

BUDGET WORKSHOP, TOWN OF ORANGE, OCTOBER 26th, 2020

A budget workshop for the Town of Orange 2021 Budget was held on Monday, October 26th, 2020 that Town of Orange Monterey Fire Hall at 6:30PM with the following members present:

PRESENT: Joanne Randall, Supervisor

Norma Burris, Councilwoman

Rick Hendricks, Councilman

Jocelyn Harrison, Councilwoman

ABSENT: Nancy Whipple, Councilwoman

OTHER PRESENT: Maryann Friebis, Jon Olin, Mary Olin, Al Buckland CFO, Delinda Dann, Gary Dann, Duke McFerrson, Rene Shellman, Rosa Tears, Jason Forcier, Floyd Button, John Morgan, Belinda Combs, Jim Pinkard, Kali Horton, Sam Mattison, Audrey Pane, Daron Miller, Thomas Peer Town Clerk.

Joanne Randall – Before we start talking about the budget tonight, I want to say that whom ever is spreading the rumors around that there will be no snow plowing this winter is a lie. You are making the older community here scared that they will not be able to make it to town, have EMS help, or do daily task that could not be done without the roads plowed. You are creating fear and I have gotten lots of phone calls about this fear. So stop it right now, I know the guys are not working right now, but soon we hope they will be back to work and working the roads. Please bear with us right now as we work out of this. Word has even gotten to Town of Horseheads stating that we are filing for chapter 10 bankruptcy, I am not even sure how that is possible, but that is the extent of the rumor.

Jon Olin – How come two or a meeting ago that this was going to happen, nothing was said and two days after the last meeting the highway department is shut down. Why do you think people are upset, we were left in the dark.

Joanne – I was hoping to have a revenue check come in, but it did not happen. I hope we would have never shut down the highway department at all, but it had to be done.

Jon – Three people are involved when it comes to administering the money. The Town Supervisor, Deputy Supervisor, Highway Supervisor, we are only here because no one was checking their work, and now we are here by spending more money than we need to spend. You spend \$50,000 hauling in \$13,000 to \$14,000 worth of material in.

Joanne – I will tell you we are going to have the same problem next year. We have more expenditures than revenue.

Daron Miller – I though this meeting was about the budget, not just a yelling match.

Joanne – It is about that, but when people put things on Facebook to creates a negative commits. So did anyone look at the budget, what to go through it line by line.

Town board – same

BUDGET WORKSHOP, TOWN OF ORANGE, OCTOBER 26th, 2020

Town Justice – Added \$500 to equipment – new printer

Town Supervisor – same

Town Clerk – same

Tax Collector – same

Town Attorney – same

Election – Dropped from \$5,000 to \$2,500 because this year was a presidential year. Could be hire if there is a primary.

Buildings – Supplies went up \$300, everything else the same.

Unallocated Insurance – was raised by \$5,000 for a total of \$30,000 because of the insurance increase.

Mun. Assn. Dues – same

Contingency Account - \$500

Total General Government Support - \$106,700 or up 1.71% for 2020.

Public Safety – same

Dog Control – none

Safety Inspection – was raised \$100 in contractual.

Health – same

Blood testing – same

Highway Supervisor – was lowered \$500 in contractual.

Garage account - \$1,000 increase.

Street Lighting - \$2,000 increase

Transportation Total \$66,700 from last years \$65,700 a 1.52% increase.

Publicity – same

Aged Program – same

Youth Program – same

Historian – same

Planning services – same

Environmental Control – none

BUDGET WORKSHOP, TOWN OF ORANGE, OCTOBER 26th, 2020

Refuse and Garbage – increase \$500, recycling was free now we have to pay for them to take it away because they are not exporting it to other countries.

Cemeteries – same

Other Home and Comm Service – same

Home and Community Services Total - \$33,850 to \$33,350 in 2020 a 1.49% increase.

Employee Benefits

State Retirement – same

Social Security – raised \$300

Workers Comp – same

Unemployment – same

Medical Insurance – raised \$1,000

Employee Benefits Total - \$55,000 from last years \$53,700 an 2.42% increase.

