

**WESTERLO TOWN BOARD  
WORKSHOP MEETING  
OF  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2018**

The Town of Westerlo Town Board held a workshop meeting on October 16, 2018 at the Town Hall located at 933 County Route 401, Westerlo, NY. Supervisor Rapp opened the workshop at 7 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Attending were: Supervisor Richard H. Rapp  
Councilman Anthony W. Sherman  
Councilwoman Amie L. Burnside  
Councilman Richard Filkins  
Councilman Joseph J. Boone

Also attending were: Highway Superintendent Jody Ostrander, Highway Employees Salvatore Spinnato IV, Carl Anderson Jr., Justin Case and Rick Rupeka, Planning Board Chairperson Dorothy Verch, Zoning Board member John Sefcik, President of the Westerlo Volunteer Fire Co. Kelly Keefe, Clerk to the Supervisor Patty Boice, Clerk to the Assessor Claire Marshall, Michael Doud from Borrego Solar, Deputy Town Clerk II Karla Weaver and approximately four residents.

Since the Budget was being discussed, Councilman Boone announced that all questions should be held until the end of the meeting.

**TENTATIVE BUDGET**

The 2018 tentative budget was discussed line by line as follows by account:

**Budget by Actual General Fund**

***INCOME***

**1001- Real Property Taxes**-no change @ \$514,999  
**1090- Penalties Property Taxes**-no change @ \$4,000  
**1120- Non-Property Tax**-(sales tax)-no change @ \$500,000  
**1170- Franchises**- no change @ \$9,500  
**1255- Clerk Fees**- no change @ \$1,400  
**2001- Parks Charges**- no change @ \$1,500  
**2110- Zoning Fees**- no change @ \$500  
**2115- Planning Board Fees**- no change @ \$50  
**2130- Refuse & Garbage Charges**- decreased to \$1,000  
**2401- Interest & Earnings**- no change @ \$1,000  
**2544- Dog Licenses**- decreased to \$1,000  
**2545- Licenses-Other**- no change @ \$100  
**2555- Building & Alteration Permits**- no change @ \$2,000  
**2610- Fines & Forfeited Bail**- no change @ \$20,000  
**2651- Sales of Recycling Refuse**- no change @ \$9,500  
**2655- Minor Sales**- no change @ \$6,500  
**2701- Refunds Prior Years Expenditure**- no change  
**2705- Gifts & Donations**- no change  
**2770- Unclassified Revenues**- no change  
**3001- State Revenue Sharing**- no change @ \$14,000  
**3005- Mortgage Tax**- no change @ \$30,000  
**3889- State Aid**- no change  
**4089- Other**- no change @ \$10,000

**Income total: \$1,127,049.00**

**EXPENSES**

**Legislative**

**1010.1- Personal Services-** Increased from \$14,500 to \$16,400 for raises for Town Board members

**1010.4- Contractual-** Increased from \$500 to \$600

**Total 1010- Legislative- \$17,000**

**Municipal Court**

**1110.1- Personal Services-** Increased from \$34,000 to \$34,500

**1110.4- Contractual-** no change @ \$7,500

**Total 1110-Municipal- \$42,000**

**Supervisor**

**1220.1- Personal Services-** Salaries for Supervisor and Clerk- increased from \$57,800 to \$60,300

**1220.4- Contractual-** no change @ \$15,000

**Total 1220-Supervisor- \$75,300**

**Auditor**

**1320.4-Contractual-** no change @ \$22,000

**Total 1320- Auditor- \$22,000**

**Assessment**

**1355.1- Personal Services-** increased from \$42,000 to \$42,650 for wages

**1355.4- Contractual-** no change @ \$5,000 for costs of seminars and training

**Total 1355- Assessment- \$47,650**

**Clerk**

**1410.1-Personal Services-** increased from \$69,100 to \$70,000 for wages

**1410.2-Capital Outlay-** increased from \$0 to \$1,000

**1410.4-Contractual-** increased from \$8,200 to \$8,500 for office supplies

**Total 1410- Clerk-\$79,500**

**Law**

**1420.1- Personal Services-** no change @ \$20,000

**1420.4-Contractual-** no change @ \$2,000

**Total 1420-Law \$22,000**

**Engineer**

**1440.4- Contractual-**no change @ \$15,000

**Total 1440- Engineer- \$15,000**

**Elections**

**1450.4- Contractual-**increased from \$6,000 to \$7,000

**Total 1450- Elections- \$7,000**

**Buildings**

**1620.1- Personal Services-** no change @ \$67,500

**1620.2- Capital Outlay-** increased from \$0 to \$100,000

**1620.4- Contractual-** no change @ \$42,500

**Total 1620-Buildings- @ \$210,000**

**Unallocated Insurance**

1910.4- *Contractual*-no change @ \$40,000  
**Total 1910- Unallocated Insurance- \$40,000**

