

**TOWN OF WESTERLO  
SPECIAL TOWN BOARD & WORKSHOP MEETING  
OF  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2021**

The Town of Westerlo Town Board held a Special Town Board and Workshop meeting on Wednesday, November 3, 2021 at the Town Hall located at 933 County Route 401, Westerlo, NY. Deputy Supervisor Matthew Kryzak opened the meeting at 7:01 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Attending were: Deputy Supervisor Matthew Kryzak  
Councilwoman Amie L. Burnside  
Councilman Richard Filkins  
Councilman Joseph J. Boone

Also attending were: Highway Superintendent Jody Ostrander, Planning Board Chairperson Dorothy Verch and member Edwin Stevens, Library Director Amy Powarzynski and President Maureen Sikule and Town Clerk Karla Weaver and approximately four (4) interested residents.

Councilman Filkins made a motion to open the Special Town Board meeting at 7:02pm. Councilwoman Burnside seconded; all in favor motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**2022 TOWN OF WESTERLO PRELIMINARY BUDGET REVIEW & ADOPTION**

Councilman Kryzak mentioned if the Town Board is ready to adopt the budget this evening they can or can do it at a later date but it must be done by November 20<sup>th</sup>. He also indicated the Town Board has received an updated copy of the Preliminary Budget with included changes from the last meeting. The changes included pay increases for the Planning and Zoning Boards and Highway Superintendent, correction to the Paul Tonko grant amount and correction to the Highway income line which still included the portion of money related to the Transfer Station.

Councilwoman Burnside asked if the Town Clerk/Tax Collector line could be split out and increased. If you combine salaries for Town Clerk, Tax Collector and Record Management in other towns, she believed the proposed salary was low in comparison. Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of splitting out Tax Collector to its own code (1410.15) for \$8,000.00 which would be funded from the general fund balance. Councilwoman Burnside agreed and would also like to see the same with the Confidential Secretary breaking out the grant writing line. By doing this, a resolution would not be required to break out those lines again in case the person holding those positions in the future were not the same. Discussion continued regarding grant writing. The Confidential Administrator is currently working on four (4) grants and Mr. Kryzak expects his office to always be going after at least two (2) grants at a time. The public expressed interest in leaving the Town Clerk/Tax Collector line as it currently is and just increasing the salary. Mr. Filkins advised that he had previously asked the Board about creating

job descriptions. Mrs. Filkins indicated the only person who responded at the time to his request for creating job descriptions was the Town Clerk and she was amazed at what that office does. Job descriptions are something the Supervisor would like to see created moving forward.

Councilman Boone indicated that usually the same few people attend meetings. He believed based on the public's feedback, the compensation for these positions were fair based on the work that is being done in those offices. He expressed concern however that there are many more people in town besides those who have been attending these budget meetings regularly. He continued, the first and foremost fundamental point of any increase in pay is merit; does that person warrant that additional pay, are they doing the work, putting in the time and contributing to the overall goal of the entity. He was agreeable to the raises since the public who has been attending regularly had no objections. He did not believe the Town Clerk/Tax Collector line should be broken out.

Councilman Kryzak indicated line 1410.11 would be increased to \$60,000.00 and the appropriations will be increased on the front cover with no other changes being made.

Councilwoman Burnside made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

**WHEREAS:** The Town of Westerlo has held a Public Hearing on the 2022 Preliminary Town of Westerlo Budget, be it hereby

**RESOLVED:** the 2022 Preliminary Budget becomes the 2022 Town of Westerlo Adopted Budget which includes an increase of \$8,000.00 from the fund balance to account code 1410.11 for the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's salary for a total of \$60,000.00 annually.

Seconded by Councilman Filkins; a vote resulted as follows:

AYES: Councilwoman Burnside, Councilman Filkins, Councilman Kryzak, Councilman Boone

NAYS: None

**RESOLUTION # 110 of 2021 was hereby duly adopted.**

#### **2022 TOWN OF WESTERLO VOLUNTEER FIRE CO. PRELIMINARY BUDGET**

Councilman Filkins made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

**WHEREAS:** The Town of Westerlo has held a Public Hearing on the 2022 Preliminary Town of Westerlo Vol. Fire Co. Budget, be it hereby

**RESOLVED:** the 2022 Preliminary Fire Co. Budget becomes the 2022 Town of Westerlo Vol. Fire Co. Adopted Budget.

Seconded by Councilwoman Burnside, a vote resulted as follows:

AYES: Councilwoman Burnside, Councilman Kryzak, Councilman Boone, Councilman Filkins

NAYS: None

**RESOLUTION # 111 of 2021 was hereby duly adopted.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **PLANNING BOARD PAY PER MEETING DISCUSSION**

Councilman Kryzak mentioned the Planning Board members were being paid per meeting at one point and if they didn't attend, they didn't get paid. Town Clerk Weaver mentioned she reviewed meeting minutes and did not see that it was ever reversed. Mrs. Verch believed being paid per meeting was fair and should remain. Mr. Kryzak indicated he just wanted to be sure that if they attended training, it would constitute a meeting and would be paid.

### **OPEN TO PUBLIC**

Councilman Boone expressed cautioned regarding grants. He indicated the Town should only apply for relatable grants and not waste time on just any grant that comes along.

Mrs. Filkins thanked the Town for using the park for the "Trunk or Treat" which benefits the Westerlo Rural Cemetery. Between selling refreshments and donations, they profited \$300.00 which will be used toward restoring some of the old stones. They are also going after a grant from the NY Cemetery Association for repairing old stones. Mrs. Filkins explained, normally stones are the family's responsibility but as families die off there is no one left to restore them.

Town Clerk Weaver mentioned the Town of Westerlo would like to sponsor a family for Christmas. This was discussed previously at a meeting and would be funded by donations. A family would be chosen by Catholic Charities and the Town Clerk would be supplied a list of items the family needs/wants which would be posted publicly. A cash donation box would also be located in the Town Hall for anyone wishing to donate money. She will contact the Resource Center to let them know that the Town is moving forward with sponsoring a family for Christmas. She also indicated the donation box could be used down the road for other donations, possibly even benefiting the cemeteries for the purpose mentioned earlier.

### **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

With no further business to discuss, Councilman Filkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Burnside. All in favor motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karla J. Weaver  
Town Clerk