

Village of Champlain

Budget Workshop

February 25th, 2019

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Champlain was held on Monday, February 20, 2017 at the Village Office, 1104 Route 9, Champlain, New York for the purpose of reviewing the proposed 2019-2020 Village Budget. Present were Mayor Martin, Trustees Kim Trombley, Janet McFetridge, Thomas Trombley and Amy Gehrig, Clerk/Treasurer Munoz and Secretary Sousa. Mayor Martin called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

BUDGET

GENERAL FUND

\$74,500 is needed from the general fund balance to balance the proposed budget. This is with a tax increase of \$.08/thousand, which generates \$2,300.

Part of our increase has to do with a new employee, insurance and wages.

Trustee Gehrig questioned the need to keep funds for a temp employee when we have a new full-time employee. Mayor Martin said that we have gotten behind and have a lot to catch up on this summer, including streets and sidewalks. A temp would be there to do mowing and trimming, freeing up full time employees.

Clerk/Treasurer Munoz said we will also have one full-time employee taking classes to become a backup sewer operator. DEC is requiring that we have a backup operator, so Robert Pulsifer is signed up for home-study courses and will also need 500 hours of hands on experience at the WWTP. Once Woody Kissel retires, Robert Pulsifer will be able to step in. Right now, it is not a full-time job and Mr. Pulsifer still wants to be working on the streets.

Trustee Thomas Trombley said that the union makes it difficult to hire a full-time licensed water or wastewater operator at the going rate when new employees have to start at the bottom of the ladder wage wise. Mayor Martin said that this could be something to be addressed at union negotiations next year.

Trustee Thomas Trombley said that he stepped in a few weeks ago to help Michael King prepare for the CDL road test. Mr. King is doing well enough but the test is difficult and he may not pass with a by-the-book tester. there are also issues with the truck itself that must be taken care of before we can take it in for the road test. The drivers step is damaged and must be fixed. And the side mirrors are frozen and need adjustment.

Trustee Gehrig was concerned about making an extension in this situation.

Trustee Trombley said that Mr. King is fully capable of passing this test. He will do much better once mirrors are fixed. He can work overtime with Mr. King to get him ready and schedule the test at the latest date possible.

Mayor Martin said he would speak with Woody Kissel, Union Steward, to see if the union will work with us on an extension of Mr. King's probationary period. Further discussion followed.

DPW employee Jimmy Ondras is not sure if he will be able to come back to work full time at first and wanted to know if he would be able to come back part-time with reduced hours. The doctor has told him he is healed physically and that he could go back to work when he feels he is ready to do that. Discussion followed.

Trustee McFetridge is concerned with the amount in fund balance. Clerk/Treasurer Munoz said that we do have a lot of that in reserves right now: \$120,000 for equipment, \$60,000 for paving and \$27,000 for sidewalks. We are in need of a new snow plow, which would be considered equipment.

WATER FUND

\$25,168 needed from fund balance to balance this budget. We have \$109,018 in reserves for repairs and \$16,170 in reserves for debt.

Trustee Thomas Trombley was concerned with the cut in Law/Personal Services if we go into arbitration. Clerk/Treasurer Munoz said that we have more fund balance if that is needed.

Trustee Thomas Trombley asked about lab testing cuts. Juanita said that the wet testing was very expensive, but we shouldn't have to have that done again after the last results are in.

Trustee Gehrig asked about the Water Administration/Membership increase. We have to have a SPDES permit for the second water plant now, which is \$2,300 annually.

Mayor Martin asked that we keep \$60,000 in reserves to replace nano-filters at the WTP. Current filters should last up to 10 years but could be ruined if they are contaminated with chlorine.

We need to find out how long the turnaround time is for replacement filters and what the shelf life would be for unused filters.

SEWER FUND

\$72,570 needed from fund balance to balance this budget. There is \$200,000 in reserve for repairs & \$250,000 in reserve for solid waste management.

Trustee Thomas Trombley asked if General Gov't support of \$26,400 would be enough to cover engineering for new effluent WWTP system. Discussion followed.

TRANSFER CORRECTION

Clerk/Treasurer Munoz asked for a correction on the transfer done on Feb. 11, 2019.

The board approved a transfer of \$15,700 from G599 Fund Balance to G1440.1 Engineering.

The Transfer should have come from G898 Reserves instead of G599.

A motion was made by Trustee McFetridge and seconded by Trustee Thomas Trombley to approve this correction. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

WATER REPAYMENT NEGOTIATIONS

Trustee Thomas Trombley provided the board with an EDU Policy that he has created to show how the Village came up with an EDU count. We want to pay our share based on benefits based on EDU's. He asked the board to look over the policy first. If the town will not agree with this proposal, we will not negotiate any further and will go into arbitration. Discussion followed.

The board agreed that if we have to pay 60%, the town will have to pay for that through rate increases. The Village residents have paid for their water system and won't pay for the Town.

CONTAMINATION

The walls in the basement have been sealed and the radon fan is working. The same thing is being done next door and the Thompson's house is being tested too. The vacuum fans will be installed in the spring and any fluid will be added to the wastewater stream.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:56 p.m., there being no further business to come before the board, a motion was made by Trustee Kim Trombley and seconded by Trustee Gehrig to adjourn. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.