#### **Municipal Association Due**

1920.4- *Contractual*-no change @ \$1,600-Association of Town's Dues  
**Total 1920- Municipal Association Due- \$1,600**

#### **Public Safety Administration**

3010.4- *Contractual*-no change @ \$1,500  
**Total 3010- Public Safety Administration- \$1,500**

#### **Control of Dogs**

3510.1- no change @ \$7,200  
3510.4- *Contractual*-no change @ \$1,000 for kennel fees  
**Total 3510- Control of Dogs- \$8,200**

#### **Safety Inspection**

3620.1- no change @ \$13,770-Salary for Ed Lawson  
3620.4- *Contractual*-no change @ \$500  
**Total 3620- Safety Inspection- \$14,270**

#### **Ambulance**

4540.4- *Contractual*-increased from \$124,000 to \$150,365- Councilman Sherman pointed out that this is not for the Westerlo Rescue Squad but instead for Albany County Advanced Life Support service in case our Ambulance is out of service and Supervisor Rapp indicated that the cost is non-negotiable as it is calculated by population.  
**Total 4540- Ambulance- \$150,365**

#### **Highway & Street Administration**

5010.1- no change @ \$60,100- Highway Superintendent Jody Ostrander elaborated that this is for things that do not get addressed by "Chips". He also mentioned that the Town gets the least amount of money from "Chips" than any town around us and we pay the most for the Ambulance because we have more people and less road mileage.  
5010.4- no change @ \$1,000  
**Total 5010- Highway & Street Administration-\$61,100**

#### **Garage**

5132.2- no change @ \$10,000  
5132.4- no change @ \$6,000  
**Total 5132-Garage- \$16,000**

#### **Street Lighting**

5182.4- no change @ \$3,000  
**Total 5182- Street Lighting- \$3,000**

Councilman Boone asked Supervisor Rapp if he was aware of how many lights have been upgraded to LED however he was unsure.

#### **Publicity**

6410.4- no change @ \$500  
**Total 6410-Publicity- \$500**

#### **Parks**

7110.1- increased from \$28,600 to \$31,000 for salary for crew for both parks  
7110.2- no change @ \$15,000  
7110.4- no change @ \$7,500

**Total 7110-Parks- \$53,500**

**Youth Program**

7310.1- no change @ \$2,500

7310.4- no change @ \$1,000

**Total 7310-Youth Program- \$3,500**

**Historian**

7510.1- no change @ \$1,500 -salary

7510.4- no change @ \$250 -supplies

**Total 7510-Historian- \$1,750**

**Celebration**

7550.4- no change @ \$1,000

**Total 7550-Celebration- \$1,000**

**Adult Recreation**

7620.4- no change @ \$9,000- Senior Bus

**Total 7620- Adult Recreation- \$9,000**

**Zoning**

8010.1- increased from \$18,735 to \$19,400

8010.4- no change from \$500

**Total 8010-Zoning- \$19,900**

**Planning**

8020.1- increased from \$12,735 to \$13,600

8020.2- no change @ \$1,000

**Total 8020-Planning- \$14,600**

**Refuse & Garbage**

8160.1- decreased from \$65,700 to \$64,750.00

8160.4- increased from \$121,000 to \$139,000- The town does not know how much this will cost

**Total 8160-Refuse & Garbage- \$203,750 projected cost.**

The Town Board and Mr. Ostrander discussed tipping fees at this time.

**Cemetery**

8810.4 – There was previously no line item for cemeteries so this year Mr. Rapp put in \$5,000 for maintenance because Councilman Filkins had asked Supervisor Rapp for money to help with the Westerlo Rural Cemetery as they were having trouble with the mower. Councilman Filkins also mentioned the Westerlo Rural Cemetery increased the cost of the plots to be competitive with other Cemeteries.

**Total 8810-Cemetery-\$5,000**

**State Retirement**

9010.8- decreased from \$55,000 to \$45,000

**Total 9010-State Retirement- \$45,000**

**Social Security**

9030.8- no change @ \$35,100

**Total 9030- Social Security- \$35,100**

**Worker's Compensation**

9040.8- no change @ \$45,000  
**Total 9040- Worker's Compensation- \$45,000**

**Disability Insurance**

9055.8- no change @ \$500  
**Total 9055- Disability Insurance- \$500**

**Hospital/Medical Insurance**

9060.8-increased from \$137,000 to \$150,700- Supervisor Rapp indicated the Town never knows the exact amount in time for budget.

