

Town of Alexandria

Continuation from November 5, 2020 Board Meeting
November 12, 2020 @ 6:00pm

Approved

Present: Supervisor Brent Sweet, Councilman John Stine, Councilman Mike Fayette and Councilman Sandy Caputo

Absent: Councilman Ron Thomson

Supervisor Sweet opened the Public Hearing for the 2021 Budget (Continued from November 5, 2020 Meeting).

Hwy Superintendent Tibbles gave the board 300 + petitions from people who care about the Town Of Alexandria and want to keep both men on the highway crew. Tibbles asked the board to listen to what people are saying, and to stop the ridicule, defamation and stated its time to work together.

Kurt Hanni told the board that his father worked as Highway Superintendent for 14 years when the roads where just sanded on curbs, intersections, hills and bus turn-arounds. The bare road policy now in place there's no way our town can have safe roads without qualified people, the town has qualified people. Hanni asked why the town has a vendetta against Tibbles and Hudon. He stated the taxpayers sent a clear message. Hanni stated he will be running for Supervisor or Town Board in the next election.

Jason Parrow asked the board if it's true there downsizing at the barn? He stated he doesn't understand why they want to downsize, but you still want the same roads plowed, it's going to take longer. Supervisor Sweet asked Mike Tibbles, Hwy Superintendent when he first came in office how big was his crew? Both Tibbles and Sweet discussed the number of men on the crew. The conversation consisted of bridge repair , Krings Point Rd and a previous meeting where there hired 2 men after Dean Smith retired.

Supervisor Sweet stated that he is talking only on his behalf and wants to do a compromise, not laying two men off but reduce through attrition. Meaning, retirement, quit/terminated or medical reasons. Sweet stated that he talked to Tibbles about attrition and he was open to it. Tibbles stated that medical reasons the job can be held up to 1 year for the employee. Tibbles and Sweet discussed further the guidelines for attrition.

George Martin stated why are you talking about attrition and getting rid of these guys to begin with? Supervisor Sweet let him know the board as a hole feels that there's no need for that many guys during summer. Martin stated your talking 5 months out of the year where your depending on good weather to do Million dollar projects, shared service projects with other townships and you're talking about doing this on minimal staff, you can't do that with 5 guys., five guys are bare bones. Supervisor Sweet stated that it's not 5 it would be reduced to 7., there are 4 trucks and 2 loaders. Martin said there are other jobs then hauling blacktop for other towns, you are asking these men and women to do this on minimal standard, you guys are asking for a lot, I can have the best truck but if you have nobody to run it is worthless, why would you get rid of the union shop and bring in part time workers and pay the same money as these men and for what to save health care. Who wants to come here for a 5 months gig and

not know if you're going to make it back next year. I don't understand, you should be increasing the work force. People want retirement, health care and a full time job, not part time with no benefits. I feel that you are going in the wrong direction., there has to be another way.

Tera Cortright – asked the board if they asked mike to furlough guys, that was supposed to help the budget, and he agreed to that. Supervisor Sweet stated yes, it helped the budget for 2020 because of sales tax loss due to the epidemic. Sweet stated that they don't know what will happen in 2021 with the pandemic, they will sit down and discuss options. Tibbles stated that is a whole different situation. Tibbles remarked there are gentlemen that sit on the board right now that want to destroy my men and try to take me out of office. Every man and lady in this room wants this to come to an end. Please stop it. Supervisor Sweet stated he is willing to compromise. Sweet understands that 2 men losing there job is a bad thing.

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Irene Tibbles discussed a letter from Chris Clapper, Superintendent of Alexandria Central. Supervisor Sweet talked about his letter and how they are having trouble finding part time workers to drive the buses. Sweet commented that is why he doesn't want to lay anyone off. Irene read the letter to the audience. Letter asked the board to think about the school community and busses that have to be on the town roads.

Supervisor Sweet talked about Jay Gascon plowing snow and how it helped the budget. Jay G and Jamie P where helping the highway garage plow snow. In the past they both helped the hwy garage plow snow. Sweet asked Tibbles if he would be willing to have Jay and Jamie plow snow? Tibbles stated if he has room for them, he hasn't needed them., a concern is overtime. Tibbles will consider it.

