

TOWN OF CLIFTON PARK TOWN BOARD
2024 PRELIMINARY BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

November 9, 2023

The special meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Clifton Park was held in the Town Office Building at 7:00 p.m. Supervisor Barrett presiding to hear comments on the 2024 Preliminary Budget.

Present: Supervisor Barrett
Councilman Morelli
Councilwoman Walowit
Councilman O'Hara
Town Clerk Brobston

Absent: Councilwoman Reid

Also Present: Town Attorney McCarthy
Mark Heggen, Comptroller

Town Clerk Brobston read the public hearing notice as advertised in the Gazette on October 19, 2023.

BUDGET OVERVIEW

Supervisor Barrett recommended adjustments as provided through the budget process:

Sheriff Department-increase for higher costs in budget with the associated PBA contracts, Mark Heggen, Comptroller, stated \$609,000 for 2023 was provided, proposed projected increase to \$625,000 for 2024, additional \$30,000 increase, amount of actual increase to \$653,161, to be offset against the Sales Tax Revenue.

Parks & Recreation Department-increase Meghan Babendreier from Grade 4, Step 2 to Grade 4, Step 3.

Senior Center-increase Director of Clifton Park Senior Community Center Susan Leonard, increase from Grade 5, Step 8 to Grade 7, Step 4.

Planning Department-increase Melinda Acker from Grade 5, Step 4 to Grade 6, Step 4. Resolution to change her title to Planner will follow.

Buildings & Grounds Department-increase Regan Tromblee from Grade 4, Step 4 to Grade 5, Step 4.

Buildings & Grounds Department-create an additional position of Building Maintenance Technician/Maintenance for Town Streetlights at Grade 6, Step 1, charging the Lighting District back for maintenance, as it occurs, on the streetlights.

Councilwoman Walowit supports all the personnel requests.

Councilman Morelli stated the adjustments for the personnel requests are all appropriate and deserving, personnel being the most important commodity of the Town.

Supervisor Barrett stated, after a conversation with Director of Buildings, Parks & Recreation Daniel Clemens, quotes were received for resurfacing of several courts in Town and were prices were incredibly high. Supervisor suggests investing in equipment to perform the resurfacing by Town employees.

Supervisor Barrett stated Highway Department snowplow trucks for leasing is included in the 2024 Budget.

Supervisor Barrett stated, a crane truck, to be purchased for the Sewer Department, replacing a current 2008 crane truck, is in the proposed 2024 budget.

Councilman O'Hara expressed the difficulty in providing all departments with their budgetary needs and recommended an outside service to come in and perform an audit for the needed requests for a factual base. Mr. O'Hara suggested replacing one plow truck this year and one next year, then one every year each after that.

No one from the public wished to be heard.

Councilwoman Walowit moved to approve the recommended changes, seconded by Councilman Morelli. All Ayes.

MOTION CARRIED

Comptroller Heggen stated, the next step in the budget process is for the proposed to be approved. The proposed budget will be considered at the November 20th Town Board meeting. He explained the Town is still \$14,000 under the Tax Cap.

Supervisor Barrett stated it would be preferred if there was an allowance for special districts created and not count against the tax cap.

Supervisor Barrett stated Clifton Park is ranked 911 out of 933 Towns for full value in low taxes.

Councilman Morelli thanked Comptroller Heggen for his work on the budget.

MOTION to adjourn by Councilwoman Walowit, seconded by Councilman Morelli.

MOTION carried at 7:45 PM.

Teresa Brobston, Town Clerk