

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilman Piekarec, to adopt the Supervisor's tentative budget as the preliminary budget with the following amendments:

General Fund

Town Justice - Justice Clerk line increase by \$8,239
Town Engineer - Equipment line decrease by \$10,000
Police - Salary of Police Security Officers increase by \$3,800
Police - Community Program Salary increase by \$15,000
Police - Traffic Program Overtime decrease by \$15,000
Police - Equipment line increase by \$12,000
Police - Traffic Program Equipment line decrease by \$12,000
Police - Other Expenses increase by \$8,000
Code Enforcement - Equipment decrease by \$10,000
Superintendent of Highways - Salary of Account Clerks increase by \$2,213
Employee benefits - Blue Collar Employee Benefit decrease by \$30,882
Employee Benefits - Social Security increase by \$1,090

Highway Fund

Employee Benefits - Social Security increase by \$27,540

Supervisor Dickson noted the balance of all changes is net zero.

On the question, Councilman Hanley stated he has changes. Supervisor Dickson stated Councilman Hanley would need to make a motion to amend the Supervisor's budget.

Motion by Councilman Hanley, seconded by Councilman Cantafio, to amend the Supervisor's budget as follows:

General Fund

Supervisor – Salary of Deputy Supervisor decrease by \$2,500
Town Attorney – Contracted Legal Services – Litigation decrease by \$25,000
Personnel – HR Consultant decrease by \$88,000
Celebrations – July 4th Celebration decrease by \$7,500
Employee benefits – Social Security decrease by \$191
Employee benefits – Hospital & Medical Insurance increase by \$7,025
Transfers – Transfer to Retirement Contribution Reserve decrease by \$25,000
Transfer to Capital Fund decrease by \$15,000

Highway Fund

General Repairs – Regular Labor (42) increase by \$103,613
Snow Removal (Town Highways) – Snow Removal Overtime decrease by \$10,000
Employee Benefits – State Retirement increase by \$20,292.40
Employee Benefits – Social Security – increase by \$7,186.88
Employee Benefits – Hospital & Medical Insurance increase by \$42,373.44
Employee Benefits – Health & Welfare Insurance increase by \$2,930.88
Employee Benefits – Boots and Clothing Safety Allowance increase by \$350

On the question, Councilman Cantafio stated he seconded this motion so there could be additional discussion on the changes.

Supervisor Dickson stated this discussion is now regarding Councilman Hanley's proposed amendment and stated if the HR Consultant is eliminated completely there needs to be a plan in place and asked what it is. Councilman Hanley stated HR duties are handled in-house by the Finance Department and the Town Attorney's Office, and Munis can be utilized for payroll.

Councilman Piekarec stated the town has a \$42M budget with more than two hundred full-time employees and is not comfortable not having professional HR advice but is open to making changes. Councilman Piekarec stated he does not want to cut the legal services or the celebrations.

Supervisor Dickson stated HR is involved in all the hiring, they are in constant contact with the town, they advise on the latest COVID protocols, and they are writing an employee handbook; the problems the town was experiencing have been fixed with the new consultant assigned to the town.

Director of Finance Straus stated her office does add employees to payroll, but EBC provides the necessary paperwork.

Town Clerk Kobler stated the HR consultant handles FMLA applications, employee discipline or counseling, and offers a third party point of view. Another concern is how employees time will be managed without a time-clock system.

Councilman Piekarec questioned how current staff would be reimbursed for taking on these extra duties.

Town Clerk Kobler stated the HR consultant is involved in all interviews and the onboarding of new employees. Councilman Hanley stated the HR consultant is not present in all interviews. Councilman Piekarec stated the HR consultant was heavily involved in the hiring of the Director of Senior Services and she composes the Covid emails. Councilman Hanley stated it's a cookie cutter email. Supervisor Dickson stated the HR company keeps the town up to date on protocols and laws and there would be nobody within the town monitoring these.

Town Attorney Hawthorne stated there is much crossover work with the Finance Department and Supervisor's Office, but the HR consultant performs the bulk of the work covered under the contract. Ms. Hathorne stated she only has a part-time secretary and cannot absorb any HR duties. Ms. Hathorne stated her office collaborates on the legal end of things and agrees there needs to be a concrete plan.

Councilman Bauer stated the money needs to remain in the budget line.

