

Minutes of the workshop meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Durham held October 6, 2020 in person and by telephonic conferencing at 7:30pm.

Present: Shawn Marriott, Supervisor
Joan Breslin, Deputy Supervisor
Linda Sutton, Council member
Scott Hulbert, Council member
Walt Bennett, Council member

Recording Secretary: Janet Partridge, Town Clerk

Others Present: Karen Tirpak, Bookkeeper/Judge
Tom Sutton, Police Sgt.
Joe van Holsteyn, Highway Superintendent
9 community members

Others called in: Tal Rapplelea, Attorney
*Information not provided by Supervisor

Supervisor Marriott called the meeting to order at 7:35pm.

Marriott started the meeting with anniversaries. Nancy Wycoop-Bower started working for the Town October 1, 2019. He also mentioned Justin Lounsbury started October 5, 2009 and Eric Partridge started October 1, 2018. He thanked them for their work.

The 2021 Tentative Budget materials have been presented to the town board members. Budget workshop meetings will have to be set at the end of the meeting.

Lillian Beechert presented the Oak Hill-Durham Fire Company's budget to the Board. There are only three adjustments to their budgets this year, electric costs have gone up and equipment repair. Their estimate on the truck payment is high, so they will be expecting a decrease there when it is all finished and signed. Last year they asked for \$137,050 and this year they are proposing \$134,200.

Joe van Holsteyn presented the East Durham Fire Company's budget to the Board. There is only one line increase and that is for Capital Improvements, they increased that by \$4,200. Last year they proposed \$143,000 and this year it will be \$147,200.

Marriott reported they would be going into executive session to discuss payment of an employee.

Marriott asked the Board to refer to a letter bookkeeper Tirpak shared only with the board members on information she looked up on if ear marked monies for capital projects could be used for other projects. Attorney Rapplelea stated unless the board puts the monies in a special account for only that purpose, ear marked monies can be used for other purposes. Deputy Supervisor Breslin asked him even if it was specifically told to the public that was what the money was going to be used for, they can use it for another project. Council member Hulbert stated he and Breslin sat in meetings run by the NYS Comptroller's office and they told them they couldn't do that. Rapplelea

tried to explain that unless they put in in a specific account and not a regular account then that rule doesn't apply. Town Clerk Partridge asked Rappleyea to clarify what he was saying for minutes purposes. He said even if the money is allotted for a specific project and put in the capital account, .200, it does not have to be used for that purpose and it is just rolled over at the end of the year into the fund balance. Partridge was still confused as to how that can be done. Breslin asked then we just used the wrong words by saying ear marked. Hulbert said he still feels the Comptroller's office should be contacted to confirm they can spend it on something else before they do. Marriott said they can start then by giving van Holsteyn \$5,000 to get the project going.

A motion was made by Hulbert to allow \$5,000 to van Holsteyn to begin insulating the cold storage building and it would come out of account A5132.200, seconded by Council member Bennett, all in favor, motion carried. (5 Ayes-Marriott, Breslin, Sutton, Hulbert, Bennett)

Marriott moved to the agenda item on the lawn mower purchase with added budget accounts without resolutions and no transfers done. He said sometimes he is going to make mistakes, but Partridge was wrong to bring that up at the last regular meeting when she was sitting on that information for 3-4 months. Partridge tried to explain it was when she was going over the minutes from the teleconferencing and why she brought it up at the open meeting but Marriott wouldn't let her finish what she was saying. He continued to berate Partridge in the middle of the board meeting to the extent Partridge got up from the meeting and left at 7:58pm.

Partridge did not appoint an official recording secretary for the rest of the meeting before she left and the board did not vote and appoint an official recording secretary, therefore all other business is unofficial.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Partridge
Town Clerk/Collector