Town of Corning Budget Workshop

October 13, 2022, 7:00 PM

20 S. Maple St. Corning NY 14830

Supervisor Feehan called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Roll call of those present:

**Present**  **Absent**

Supervisor Kim Feehan

Councilwoman Jenn Mullen

Councilman Lon Fiscus

Councilman Mike Brenning

Councilman Stuart Sammis

Others Present:

Water Superintendent Ken Fields, Town Justices Wendy VanZile and Dale Leonard, Water Operator Ryan Heffernan, Highway Superintendent Glen Rose and Bookkeeper John Savash.

The motion to discuss the emergency purchase of a 1-ton dump truck for the highway department was made by Councilman Jenn Mullen and seconded by Councilman Fiscus. All were in favor to discuss. Motion carried. The current one-ton truck could not pass inspection due to a rusted through frame and it needs to be replaced. Since new trucks are difficult to get it is imperative to move quickly when one is found. Mr. Rose will need approval to solidify the deal. He found a 2022 Dodge Ram 4500 Crew cab. A dump box will be added at the dealership along with emergency lights. He would like approval for a total of $88,185.00. He will fly out to get the truck and drive it back. He agrees to pay the airline and hotel fees to be reimbursed when he returns. Bookkeeper Savash suggests borrowing from the A fund and the water funds for 2 years and repaying at the current interest rate.

Councilman Sammis made the motion to authorize the resolution for an emergency purchase of a 2022 Dodge Ram 4500 from Classic Automotive along with expenses. Councilwoman Mullen seconded and all were in favor. The motion carried.

The motion authorizing the emergency borrowing from the A Fund at fair market rate for two years for the purchase of the truck was made by Councilman Fiscus and seconded by Councilman Mullen. All in favor, motion carried.

On a motion made by Councilman Sammis and seconded by Councilman Fiscus approving the sale of the 2007 dump truck and using the proceeds form the sale to offset the total cost of the new truck. All in favor, motion carried.

The working budget given to all for the meeting was $1,194.00 under the cap. Supervisor Feehan explained that it is very close to the cap and if we need to go over there is no penalty. The current tax rate is $4.35 per thousand and with the working budget the tax rate is $3.97 per thousand. Since the re-valuation was completed the assessed value for the Town went up 16% so the rate must go down to keep taxes down.

The Board reviewed the budget and discussed options for making changes to reduce the bottom line.

Bookkeeper Savash reminded them that they can use ARPA monies for the loss of court income which would help, also they can use some from fund balance to off set the loss as well. He also reminded them that they need to make an official motion to use the ARPA funds for the playground equipment purchased for the park in Oakfield.

Councilman Sammis would like to stay under the Tax Cap and is concerned about salaries. He would like to give 3% across the board for raises except for the Court Clerks and Ryan Heffernan since he received hos water licenses.

Highway Superintendent would like to receive $80,000. He says he has caught on quickly and works well with the guys and has saved the Town some money along the way. He would like the amount given to Ken last year as Secretary to the Highway Superintendent to be added to his salary. The Board discussed his request and agreed that he will receive $73,000.00 this year, a $10,500.00 raise from last year.

With all the changes the amount under the tax cap is $4,083.00, and $3.94 per thousand tax rate.

Councilwoman Mullen made the motion to adjourn at 9:01 Pm. Councilman Sammis seconded. All were in favor, motion carried.

These minutes submitted by:

Susan Edwards

Town CLerk