

3675 Flint Road
Stanley, NY 14561

October 8, 2013

The budget workshop meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Supervisor John Sheppard. Also present were:

Charles Smith, Councilman
Howard Keeney, Councilman
Terri Quartaro, Town Clerk
Jim Lawson, Water Supt

Andrew Wickham, Councilman
Jason Mosher, Councilman
Shana Jo Hilton, Assessor
Rick Allison, Highway Supt

Supervisor Sheppard led the pledge of allegiance and asked for a roll call. The agenda was approved on motion of Councilman Mosher, seconded by Councilman Wickham. Supervisor Sheppard offered to add a discussion on the Millersville snow study project. The agenda, as amended was approved on motion of Supervisor Sheppard, seconded by Councilman Mosher and carried unanimously.

Privilege of the floor was given to Diane Hovey, Director of the Gorham Free Library who presented the board letters from town residents who are all in favor of continuing funding from the town to the library.

The Millersville snow study project is back on track as they will be purchasing liability insurance that we required. A motion to accept the proposal and to authorize the supervisor to proceed was approved by Councilman Wickham, seconded by Councilman Mosher and carried unanimously. Councilman Smith questioned the appropriateness of legislative action during a budget workshop. Supervisor Sheppard said he would confer with legal counsel before signing with Millersville University. Councilman Wickham suggested they hold an open house for the public.

Supervisor Sheppard then presented the 2014 tentative budget, reviewing each line item. The employees and elected officials will receive a 1.5% increase but the supervisor's pay will not increase. Councilman Wickham offered a motion to increase the supervisor's salary by 1.5% as well, but that motion was not seconded.

Gorham Free Library is budgeted to receive \$10,000 this year, based on the decision made by the board last year to begin to reduce their funding to zero over the next six years. Councilman Wickham stated he doesn't think it is a good idea to withdraw funding from the library. Councilman Mosher stated his intent last year was only to discuss it again this year. He feels we should increase the amount by the 1.5%. Councilman Keeney also wants to keep the library funding going, as well as Councilman Smith. Councilman Mosher offered a motion to abolish last year's decision on decreasing the funding and to fund the library this year with \$12,250 and to continue to fund the library in the future. Motion seconded by Councilman Keeney. Supervisor Sheppard stated the primary funding of the libraries are aligned with the school districts. Annual levies are voted on in conjunction with the school district budgets. The Town of Seneca only subsidizes the Gorham library, not Phelps, Clifton Springs, Geneva or Penn Yan. Nearly half of the Seneca constituency is not in the Marcus Whitman School District. He then offered a personal donation to the Gorham Library which Diane Hovey accepted. "I have the personal will to contribute to the Gorham Library but I cannot vote to force the same will on nearly half of the town". With a motion on the floor, the vote was taken: Councilmen Smith, Wickham, Keeney and Mosher voting AYE and Supervisor Sheppard voting NO. 4-1 motion carried.

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Councilman Wickham stated he doesn't think the average taxpayer realizes just how much of an impact on our taxes that revenue from the landfill is making. Without the landfill revenue, we would all be paying an additional \$10. per thousand between the county and town taxes. He thinks the residents need to be better educated about this. With no further discussion on the 2014 budget, it was adopted, as amended, setting it as the preliminary budget on motion of Councilman Keeney, seconded by Councilman Mosher and carried unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 on motion of Councilman Mosher, seconded by Councilman Keeney and carried unanimously.

Terri Quartaro
Seneca Town Clerk