Revenue

Real Property Taxes – will be \$183,918.00

Revenue – was left the same, not sure where we can gain more revenue. I am not sure about the AIM payment this year of about \$7,000, there was not STAR checks this year, so that leads me to believe we will not get the AIM payment.

Sales Tax – for the A fund I put in \$30,000, the rest will go for the DA fund.

Clerk Fee- same

Interest and Earnings – same

Interest reserves – same

Building Permits – same, will be high this year because of our solar projects.

Fine and Forfeited Bail – same

Refuse and Recycling – same

Hometown Hero Banner – check added by group.

Insurance recoveries - \$100 in there because we might recover something.

Refund – same

Park – none

Unclassified Revenue – same

BUDGET WORKSHOP, TOWN OF ORANGE, OCTOBER 26th, 2020

State Aid – same – would be AIM payment

Mortgage Tax – same

Division of Youth – same

Total of Revenues - \$280,550 is an increase from \$275,850 and 1.70% increase.

Highway Fund

Personal Services – increased \$5,000 to \$100,000

Gravel – same

Contractual road fuel – same

Clothing allowance – same

Perman Improvements

CHIP's – same at \$165,053

Machinery

parts/supplies – same

Repairs – same

Snow Removal

Plowing Wages – raised \$5,000 to a new total of \$100,000

Salt and Sand – raised \$5,000 to a new total of \$50,000

Fuel – raised \$5,000 to a new total of \$45,000

Employee Benefits

NYS Retirement – raised \$5,000 to a new total of \$35,000

Social Security – raised \$500 to a new total of \$13,500

Worker's Comp – same

Unemployment Insurance – same

Disability Insurance – same

Health Insurance – raised \$1,000 to a new total of \$85,000

Debt Service

Statutory Installment Bond – same at \$42,000

BUDGET WORKSHOP, TOWN OF ORANGE, OCTOBER 26th, 2020

Revenues

Real Property Taxes – same at \$509,534

Sales Tax – same at \$115,000

Interest and Earnings – same

Sluice pipes – raised \$500 do to increases installing them

Reserve interest – same

Sale of Scrap/excess materials – same

Insurance recovery – same

Refund of prior years exp. – same

Unclassified – same

State aid – same

Fire Protection

Monterey Fire Company – same at \$88,085

Bradford Fire Company – same at \$19,500

Beaver Dams Fire Company – is \$17,747

Joanne - With a 1.56% is what we can increase the whole amount, I am not sure what to do or even to put it. As of right now I have left every budget line the same as the 2020 budget. That is what you told me to do from the last meeting, so I did that, but I think we will be in the same boat as we are now. Next year if we do not go with this increase, it will help us keep up with inflation that could happen. We could get a big windfall that could lead to one disaster from total chaos. Which might already be the case because we do not have water over at the town hall. We do not know if the well is dry, or we need a new pump. There has been water in the build since Thursday.

Maryann Friebeis - Joanne can we look at page one of the Highway Fund, and the part on Machinery, what makes up the \$318,090.53?

Joanne - Well it includes a lot of things, a few large items are two trucks we purchased this year that replaced trucks that have been costing the town more money than they are worth. A large tool box, because a few board members wanted them under lock and keep, etc.

Norma Burris - Well are you talking about the things that are not appropriate to be in that account line. Those items should not be until the repair cost line. Things that should not be there are an International CB Series truck, brand new, for \$107,313.00...

BUDGET WORKSHOP, TOWN OF ORANGE, OCTOBER 26th, 2020

Joanne - I have changed that line item to read something different, it was only placed in that account line because it falls under the term of Machinery. There is no other place in this whole budget to place machinery under, unless we create a new account line from the Comptroller.

Maryann - So, under contractual road fuel up to \$1,759 was a big jump from 2019 to 2020, even when our guys were laid off in March of this year.

Joanne - Road Fuel?

Maryann - My bad I mean clothing allowance.

Joanne - I am not sure what got into that, but it can be changed at the end of the year.

Norma - Well there is some stuff in there for Jeremy, I did not know he was part of the Union Contract to get clothing.

Joanne - Well that should have gone under the General Fund not the Highway Fund.