George Martin stated that he expects the roads and Fire Hydrants to be as clean as possible. He commented that if he needed Jamie P to help with an emergency and he's plowing, what then, he has responsibilities and commitments, he's the only one who can do his job.

Tibbles: The barn is running the best it has in a long time.

Cheri VanBrocklin told the board that her step son gets on the bus at 6:40am to go to school and to think about the bus not being to get down the road, its not a good thought. There's bus runs in the morning and second run after school, the plows need to be on the roads to get these kids to and from school and home.

George Martin asked what is the advantage reducing the force, I understand saving money, why can't we sustain on what we have. Supervisor Sweet said that they had a night crew for many years. Tibbles and Sweet talked about the change in night crew and no longer doing the state roads. Sweet commented to Martin that the board wanted save money to do the much needed roads in the township, more paving projects, fix more roads and buy more blacktop.

Tera Cortright are the 2 men going to find out if there job is eliminated tonight?

Supervisor Sweet talked about the guidelines for passing the budget plus deadlines.

Discussion on GPS units in the trucks and using Jay Gascon to help when needed to plow the roads.

Jason Parrow asked the board how much Jerry Durand's budget was as Superintendent compared to Mike's Budget now? Council stated more, everything has gone up. Expenses go up every year.

Mike Tibbles, Hwy Superintendent stated that he will give his word that he will go through attrition.

Stacey Durand asked isn't the budget set up account for eliminating those two positions, you need to adjust line items before you can pass the budget. It's a good idea to wait to approve the budget because adjustments need to be made.

Supervisor Sweet stated that Nicole, bookkeeper gave them several different outcomes to show. If they eliminate the two positions, if they keep the two positions etc. There's things we don't want to do, go over the tax cap and do not want to raise taxes. The board is in strong agreement on that.

Supervisor Sweet made a motion to not lay off the two men and keep them on full time with the understanding that the two jobs will eventually be eliminated through attrition.

Councilman Fayette commented he needed time to look over the budget with the all the different changes.

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Councilman Caputo commented the public did not get to see what the changes would be to the budget. Information should be given to the public to review and if there's more question they have the ability to ask.

Supervisor Sweet made a motion to change the budget figures and change to show the two guys stay full time in the budget seconded by Councilman Sandy Caputo. Discussion Councilman Mike Fayette

asked about the options, Sweet stated the options are not in my motion. Ayes 4 Nays 0 Absent (Thomson) Motion Passed.

Andrew Nelson by email asked the board why Councilman Thomson was absent and did he give a reason why? Supervisor Sweet answered Yes he's absent and he gave the board the reason why.

Wayne Side is there any other place to cut? Board Members? Zoning Officers? Supervisor Sweet stated the board didn't take a raise and zoning is dealing with a lot of stuff right now.

Stacey Durand asked about the town owing the county \$80,000 dollars and Jefferson County Maintenance Revenue. If anyone has looked into those. Mike Tibbles and Nicole discussed if Tibbles receives a statement from County, he thought once a year. He doesn't believe its \$80,000.

Mr. Elk commented that the town lost \$93,000 because Orleans helped the state do a town road (Rt 2). He stated that could have been money in our hwy department. Elk also stated that there is no money in plowing state roads.

Councilman Sandy Caputo asked Mike Tibbles if the state asked the hwy dept to help with Rt 2. Tibbles answered yes, but didn't have the men to do it.

Irene Tibbles asked the board what is budgeted for the Stables and what's going on with that? Tibbles asked how much money have you budgeted for the repairs and how much for next year? Supervisor Sweet stated that the stables in under Line General fund A which all the monies talked about here today is from DA & DB. General A you cannot take the money and bring it into Db etc. The stables has been budgeted for two years through the fund balance.

Kurt Hanni: Increase in Attorney Fees went from \$40,000 to \$75,000 and now projected \$65,000. Supervisor Sweet stated it's because of grievances.

The Board and George Martin discussed the 2% tax cap, fire department, comparing salaries, time management during snow days, overtime and Stables allocation of money set aside for purchase.

Councilman Mike Fayette wants Hearts for youth line item to be increased to \$7500 in the budget. There taken the extra funds out of play grounds.

Public Hearing will continue to November 19, 2020 @6:00pm. Motion made by Councilman Sandy Caputo seconded by Councilman John Stine. Ayes 4 Nays 0 Absent (Thomson). Motion Passed.