Councilman Cantafio stated he believes there should be an inhouse employee for HR and asked Ms. Hawthorne to speak about the cut in litigation. Ms. Hawthorne stated 2020 is unprecedented as the courts were shut down for the most part; there are a few significant and anticipated claims outstanding. Ms. Hawthorne reviewed the budget line back to 2011 and it has only come in under \$125,000 one year and cutting the line to \$150,000 would be more fiscally responsible than \$125,000.

Councilman Hanley stated year to date they have only spent \$78,870 and the amount of \$125,000 is double this. Ms. Hawthorne stated there is still an impact on the court system due to Covid and only criminal trials are being held; 2020 and 2021 are not good years to use for comparisons.

Supervisor Dickson stated this line is a guess and this is a prudent amount. Supervisor Dickson asked the Town Board if they were ready to vote on Councilman Hanley's amendment.

Councilman Cantafio stated he would like to review each line item and asked Councilman Hanley to speak about the Salary of the Deputy Supervisor.

Councilman Hanley stated the town has always had a Deputy Supervisor, but they never received a stipend. With regards to Celebrations, Councilman Hanley stated fees for all recreation usage permits have been increased and funding to Little Loop Football was cut by \$4,000 and the group that sponsors Community Days makes a large amount of money and the town gets nothing back. The costs to the town include overtime for Highway, Sanitation, and Buildings and Grounds and there is not an agreement with the organization. Councilman Piekarec asked why Councilman Hanley is just addressing this now and why an agreement was never drafted. Councilman Hanley stated Community Days has been brought up in previous budget meetings. Councilman Cantafio asked if removing the funding would cancel Community Days. Councilman Hanley stated it would not cancel Community Days.

Councilman Hanley referred to the transfer to Retirement Contribution Reserve and stated next year will be a good year and proposed lowering the contribution by \$25,000. Supervisor Dickson stated this is for reserves and will be a buffer for future years. Councilman Bauer stated he agrees with putting money away when it's available in the budget. Councilman Piekarec stated he agrees with starting a reserve fund and is open to debating the amount.

Councilman Hanley referred to the transfer to Capital Fund and proposed lowering the amount by \$15,000 and stated \$50,000 is a good start. Supervisor Dickson stated the more the better and repairs on buildings can be very expensive and a surprise; this is a perfect year to build reserves. Councilman Piekarec stated he agrees with reserve funds and is open to negotiating the amount. Councilman Hanley asked Ms. Straus if Capital Reserve funds can be used for repairs. Ms. Straus stated she will research the resolution that created this account.

Councilman Hanley referred to the Highway Fund Regular Labor and stated the \$103,000 will fund the two laborers losing their jobs. Supervisor Dickson stated no current employee will lose their job, two positions will not be filled upon upcoming retirements.

Councilman Bauer stated he is not aware of any retirements at this time and the budget line will not support the cost of the current employees. Councilman Bauer stated he would like to do some detailed cost accounting before reducing the staff by two people. Supervisor Dickson stated the town's highway department is 50% higher than surrounding towns and after two years there is no deeper understanding of the reason; he will not support anything that increases taxes.

Highway Superintendent Adams stated his employees do crossover work for other departments that is not tracked and suggested transferring funds from the General Fund to cover those positions. Supervisor Dickson stated this can be discussed at the public hearing.

Councilman Hanley referred to the Highway Department Snow Removal Overtime and stated he would like to decrease this by \$10,000 by reducing the amount of time crews are out. Councilman Hanley stated this is very hard to predict.

2. Councilman Piekarec re Trick or Treating

Motion by Councilman Piekarec, seconded by Councilman Hanley, to designate October 31, 2021, between 6 P.M. and 8 P.M. as the official date and time for trick or treating.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

3. Grant Writer re CDBG grant application

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilman Bauer, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, following the Public Hearing of September 20, 2021, which was held at the West Seneca Town Hall for suggestions by the public for Community Development Block Grant projects to be submitted for funding,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the West Seneca Town Board submits the following project to be considered for funding by the Erie County Community Development Block Grant Program during the 2022-2023 grant cycle, requesting CDBG funds:

1st Priority - West Seneca Senior Center Vans, Fitness and Recreation Equipment, requesting \$100,000 in CDBG funds.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY, that the West Seneca Town Board authorizes Town Supervisor Gary Dickson, to sign, submit, and if funded, execute a contract with Erie County Community Development Block Grant (ECCDBG) Program for the cited project upon approval of the ECCDBG.