Norma - Also there is an extra guy, well our budget only reflects four under the contract. We have five right now, so we added a guy, so that is \$300, plus Jeremy's clothing. That is where the increase is.

Holley Sokolowski - Who do you have working on your grants?

Thomas Peer - I think it is everyone one of the elected officials to be looking into grants, not just a single person. Jeremy has worked very hard with Soil and Waters to get a grant to replace a bridge on Sexton Hollow. Two years in a row for the same grant on Record Retention and Digitalization of the town records, I am still waiting to hear back from them this year. We all have to do the legwork to get the grants. I have worked with a grant writing service, they have been helping me with my grant work, and we together have worked very hard on this project.

Ann Remchuk - Can some explain to me about the Fire Tax being the way it is. I am not sure what those numbers mean, and why we are paying that amount. Why is there no list of what gets the fire departments to come up with those numbers, why is Monterey asking for \$88,085.00 can someone please explain this.

Kelly Groves - I can help explain that, we are asking for that because it does cost a lot to run a Volunteer Fire Department. To start off with paying our insurance for the truck, building, equipment, etc. we are left with about \$57,000 for the year. We have to cover the hose, ladder, truck, equipment, etc inspection to make sure it will work when we need it. We also need to cover the cost of training the old and new fire fighters, we currently have 6 interior fire fighters, one being myself, we have a few exterior fire fighters, so they can not go inside a building when it is on fire. We have a few pump operators, communications, fire police, and much more. Everyone at our fire department can do something, but we have 29 members who can all help in some way and form. We have done about 15 fire calls and 68 EMS calls even though we are not contracted for EMS. That is what we do mostly, and that is due to our aging population. We do try to fund raises when we can, but with little support right from the community it costs us

BUDGET WORKSHOP, TOWN OF ORANGE, OCTOBER 26th, 2020

more money to put on an event for fundraising, so we try to come up with other ways to raise funds.

Ann - Wow thank you for explaining that to me, 29 people in our community are a lot of people.

Dee Dann - Yes, they have lots of fundraisers prior to covid, and one hurdle came to them, we work hard to put those events on and it seems to get them nowhere.

Jim Pinkard - What we really need to look at is what is not contractual, because we still have to pay those things. What I think the public wants to know is what broke us this year and how can we move forward from the decisions that got us here. What is the new equipment going to do vs what the old equipment it replaced.

Joanne - Well it is going to help us, we replaced equipment that should no longer cost us money while it is down for however long vs this new equipment is ready to go. With a repair bill as it is right now it will not be the same later next year.

Cedrick Stewart - I just have a question for the board. Is this what it is going to be like next year, or the year after? You all are taxpayers too, and it is your responsibility as the board to make decisions to run the town smoothly. With any kind of hike in assessment and property value can only have an impact on our community because of the people who live here. I have been here for 90 years, and if 91 years looks the same now, how can we fix this problem together and get back on course. It is just hard to accept this kind of budget the way it is. When I came to the town board in 1999 the whole town was decimated, broke. We had to depend on the first batch of taxes to be able to pay the highway wages for the first payroll of the year. We did not give up, we had to make a lot of sacrifices, somewhere along the line there is a miss coge. Whether you fight among yourself, you all have different ideas, but please try to understand you are representing me, all the people in the area, and yourself.

Jon Olin - I think the problem is poor administration, you do not spend two dollars just to spend two dollars, when you only have a dollar. That is what we have done. I am not trying to be personal, but it is between the Supervisor, Highway Supervisor to work together to get things done, but they can not just do it by themselves. They need the board to overview what is going on. We all have to answer to people, and it should be done the right way. Jeremy and Joanne this is nothing personal, but you do need to work with the board to get things done and not do it by yourself or with each other without the board involvement. It is very irresponsible what is happening here in this town. Where are the bids for things, we did not advertise for help, we just highered two people and whatever, and it is very simple. No one can find the report he is to give, we do not have inventory, everyone has a job and we are not doing it.

Joanne - We do have an inventory list now. He does submit reports. You just need to come into the office and ask for them.

