

**Danby Town Board
Minutes of Special Budget Meeting
October 7, 2015
DRAFT**

Present:

Supervisor: Ric Dietrich
Councilpersons: Rebecca Brenner, Leslie Connors, Jack Miller

Others Present:

Town Clerk Pamela Goddard
Bookkeeper Laura Shawley
Highway Sup. Carl Seamon, Jack Shawley

The Danby Town Board Meeting was opened at 7:10 am

Budget Planning and Review Discussion

The Town Board reviewed the Preliminary 2016 budget with Bookkeeper Shawley.

Discussion continued regarding the sizable increase in the Fire District budget. Dietrich and Shawley stated that they are still trying to get clarity from the Fire District, that the amount being asked for is to be raised by taxes. While the TB does not manage the FD budget in any way, members of the Board wanted information in order to answer questions from residents. The FD budget hearing is scheduled for October 20. Supervisor Dietrich will invite Fire Commissioner Edward Kokkelenberg to the October 19 TB meeting, to provide an opportunity for the Fire Commissioners to speak about the needs in its budget.

Connors proposed that \$2,000 be moved from the A7330.400 Youth and Recreation line of the General Fund budget to the Community Council budget. This will leave \$500 in the Youth and Recreation line. There was agreement for this budget change.

There was a discussion regarding an increase in attorney fees for 2016. There are several matters which have taken a greater amount of attorney review in 2015 than in previous years. Dietrich and Shawley said that it would be prudent to budget appropriately for 2016. It is anticipated that some matters, such as union negotiations, will continue into the next year. Connors asked whether it would be advisable to give the attorney more direction in order to limit costs related to some questions? Brenner added support to the idea of limits to attorney expenditures on certain projects.

Shawley asked whether it might be better to pay the attorney on a contractual or retainer basis? There was a discussion regarding alternate arrangements for the Town/Attorney relationship. There was an extended discussion around the question of what appropriate spending levels might be and how to determine any limits on such costs. Connors suggested that Attorney Krogh be invited to have a conversation on this matter with the Board.

There was a general discussion regarding the line item for the Town Historian. This included a discussion regarding this position and its future.

Highway Superintendents Carl Seamon and Jack Shawley were available for questions. There were none.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 am.

Pamela Goddard, Town Clerk