

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF RICHLAND
1 BRIDGE STREET, PULASKI, NY

DATE: October 21,2024

KIND OF MEETING: Town Board Meeting-Budget

PLACE: Grand Jury Room, H. Douglas Barclay Courthouse Pulaski, NY

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Robert North
Councilwoman Donna Gilson
Councilman Larry Atkinson
Councilwoman Sue Haynes
Councilman Eric Pappa

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Consultant,Laird Petrie, Budget Officer, Tammie Whaley, Highway Superintendent Kevin Balcom, and Town Clerk Millie Newcomb

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 2:09 p.m. with Supervisor North leading in the Pledge of Allegiance.

BLESSING: Councilman Atkinson lead the Board in prayer

1. The board should look at the changes as of now to become the preliminary budget that will get presented to the public at the Public hearing on November 4, 2024, at 6:00 PM.
 - i. Discussion
 - Discussion on the budget and the need to adapt changes to create a preliminary budget model.
 - Mention of the need for a public hearing and the possibility of making changes after the public hearing.
 - Discussion on the allocation of fund balances and the importance of keeping reserves in certain funds.
 - ii. Voting Results
 - A motion to adopt the Preliminary budget was made by Councilman Pappa with Councilman Atkinson seconding this motion. Roll call vote resulted in all voting in favor 5-0
1. Budget Shortfall Discussion: Addressing the potential budget shortfall for the year.

- Councilman Pappa presented concerns about the potential budget shortfall for the year, estimating a shortfall of at least \$59,000.
 - Discussion on the revenue from Sandy Creek and Brennan's Beach, with Councilman Pappa noting discrepancies in the expected revenue.
 - Mr Pappa mentioned the need to consult with Pam and possibly Bob to understand the billing system better.
 - There was a discussion about the revenue estimates for Sandy Creek and Brennan's Beach, with Councilman Pappa estimating \$163,000 from Sandy Creek and \$26,000 from Brennan's Beach, totaling \$189,328, which is below the budgeted \$291,000.
 - Councilman Pappa suggested that they might need to find an additional \$60,000 to cover the shortfall.
 - There was a discussion about the billing rates and the possibility of raising rates again, with Pappa noting that previous estimates might have been overly optimistic.
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2. Water Rate and EDU Charges Discussion Discussion on the current water rates, EDU charges, and to have a plan to address budget shortfalls.
- The cost of water is \$4 a gallon, and the current charges are not sufficient to cover the expenses.
 - The EDU charges are significantly impacting the budget, leading to a situation where funds are being reallocated from one area to another.
 - Suggestions were made to adjust the rates for different districts to balance the budget.
 - There is a need to approach Brennan's corporate office to discuss potential adjustments in their water rates.
 - Concerns were raised about the impact of opening the contract with Brennan's, as it might lead to renegotiation of the entire contract.
 - The possibility of using fund balances from different water districts to offset the shortfall was discussed, but it was noted that fund balances and reserves must stay within their respective districts.
 - A detailed analysis of the EDU charges and their impact on the budget the current financial strategy is leading to higher water rates to cover mortgages presented, highlighting the need for a more equitable distribution of costs.

With nothing more to bring before the Board, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Haynes and seconded by Councilwoman Gilson. A roll call vote, results were all in favor 5-0.

Meeting adjourned : 3:15pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Millie Newcomb, Town Clerk