**Total 9060- Hospital/Medical Insurance- \$150,700**

**Total Expense for General Budget: increased from \$1,257,390 to \$1,563,285**

**Budget by Actual Highway Fund**

**INCOME**

1001- Real Property Taxes-\$334,341

1120- Non-Property Tax-(sales tax) – no change @ \$530,000

2350-Youth Services

2401- Interest & Earnings-no change@ \$700 –this was accidentally put on the wrong line under Youth Services

2655- Minor Sales-none

2680- Insurance Recoveries- none

2701- Refunds Prior Years Expenditure- none

2770- Unclassified Revenues- none

3501-Consolidated Highway Aid- no change @ \$180,000 for "CHIPS". Supervisor Rapp indicated the "Chips" money would be available after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year.

4785- FEMA- none

5720- Statutory Bonds-none

**Income total: \$1,045,041**

**EXPENSES**

**Maintenance of Roads**

5110.1- decreased from \$160,000 to \$141,000

5110.4- no change @ \$125,000- materials for roads

**Total 5110- Maintenance of Roads- \$266,000**

**Bridges**

5120.4- no change @ \$0

**Total 5120-Bridges- \$0**

**Machinery**

5130.2- no change @ \$5,000

5130.4- no change @ \$70,000

**Total 5130-Machinery-\$75,000**

**Snow Removal**

5142.1- increased from \$185,000 to \$190,000

5142.4- no change @ \$70,000

**Total 5142- Snow Removal-\$260,000**

**State Retirement**

9010.8- decreased from \$71,000 to \$61,000

**Total 9010-State Retirement- \$61,000**

**Social Security**

9030.8- no change @ \$26,400

**Total 9030-Social Security- \$26,400**

**Worker's Compensation**

9040.8- no change @ \$45,000

**Total 9040-Worker's Compensation-\$45,000**

**Disability Insurance**

9055.8- no change @ \$500

**Total 9055-Disability Insurance-\$500**

**Hospitalization/Medical Insurance**

9060.8- increased from \$182,000 to \$200,200-amount unknown

**Total 9060-Hospitalization/Medical Insurance-\$200,200**

**Other Benefits**

9089.8- no change @ \$10,000

9089- no change @ \$30,000

**Total 9089- Other Benefits-\$40,000**

**Statutory Install Bonds**

9720.6- no change @ \$55,350

9720.7- decreased from \$9,791 to \$8,111

**Total 9720-Statutory Install Bonds- \$63,461**

**Total Expense for Highway Budget: decreased from \$1,045,041 to \$1,037,561.**

**Budget for Library Fund**

**INCOME**

1001-Real Property Taxes- increased from \$78,780 to \$79,843

2082-Library Charges-no change @ \$742

2401-Interest & Earnings-increased from \$74 to \$75

3840-Library Revenue- increased from \$1,404 to \$1,418

**Total Library Income: \$82,078**

**EXPENSES**

**LIBRARY**

7410.1-Salaries- increased from \$51,103 to \$51,662 for an increase in hours not salary

7410.4-Contractual-increased from \$27,586 to \$28,046

**Total 7410 Library-\$79,708**

**EMPLOYEE BENEFITS**

9030.8-increased from \$3,910 to \$3,952

**Total 9030 Employee Benefits- \$3,952**

**Total Library Expense: \$83,660 -an increase of \$1,060**

**Budget for Museum Fund**

**INCOME**

1001-Real Property Taxes- decreased from \$12,500 to \$12,300.

**Total Income-\$12,300**

**EXPENSE**

**Museum-Art Gallery**

7450.1-no change @\$2,400

7450.4-decreased from \$10,100 to \$9,900

**Total Museum Expense- \$12,300**

**Budget Actual Fire Protection Fund**

**INCOME**

**Real Property Tax**

1001-decreased from \$230,863 to \$230,303

**Total Income-1001- Property Tax- \$230,303**

**EXPENSE**

**Fire Protection**

3410-decreased from \$230,863 to \$230,303

**Total Fire Protection Expense- \$230,303**

Supervisor Rapp announced he has to advertise exactly what he is given.

