

Approved

Town of Alexandria Board Meeting Public Hearing  
November 5, 2020 6:00pm  
Zoom Meeting

On Air: Supervisor Brent Sweet, Councilman Ron Thomson, Councilman John Stine, Councilman Mike Fayette and Bookkeeper Nicole Milsap.

Open Public Hearing for Preliminary Budget 2021

Mike Tibbles Highway Superintendent stated to the board that he has a petition with over 200 signatures against the board terminating two employees from the Hwy crew in the upcoming budget. Tibbles expressed some of the tax payers concerns along with his own feelings of losing two men.

Councilman Ron Thomson stated that 10 people will be plowing over the winter.

Councilman Mike Fayette stated the budget is fully funded for the winter months. The board added extra money in road repairs for the 2021 budget.

The Board discussed the pay for part time hwy employees during the winter up to \$20.00 if they have their CDL classification at time of hire.

Question from tax payer is it a lay off or termination of two workers and does the budget specify?  
The Board stated the budget does not specify.

Tax Payer stated that the hearing should be postponed.

Supervisor Sweet stated this meeting will be adjourned to a physical meeting on Thursday November 12 @ 6:00pm where the public hearing will be open.

Councilman Caputo read the emails from Stacey Durand.

Question from Stacey Durand: Sales tax for the entire budget is projected down by 8% considering the health & economic prices this makes complete sense, we would think the budget for each funds should decrease similarly, but that doesn't seem to be the case. Our concern pertains to highway DB this one is receiving \$184,000 more sales tax revenue than in 2019 or a 51% increase. It appears that this is covering a loss in \$66,000 in chips revenue and if the chips revenue was restored then some of that sales state tax would go to General A of which sales tax is budgeted down \$151,000.

#2 Question from Stacey Durand: Highway DB appreciations have continued to increase since 2017 the budget here should be brought down to appropriate levels, Instead of increasing the amount of sales tax.

#3 Question from Stacey Durand: Health Insurance/ Workers Comp. Workers Comp is budgeted for a decrease of \$62,000 and Health Insurance down \$26,000, the concern is that these items rarely if ever go down but most often go up. Is this realistic?

#4 Question from Stacey Durand: Aids PS (personal service) General B: 81 20 what is this? Looks new for 2020? Did we spend the \$8,000 that was budgeted for this year?  
Councilman Sandy Caputo stated that that line item was for youth director aid (no sports this year)

#5 Question from Stacey Durand: Jefferson County maintenance revenue da budgeted for \$42,000 less than what we received in 2019. Why?  
Bookkeeper Nicole Milsap stated this is the money received by Jefferson County. It will be decreased this year because of Hwy men being laid off over the summer. 2020 the numbers are low.

Supervisor Sweet has texts to read.

Tax Payer Question: During the summer our guys help other municipalities and vice versa. You need flaggers, equipment operators. The crew needs more than 7 guys.

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Tax Payer Question: Why did you lay off guys all summer when the town owed the county over \$80,000. You could have had the guys work over the summer than pay that off when the budget was already set for the year. Supervisor Sweet commented that all the board members talked with Mike T and he had two options and he chose what he chose.

Councilman Ron Thomson reminded the board that this hearing is for the upcoming 2021 budget.

Questions #3 from Stacey Durand answered: Workman's Comp rarely goes down and town history goes with it in the private sector. Based on percentage. The rate is going down.

Tax Payer asked: If the town has saved money over the summer, why lay off people now? The town will look into how much they saved.

Councilman Ron Thomson talked about increasing the funding in Db is because the board would like to pave more roads.

Tax Payer: Full time workers are dedicated and show up when there called.

Stacey Durand Question: Uniforms in Db the budget is for 24% increase. Bookkeeper stated that masks needed to be purchased, uniforms and allowances for clothing as well.

Stacey Durand Question: Transfer to Capital Project Db of \$50,000. Supervisor Sweet answered that they added that amount of money for blacktop. A new line item will be added.

Councilman Caputo stated that Les Dollinger contacted her to say that he was concerned in the decreasing the workers. What happens when covid hits a worker that will put them in a bind. Agreed with summer time workers cut down at that time, but though all the men should be working over the winter.

Phil Smith wanted to thank the town and hwy department for paving the Kring point rd. It's the best its ever been in years.

Tax Payer Question: How much are you saving to bring in 2 part-timers compared to full time cdl workers. Supervisor Sweet said the board will look into the amount the town is saving.

Councilman Mike Fayette pointed out that the Hwy crew no longer plows NYS roads.

Tax Payers Question: Is there a increase in wages for the town. Supervisor Sweet stated yes, 2% raise the only people who are not receiving this is Board Members and Supervisor.

Tax Payer Question: Would like to sit down with a board member and go over why they think they should keep the two meo's. Supervisor Sweet will follow up on meeting with the tax payer.

Tax Payer Question: Why isn't the town plowing State Rd's isn't money coming into the town. It's a win win for the town. Supervisor Sweet stated that the Hwy Supt. recommended to stop and at the board meeting three board members where for it and two board members against it.

Councilman Ron Thomson encourages all people to spread the word that there will be another meeting a week from tonight at 6pm to continue this meeting about the budget.

Tax Payer Question: gave a brief statement on why the Supervisor shouldn't be getting a raise. Supervisor Sweet stated he is the lowest paid Supervisor in twenty years.

Motion by Councilman Ron Thomson seconded Councilman Sandy Caputo to adjourn and continue on November 12, 2020 @ 6:00pm.