and other expenses. After that the Supervisor completed the line by line review of the General Fund Budget. A few other line that had small increases or decreases including the Zoning line and that was due to having more meetings. She asked if anyone had any more questions, there being none she moved on to Highway Fund Budget and asked Highway Superintendent Donald Hopkins to do the line by line review.

Superintendent Hopkins began his line by line review. The first item was the Highway Employees contract calls for a 3% increase in wages for 2017. Next there was a short discussion on the fuel and lube line and the cost of fuel. It was decided that the line should remain the same. The next line item that saw a change was under Highway Machinery and that was a decrease to the equipment line. Lastly the Sand and Salt line was discussed. Mr. Hopkins stated that the cost for salt has stayed the same as last year however last year the Town took on plowing more County roads, including Savage, Dutchtown, and South Protection there for the line has been increased to $65,000. He then noted that the Erie County Association of Highways and Erie County are still working on a snow plowing contract.

In the Fire Protection District Fund, Supervisor Gambino stated that the Contractual and Apparatus funds were raised per the contract. She stated the LOSAP line stayed the same and the worker compensation was raised slightly.

In the Lighting Districts, the Supervisor stated that she lowered them slightly. She stated that part of the cost for street lighting comes from the Appropriated Fund Balance and part from taxes.

The Supervisor asked if there were any other questions or comments. Denise Schiener asked if there would be an increase or decrease in taxes. Councilman Earl stated that Town Taxes including The Fire tax were eliminated. The Supervisor stated the only increase was a small amount in the special lighting districts. **There being no more questions, on a motion by Earl, seconded by Gambino, the Budget Work Session was adjourned at 2 PM. Carried, 4 ayes, 0 noes, 1 absent.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Deputy Town Clerk