Maryann - In 2019 our gross expenditures were \$1,308,524, our gross revenue was \$1,277,520 with a difference of \$31,003, so if we were in the negative over \$31,000, what are our gross

BUDGET WORKSHOP, TOWN OF ORANGE, OCTOBER 26th, 2020

expenditures now in 2020? What do you think we are going to be negative at the end of the year?

Joanne - The General Fund is only until August is \$194,237 and the Highway Fund is only until August is \$920,309. I have no idea on how negative we are going to be at the end of the year. With the guys being off for the few weeks there it could look very different. I have not sat down enough to figure it out.

Maryann - It is just hard to make the cut when we can not see what is going on.

Jeremy - I think it needs to be said that most of the cost of the trucks this year has been covered by old equipment we are selling on Auction International. We have gotten enough money to pay for at least the first payment on them. With the tow truck that is about to be sold they will cover the first payment for the 2020 10-wheeler. All the other stuff sold only helps cover expresses that keep coming up, we do have a few older newer equipment we do need to keep up with. The two trucks we are selling, we have been putting money into them every week or every other week, somewhere it needs to stop. All those costs add up and stuff.

Jason Forcier - So you are saying there are only a few trucks running right now.

Jeremy - We do only have one 10-wheeler right now, one with no spreader chain, and the two about to be sold and the new 2020 sitting in the shop.

Jason - Was the board aware of this?

Joanne - I was aware.

Jason - How come you did not tell the board.

Joanne - I saw Jeremy last week, and not the board. It is very hard to communicate information fast.

Jeremy - We try our best to keep up with repairs on the trucks, the chain is in, but with the most recent shut down, we have not been able to put it back on yet. We do most of the work we can in house and if it needs to be sent out, in the case we can fix it ourselves. See with a rotation schedule, we can work our truck until we can get a new one and trade it or sell it. We are also looking at getting them to be the same brand, we did have a chain lying around because we do keep an extra one on hand, but it was a different brand than what we have right now. Right now we do have two one ton pickup trucks and one 10-wheeler.

Joanne - Added new equipment to our fleet of vehicles will only lead to better work quality. Less time spent on repairing down equipment, waiting for parts, lower cost because things do not need to be sent out. If we do not get the new truck we are going to be spending more in the long term. I know no one wants to raise taxes, but we also need to have better equipment at the end of the day that is not costing the town so much money. Even if we were to raise it to 1.56% we still will not have enough money to cover our short falls. It would be about \$17,000 is all the state says we can raise the tax cape to.

BUDGET WORKSHOP, TOWN OF ORANGE, OCTOBER 26th, 2020

Norma - Can we just lay off two guys to get our budget back in line and then bring someone back.

Joanne - How are you going to plow the roads with two guys?

Norma - There are three plus Jeremy. Lay them off and then bring one back.

Joanne - Gary is going to retire soon, so why not just wait for him to go. He is training the new guy to replace him.

Norma - We need to fix the budget somehow.

Jeremy - I am not a working supervisor, any work I take away from them, they can call into the union and put in a compilation. That is a grievance, I can not take money from their hands. Three guys can not plow all the roads in the town in a timely manner.

Kelly - I am just not sure where this is all going. This is your second budget meeting and it still feels like there is nothing to move forward on. We have been here at 6 pm and it is going on 8:40 pm, so where are we going from here? When is the next meeting going to be? There were a lot of she didn't, she didn't, and she didn't, so we need to move forward on this.

Rick Hendrick - Well you can't over spend and go back to try to figure it out.

Kelly - Right, but it is not just her job to work it out.

Audrey Pane - Do we accept the budget tonight or what?

Joanne - We might have to do it on Monday at the meeting.

Audrey - Why not do it now, we have all seen it and worked out some issues, and I just do not see what the problem is. There is no increase like some of you asked for, and now it is time to move forwards.

Norma - We need to stop and take more time to see where we can pear down.

Dee - I have not heard anything about paring down tonight. So what are we going to do?

Jeremy - I have no issue with cuts, and I am willing to make a cut right now. I just do not want to lose salt, over time hours, etc. I will make a list for the next meeting.

The meeting was never motioned to close by the board members and each got up and walked out. The tape recorder was stopped at 8:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Peer, Town Clerk