

September 13 2021
Workshop Meeting

Workshop meeting of the Town Board on the above date at 7:00 pm. Supervisor Cloud, Councilman Bartles, Councilman Chase, Councilman Zick present VIA Zoom, Superintendent Heather Emerich and 2 members of the public were also present.

Supervisor Cloud called the meeting for the 2022 Budget Preview and Affordable Housing to order.

Supervisor Cloud first discussed that the health insurance was going to increase 7%. Health insurance is renewed in March 2022. Unallocated Insurance renews May 2022, and would increase between 5-6%. Cloud explained for the year 2021 unallocated increased \$1,000. Cloud open discussion for salaries becoming more competitive. Highway Superintendent Emerich explained the compensation comparisons survey with Milan, Town of North East, Fishkill, Hyde Park, Ancram, Rhinebeck, Amenia, Poughkeepsie, Clinton and Pawling. Emerich discussed her budget for the year 2022. Which included road repairs, which are not CHIPS eligible, equipment replacement on the 2004 Dump truck and to get Superintendent Salary to be comparable to neighboring towns. Cloud asked about the bond which was out for the tractor, which will be paid off by 2024. Emerich let the Board know the new loader was funded by CHIPS funds. Emerich explained she is going to ask for a broom for the loader, to keep wear and tear off of the Tool CAT. Cloud asked if the Culvert pipe replacement on Woodward Hill RD is CHIPS eligible. Which the Town engineer would have to look into. Councilman Bartles wanted to discuss salaries of workers at the Highway Department. Cloud explained the Town of Ancram compensates their workers with a hierarchy with years served in the industry. Councilman Chase discussed that a good methodology would be to be compensated by the experience in the service and years served with the Town. Cloud said that Human Resources from Dutchess County put out that a living wage is \$22/hr. Chase mentioned the Towns policy for health insurance benefits. Emerich discussed the Town does offer buyouts for those individuals that do not need insurance. Councilman Zick feels the 100% health insurance is not a benefit for hires. He thinks the Board should reevaluate the health insurance and compare prices with insurance and without. Zick feels it makes a difference to see more money in paychecks. Cloud also agrees that insurance benefits should be rethought. Bartles wanted to see what the Union for Amenia looks like pertaining to salary structure. Cloud was going to get contracts from Amenia, Red Hook and Clinton. Cloud went on to discuss the budget for 2022 has stayed the same except for increase in supplies and salaries. Cloud also wanted to discuss changing the Officer in Charge pay from hourly to salary due to the OIC being on call 24/7. Councilman Bartles wanted to look at other templates from other towns, and what they do for the OIC. Bartles continued to ask about the stimulus money. Cloud explained the Town has half the money in the sweep account, and the other half will be distributed in the summer. Cloud explained the stimulus money can only be used for infrastructure such as broadband and sewers. Bartles wants to make sure that the stimulus money is recorded in the books for the Town. Cloud also let the Board know that the Town got a refund of \$5,000.00 from workers compensation for safety from Highway Department, Police Department and Grounds & Maintenance.

Affordable Housing- Supervisor Cloud wanted to discuss that Pine Plains is one of the Founders of the Tri-County coalitions. The Town has been looking into this for 4 years. They have been able to attract homes and communities in the past 4 years. Recently has hired a banker who is trying to attract developers to do a development. Some of the problems with developers coming to Pine Plains is that they do not want to come to Town and put in a sewer

system. The developers want infrastructure that they can build off of. Bartles explained why affordable housing has failed is because they get individuals who cannot afford to live there. Bartles also is unsure who the target group is for affordable housing. Developers need an incentive to participate. Chase brought up the tax credits, and feels that a lot has been done in the past years, all the work for the sewer system. Cloud feels the Town has come a long way such as the change with the Zoning for dwellings. Chase feels the Town is pleased with the increase of density in the Hamlet.

Bartles discussed the asbestos removal bill to Gentile and Quest.

Bartles motioned to adjourn the meeting second by Chase 4-0 Passed.

Supervisor Cloud

Councilman Bartles

Town Clerk

Councilwoman Jones

Councilman Chase

Councilman Zick