NOW BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the West Seneca Town Board provides a 5% cash match of \$50,000 for the 1st Priority Project using line 1.1990.0480 from the Contingent Account.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

4. Town Engineer re Award of Contract – 2021 Generators Project

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilman Cantafio, to accept the bid received from the low bidder Weydman Electric, Inc., for the 2021 Generators Project, the installation of new generators at the Maryon Pump Station and Plant 5 pump station, and award the contract to them in the amount of \$148,000.

On the question, Councilman Hanley stated there is currently no generator at Maryon Drive and the generator from Pump 5 will be sold at auction.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

5. Principal Engineering Assistant re Resignation of Carrie Hoggan as Clerk Typist

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilman Hanley, to accept the resignation of Carrie Hoggan as Clerk Typist from the Engineering Department effective October 2, 2021, and authorize the Supervisor to complete and sign the necessary forms for Erie County Personnel.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

6. Highway Sup't. re Employment extension for Emily Benkleman as a part-time Temporary Clerk

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilman Cantafio, to grant an extension of employment for Emily Benkleman as a part-time Temporary Clerk in the Highway Department at the rate of \$12.50 per hour effective October 1 – December 3, 2021, and authorize the Supervisor to complete and sign the necessary forms for Erie County Personnel.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

7. Highway Sup't. re Roof replacement – Fireman's Park

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilman Bauer, to authorize the Highway Superintendent to obtain quotes for the replacement of the roof on the maintenance building at Fireman's Park noting funds are available in line 1.990.975.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

9. Director of Sr. Services re Status change for part-time employees

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilman Hanley, to change the status of the following employees to part-time seasonal effective November 1 – November 20, 2021:

Part-time permanent Clerks Georgiann Busse and Janet Kropczynski

Part-time permanent Food Service Workers Lee Ann Piniewski, Marirose Bless, and Carol Kennedy

and further authorize the Supervisor to complete and sign the necessary forms for Erie County Personnel.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

10. Recreation Supervisor re WNY High School Club Hockey

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilman Hanley, to authorize the Supervisor to enter into an agreement with David Cox of the WNY High School Hockey Club for use of the ice rink during the 2021-2022 season.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

21-B APPROVAL OF WARRANT

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilman Hanley, to approve the vouchers submitted for audit, chargeable to the respective funds as follows: General Fund - \$83,126.02 and \$3,227.28; Highway Fund - \$109,827.37; Sewer District - \$1,667.83 and \$187.03; Gas Conversion Lighting Districts - \$14.67; Electric Lighting Districts - \$317.37 and \$31.56; Capital - \$345.67 (vouchers 20934 – 20990 and 14895 - 21109)

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

21-C REPORTS FOR FILING

Amy M. Kobler, Town Clerk's report for September 2021, Receiver of Taxes & Collection Summary September 2021 received and filed.

Jeffrey Schieber, Code Enforcement Officer, building & plumbing reports for September 2021 received and filed.

21-D DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Recreation Department updates received and filed.

ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC

A member of the Friends of the Burchfield Nature and Arts Center made the following comments:

- ✓ The building needs restoration
- ✓ Prior to the issues with the building and Covid, many groups and committees utilized the rooms at no cost
- ✓ Artists utilize the gallery
- ✓ Room available for other town committees to have exhibits
- ✓ More than 6,000 free craft projects distributed to the public
- ✓ What is the town's intention for this building
- ✓ Would like to benefit from the Chamber of Commerce's efforts to establish an historical district in that area

Supervisor Dickson stated the town has applied for a grant from NYS. The member asked what grant the town applied for. Supervisor Dickson stated the grant was from Assemblyman Burke. The member stated Assemblyman Burke advised her the money was provided but not taken advantage of. Supervisor Dickson stated a grant dispersal agreement from NYS must be received and the town has not received this yet. The member stated she understands that any grants offered by NYS that require the town to spend the money before being reimbursed are never acted upon. Supervisor Dickson stated this is not true and listed projects.

Councilman Bauer stated he is full support of the Friends of Burchfield and due to Covid, the town was hesitant to move forward. Councilman Bauer stated he will work with Town Attorney Hawthorne to revise the resolution to begin the construction process this fall. Supervisor Dickson stated he agrees with the value of the volunteers and the park is a treasure and his main concern was to provide an opportunity for the public to give input.

