



Minutes

Town of Cairo

Wednesday Nov. 3rd, 2021

Workshop; Budget Meeting @ 7:00pm

Location: Town Hall Meeting Room

The Town Board of the Town of Cairo met for a Special Town Board Meeting for a Budget Meeting on Wednesday November 3rd, 2021 at the Town Hall, Main Street, Cairo, New York.

Supervisor Coyne called the meeting to order at 7:00PM and asked the attendees to Pledge Allegiance to the Flag.

Attendance: Supervisor Coyne, Council Member Cords, Council Member Kralovich, Council Member Powers, Council Member Watts

- Supervisor Coyne starts by stating to the public that there are some last minute changes and discussions on the budget. Mentions the Public Hearing tomorrow to adopt the budget; addresses that if things needed to be changed during the PH that the line items can only be decreased, they cannot be increased.
- The proposal right now for the budget is to be under the 2% tax gap.
- Starts with park equipment, it was brought down to \$20,500, took \$7,500 out. A good amount of new equipment has been given to the dept. within the last 2 years.
- Watts addresses repairs on these machines and how that is needed; there is a contractual account for this and there is more than enough to cover repairs.
- Watts then mentions money for all of the buildings the unsafe buildings that the board has been addressing. Coyne then states at the moment there is 1 building that really needs attention, but there are other ways to get the money.
- Dropped the Library contract \$30,000 from \$196,000 to \$166,000, reason for this is because they seem to have money left over.
- Celebrations decreased to \$10,000 from \$15,000, this will still allow for 4th of July and Christmas.
- Hospital and Medical was increased due to additional numbers and then lowered the increase by \$2,500.
- Revenues; fines, etc. don't have the number for it but hoping for about \$90,000.
- The board then refers to the new employee that the court needs now that one of the clerk became a new judge. The court would still need 2 full time workers due to the large amount of paperwork that there is due to the bail reform. Then discusses the salary of the new clerk

compared to what Kathleen will be making as well. All salary recommendations have come from the Court.

- Highway dept.; requested \$300,000. They currently are allowed 9 full timers and have filled all 9 spots and have a group of part timers. Dropped some of the budget of the Highway due to when some of the part timers are not needed due to weather issues and days where work may not need to be done or can't be done, Maybe part timers can be sent home and save money.
- Watts mentions when there are storms you do have employees that can be checking/ unclogging culverts or washing equipment.
- Art does address that they do work in the rain if needed and keeping everything clear, doesn't believe in busy work, actually keeps the crew busy with work that needs to be done. Addresses that he did ask for an increase due to the fact that there may have been some raises, to keep employees.
- Other members of the board would like to keep the budget for the highway dept. at the higher end to keep employees and being able to address the work that needs to be done in the town and on the roads.
- Highway also requested \$110,000 on the general cares contract, board agrees to what was requested.
- Town usually contributes about \$150,000 that last 2 years. Supervisor suggests the Town contribution to be decreased \$80,000 due to the fact that the Highway dept. gets what is called 'chips' to assist with payment of the roads. Watts mentions that if we do decrease the contribution that we should 'move' that to the park and walking path accounts since the park dept. does not get assistance from 'chips'.
- Machinery contractual, requested \$125,000, decreased it to \$118,700/Snow removal contractual, decrease it \$9,700/Hospital and medical had to be increase \$13,000/Revenues estimated to \$25,000-\$40,000.
- Supervisor states that with these adjustments it would be under budget by about \$43,000. About a 9 cent per thousand increase to taxes.
- Money that can be used for demolition for unsafe building could go under codes contractual.
- Coyne mentions that when a building needs to be taken down that the county needs to be notified so that the debris can be taken away correctly and efficiently.
- Watts wants to know what it would take to finish what has already been set in motion, mentions about \$75,000-\$100,000. \$75,000 was put in the line item in the budget.
- But if the budget is increased does the board cut something else or keep taxes higher?
- Watts moves into the next line item for the library, mentions that \$30,000 decrease to the library is large amount, maybe \$5,000 would be okay.
- Cords then mentions that COVID did not help the library and they did not have as many events and get together as they usually do for the public.
- Watts discusses with the board how his opinion has changed on the library and that he became 'educated' on what goes on and who goes in the library and supports the library.
- Powers gives attention to the fact that it's not the Towns money its taxpayer money that the library is getting and the Board has to be considerate of who is paying for the library's \$200,000 request in their budget.
- Library then asks about the surplus of \$30,000 that the Board is discussing. Library expresses that \$20,000 of that is endowment, which is not money from that Town.

- Bookkeeper mentions that the budget is currently over budget after the unsafe building budget put in. The board discusses the money in the budget, whether to take it out or put it somewhere else & look for grants for other projects & line items, one being the walking path.
- Coyne mentions adding the \$30,000 back to the library to see what the number would be. Further in the meeting the budget was decreased by \$10,000.
- Powers then discusses the staffing at the library and how someone was hired during COVID but no one ended up getting laid off. Watts states that same things happened at the Town Hall and everyone still got paid.
- Due to the population of the Town the library has to stay open a certain amount of hours, which can be curbside.
- Most of the Board talk about who has been cut, and agrees that the highway dept. shouldn't be cut as much as it might be.
- After tonight the budget can be decreased but it cannot be increased. The Board is in a debate in whether the budget needs to go over the 2% tax gap or it should stay under the tax gap, will be discussed further tomorrow at the final budget meeting and budget adoption.

Adjourn Board Meeting @ 8:17PM

Offered by Council Member Kralovich and seconded by Supervisor Coyne.

Supervisor Coyne – Aye, Council Member Cords – Aye, Council Member Kralovich – Aye, Council Member Powers – Aye, Council Member Watts – Aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Kayla L. McAlister

Town Clerk