TOWN OF CONSTANTIA

MINUTES –BUDGET MEETING – October 10, 2023

7:00 pm Constantia Town Hall

Present:	Frank Tomaino - Supervisor
	Ronald Chapman, Richard Colesante, Thomas Moran– Council Members
	Clare Haynes – Town Clerk
	Nancy Butler – Bookkeeper
	Paul Baxter – Tug Hill Commission
Absent:	John Metzger – Councilman

CALL TO ORDER:

At 9:00 am Mr. Tomaino called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance.

2024 Budget – General Fund:

Board members continued reviewing the 2024 tentative budget starting with General Fund. All lines were agreed upon with changes as follows:

A1310.1 Supervisors Clerk PS – Mr. Chapman knows the inflation rate is higher than 3% but still believes all raises should stay with the highway increase of 3%. All board members agreed to lower it to 3%.

Discussion on Mrs. Cottet, last year her hourly rate was increased to $19 with a promise of $20 this year, that still will stand.

A1330.4 Tax Collection CE - was increased to $5,800. Mrs. Haynes uses this account to send tax payments and the associated costs with the continue raising of postage it is necessary in increase this line.

A1355.11 Assessor PS - increase by 3%

A1410.11 Clerk PS - decrease to 3%

A1420.1 Attorney PS - increase by 3%

A1620.2 Building Eq (Cap Improvement) - This was increased by $10,000 from A1940.4 Purchase of land. With the recent purchase of 1667 State Route 49 this line will need to be increased as much as possible to help with renovations for the new town hall. Ms. Butler has made a few suggestions including the possibility of using the unreserved fund balance to increase this line by $100,000, by using the unreserved fund balance it allows money to be put into this line without increasing the amount to be raised by taxes. This would be done one-time to help with the renovations. After discussion Mr. Colesante would like to wait for Mr. Metzger's opinion on using the unreserved fund balance.

Ms. Butler also suggested ordering checks to use for the special reserve account, it will be easier when reporting on the AUD (Annual Update Document). All members agree that would be the best way to go.

A1910.4 Unallocated Insurance CE - Butler has not received the proper documentation on the increase but this line will need an increase. After discussion the board requested this line be increased by $2,500.

A1990.4 Contingency - The board suggested any overage on the tax cap be offset by this account.

A3120.4 Court Security CE - The requested increase for Mr. Gibbs was to $30 an hour with 3 hour minimum. Mr. Gibbs is currently making $21.63 with 3-hour minimum. After discussion it was agreed to increase to $22.50 an hour with the 3-hour minimum, Ms. Butler should increase this line as needed.

A3620.11 Code Enforcement PS (Dolan) decrease to 3%

A3620.12 Code Enforcement PS (Hamacher) This line was increased to give Mr. Hamacher more hours. Mr. Colesante is concerned that there is a disparity in pay between the two, please keep their hourly wages close.

A4540.4 Ambulance CE – Mr. Tomaino spoke with Mr. Davis, Town Supervisor for Vienna. Vienna also contracts with North Shore Ambulance, Mr. Davis is unhappy with North Shore as they no longer supply a paramedic, Vienna will not be signing the contract as is written with North Shore. North Shore is running as a BLS (Basic Life Support) Ambulance. After discussion, the board suggests that our contract be reviewed by Mr. Bader, this might not happen for the 2024 budget, but it is something that might need to be updated.

A5132.2 Garage Eq (Cap Improvement) – Mr. Woolridge told Ms. Butler that he has no plans to do any improvements to the town garage. The board agreed to decrease this line by $10,000 to increase A1620.2.

A7020.1 Parks and Recreation Administration – this was increased to $5,000 as this position has not had an increase in many years. After discussion it was agreed to decrease this to $4,000.

Mr. Baxter did add revenue lines for the money West Monroe pays for their residents to join our summer park program. Ms. Butler will split $15,000 between payroll and contractual accounts. A7110.4 will increase by $10,000 and A7110.4 will increase by $5,000.

A7110.4 Parks Eq (Cap Improvement) – This line was increased by Mr. Woolridge for a maintenance utility vehicle, a new Ferris zero turn mower, 20 picnic tables and concrete pads for the tables. After discussion, this line will stay at $22,500, which is enough to do all but the utility vehicle.

A9060.8 Hospital & Medical Insurance – Ms. Butler does not have the final increase yet, but to be sure this line will increase by 9%. Hopefully the numbers will come in before final approval.

Board of Appeals and Planning – no changes.

Discussion on sewers, Mr. Tomaino wondered if maybe the district should not be charged anything this year, Mr. Chapman and Mr. Colesante believes they should leave the amount raised by taxes the same as last year. $302.98 for one edu and $151.49 for vacant. Mr. Chapman does not want to see the district fall apart. Hopefully the grant process will be successful for a majority of what is needed and then borrow the rest, just must wait and see.

Next meeting scheduled for October 18th and the 25th at 3pm. If the second meeting is not needed it can be cancelled.

Ms. Butler will make the necessary changes and then use the contingency line if needed to be even with the tax cap.

ADJOURN:

At 8:35 the meeting adjourned.