Supervisor Dickson stated another concern is the Engineering report indicated the building was poorly designed, poorly constructed, and poorly maintained and it may be a money pit.

The member stated the report by the forensic architect was put together for litigation purposes and included add-ons.

Supervisor Dickson stated the town did receive bids in the amounts of over \$400,000 and \$600,000 in 2017 and the public should be aware the repairs are going to be more than the \$100,000 grant.

The member stated that if the town can spend \$100,000 to restore a Gatling gun to be displayed, they should be able to spend \$500,000 on the Burchfield.

Councilman Cantafio stated he is favor of repairing the Burchfield. For clarification, the town is not spending \$100,000 on the restoration of the Gatling gun and will be reimbursed for \$20,000; the value is around \$200,000.

A resident asked the following questions:

- ✓ Town Clerk Kobler how many tax payments have been received – Town Clerk Kobler stated we are approximately 91% there.
- ✓ How much money did the town make from the outside insurance company the town endorsed – Supervisor Dickson stated he does not have the numbers yet
- ✓ West Seneca Cares is up and active for Christmas, they are partnering with the West Seneca Teachers, and the need is greater than last year; personal hygiene items are being requested

A resident listed many reasons why he is in favor of term limits and questioned Councilman Bauer if he would vote in favor of term limits if he were re-elected – Councilman Bauer stated if there was a public forum and constituents were in favor of them, he would.

Councilman Cantafio thanked the resident for his comments and stated for accuracy his first response was put it out for a public vote and if the public wanted term limits, he would support it. Secondly, what Councilman Cantafio stated was there has not been one accusation of corruption in the Town of West Seneca Government and the study he cited stated most corruption occurred in the first term – he did not state there is not corruption in government. Councilman Cantafio stated the studies the resident cited are from national government.

A resident asked the following questions:

- ✓ Councilman Bauer how soon he would be able to provide a line by line detail of the Highway Department – Councilman Bauer stated he has thirty years of experience as an estimator in the construction business and explained how project costs were broken down by line item. Councilman Bauer would like to do this within the Highway budget and should have this available by January 1, 2022.
- ✓ Do the Sanitation workers get paid for 7 A.M. – 3 P.M. regardless of when they finish – Highway Superintendent Adams stated yes, they get paid per day based on the contract.
- ✓ How many trucks are used on a normal basis – Mr. Adams stated the number fluctuates between 5 or 6 and 2 yard waste trucks seasonally.
- ✓ If less trucks were used would workers work longer for the full day's pay – Mr. Adams stated the employees are offered breaks but choose not to take them as its more efficient.

Mr. Adams referred to the Highway budget breakdown and stated there are many discrepancies with the costs, it is a one stop shop for problems across many departments and the costs are not broken down.

Councilman Hanley stated comparing the cost of road miles in West Seneca and other towns alone is not accurate, the town is different and provides different services.

A resident had the following questions and comments:

- ✓ Referred to Item No. 7 and questioned the cost of the roof replacement at Fireman's Park and how often roofs need to be replaced – Mr. Adams stated the purpose of the item was to receive permission to get quotes and anticipates it to cost between \$12,500 - \$13,000; generally, they need to be replaced after twenty years.
- ✓ The Burchfield building should be addressed and questioned if funds shouldn't be allocated to it instead of this roof if it is not failing.

COMMUNICATIONS BY BOARD MEMBERS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS

Highway Superintendent Adams

- Leaf pickup has begun in Zones 1 and 4

Councilman Piekarec

- Second meeting of the Senior Services Advisory Board held
- Congratulated Recreation Supervisor Masset on the successful Halloween event

Councilman Cantafio

- Thanked Mrs. Leising for her work with West Seneca Cares
- Thank you to all who have donated and raise awareness of breast cancer

Town Clerk Kobler

- Town Hall is going Pink on Friday and collecting donations in support of those affected by breast cancer

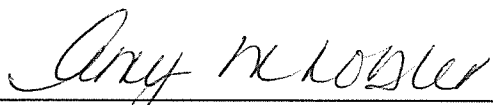
ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilman Cantafio, to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 P.M.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried



AMY M. KOBLER, TOWN CLERK