

A special meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Homer to review the Tentative Budget held in the board room of the Town Hall Building on Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008, was called to order by Supervisor Frederick J. Forbes at 9:01 a.m.

PRESENT

Frederick J. Forbes, Supervisor  
Barry E. Warren, Councilman  
Kevin M. Williams, Councilman  
Brian D. Young, Councilman  
John R. Phelps, Highway Superintendent  
Anita W. Jebbett, Town Clerk

ABSENT

Dan A. Weddle, Councilman

OTHERS PRESENT

Bonnie Johnson, budget assistant  
Jeff Lewis, Village Recreation Director  
Gary Shiffer, Town Justice

Board members reviewed a quote from Valley View Gardens for landscaping around the Town Hall Building since the various construction projects.

On motion by Supervisor Forbes, seconded by Councilman Young and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that the Town Board hereby accepts the quote from Valley View Gardens, Cortland, for landscaping for the front entry of the Town Hall for \$850 and for the back of the Town Hall, facing the parking lot, for \$945.**

The quote for the side of the Town Hall was not accepted at this time because the Board's plans to replace the windows might disturb any new plantings. That area will be landscaped following the window project.

Jeff Lewis, Village Recreation Director, was present to explain his request for increased funding for the Village-run programs. He said that they now keep track of where the participants in their programs live and that the number from the Town has increased. He said that non-residents now have to pay an additional fee. Board members thanked him for his input.

Supervisor Forbes read through the proposed budget and answered questions posed by the Board members as follows:

In General Fund A, as requested by the Town Clerk, the Control of Dogs budget was increased by \$3,000 to pay for a dog census to be conducted next summer. Highway Superintendent Phelps suggested that his pay could stay about the same as the current year's salary. The amount to be received in Justice Court fees was increased by \$5,000 to \$65,000. After much discussion it was decided that the Town keep the extra \$100,000 in sales tax revenue that in years past it has returned to the County. This extra revenue was put into the General Fund to help fund the replacement of the windows on the Town Hall.

In General Fund B it was decided to accept the request of Jeff Lewis and the Village for \$26,900 to help fund the Recreation Department programs. Supervisor Forbes explained that instead of giving the Philips Library their full request, he had in the budget a 3% increase over last year's budget or \$36,050.

In Highway Fund DA it was decided to remove the \$25,000 line item for equipment purchase. Supervisor Forbes explained that the payroll comes out of the DA fund during the winter months and that just under one-half the cost of social security now

is budgeted out of DA. After much discussion, the Town Board decided on a 3% increase in the rate of pay for Highway Department employees.

In Highway Fund DB the equipment purchase line item was increased by \$25,000 to \$145,000. This was offset by an increase in the amount of fund balance to be appropriated.

Overall the Town Board members were satisfied with the budget prepared by Supervisor Forbes with help from Bonnie Johnson. The tax rate remains at \$1.58 for Village residents and \$1.58 plus Fire District tax of \$.51, or \$2.09 for Town residents.

On motion by Supervisor Forbes, seconded by Councilman Young and carried unanimously: **RESOLVED: that Bonnie Johnson be paid \$400 from the Town's Budget account for her services in helping to prepare the 2009 Town Budget.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Anita W. Jebbett  
Town Clerk