**Budget Actual Ambulance Fund**

**INCOME**

**Real Property Tax**

1001-decreased from \$100,000 to \$88,000

**Total Income-1001-Real Property Tax- \$88,000**

**EXPENSE**

**Ambulance**

4540.4- decreased from \$100,000 to \$88,000

**Total Expense-4540-Ambulance- \$88,000**

**Budget of Actual Water Fund**

**INCOME**

1001 Real Property Taxes-increased from \$27,000 to \$28,000

2140 Metered Water Sales- no change @ \$46,000

**Total Income-increased from \$73,000 to \$74,000**

**EXPENSES**

**Purification**

8330.1 Purification- no change @ \$26,000

8330.4 Contractual- no change @ \$18,000

**Total 8330 Purification-\$44,000**

**Employee Benefits**

9030-no change @ \$2,000

**Total 9030 Employee Benefits- \$2,000**

**Serial Bonds**

9710.6-increased from \$27,000 to \$28,000

**Total 9710 Serial Bonds- \$28,000**

**Total Expenses-Actual Water Fund-\$74,000**

**Budget for Actual Lighting Fund**

**INCOME**

1001 Real Property Taxes- no change @ \$7,268

**EXPENSE**

5182-Street Lighting- no change @ \$7,268

**Total Expense-5182-Street Lighting-\$7,268**

**TOWN BOARD DISCUSSION**

Earlier in the meeting, Highway Superintendent Jody Ostrander mentioned the need to purchase a new garbage truck for the Transfer Station. Councilwoman Burnside asked where in the budget this could be found. Councilman Sherman explained that the Town would be making payments for this over the course of many years but it would be a part of the budget for 2020.

Councilman Filkins asked the President of the Westerlo Fire Company Kelley Keefe why the mold remediation was not part of the budget for the Fire Company, how they came up with the amount for the cancer treatment and if the cancer insurance was for interior fire fighters only. Ms. Keefe responded that when the budget was submitted they were unaware they had a mold problem so that's why it wasn't part of the budget. She also indicated that the Fire Company received estimates for cancer insurance and that they were now just waiting to receive all of the information for requirements on who should be covered.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Clerk to the Assessor, Claire Marshall asked about the budget for the cemeteries and wondered how that was going to be disbursed since there were three active cemeteries in the Town. Supervisor Rapp indicated it would not be used for just one cemetery.

Planning Board Chairperson Dorothy Verch asked why there was no income on the budget for solar or franchise fees. Supervisor Rapp indicated they would not be part of the budget. She also had questions about an issue she noticed on her personal payroll which the Clerk to the Supervisor Patty Boice addressed.

A resident asked about insurance and if the Town could look into other companies or the possibility of working with another township to get the rates down. Supervisor Rapp responded that there has been talk about shared services and there is actually a meeting tomorrow about this with the County. He and Councilwoman Burnside agreed that insurance is difficult to plan for. The Town does use a broker to compile information and rates for different insurance companies so they can go with the best one for their needs. Discussion continued.

ZBA member John Sefcik questioned why under 2018 there was no amount budgeted on the general fund for maintenance of roads. It is believed that this was a glitch but will be looked into with the accountant.

Another resident asked what the Publicity line was. Supervisor Rapp indicated it was for advertising.

Mrs. Verch wondered if the Water Board received a salary and asked what the contractual amount was for. Councilman Sherman responded that the Water Board did not receive a salary however the salary on the budget was for Doug Story as the Water District Operator. Clerk to the Supervisor Patty Boice indicated the contractual amount was for supplies for the water district.

Mr. Sefcik mentioned that there are a few items that will need to be factored into the budget that are not currently included such as solar, franchise fees and the water filtration system. Councilman Sherman explained that until a project is a go you can't count on that PILOT money and therefore it wouldn't be incorporated into the budget until you knew you were getting that PILOT agreement. He indicated that it could be incorporated in the following year's budget.

Mike Doud from Borrego Solar asked the Town Board what the steps are at this point so Borrego could move forward. Councilman Boone explained that he is aware of the expediency of their project however is not prepared to discuss this tonight as this meeting was strictly to discuss the budget. Councilman Sherman mentioned this would be on the agenda for November's Town Board meeting. Mr. Doud requested to be put on the agenda for November.

John Dolce announced that he was attending tonight about his solar project with Borrego at Shepard's Farm on State Route 32. He questioned if there was something he could do to move things along. Mrs. Verch responded that the Town Board needed to make the law on the decommissioning bond so the Planning Board could apply it to their application. Councilman Sherman indicated that the Town Board needed to adjust the verbiage in the law and finalize the negotiations for the PILOT agreement but that there was nothing further Mr. Dolce needed to do. Mrs. Verch continued discussion about the solar law and decommissioning.

Councilman Boone announced that the Town Board meeting that was scheduled for November 7<sup>th</sup> has been rescheduled to November 5<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and would be advertised and posted to the website. No agenda has been made at this time.

Councilman Boone thanked Mr. Doud and Mr. Dolce for attending tonight's meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, Councilman Sherman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Boone, all in favor motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:43pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karla J. Weaver  
Deputy Town Clerk II