

TOWN OF LA POINTE
SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING

2012 BUDGET WORKSHOP

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2012

At 5:00 PM At Town Hall (Zoning Office)

Present: Beth Fischlowitz, Jim Patterson, Greg Nelson, Ham Ross, Larry Whalen
Dept. Head present: Barb Nelson

I. Call to Order at 5:08 PM

II. Budget Workshop with each of the following departments:

- A. General Government presented by Barb Nelson. Discussion began regarding the Cost of Living Adjustment [COLA] and what the correct per cent is. Greg Nelson pointed out that the Town Board would be making a decision regarding how to balance any of cost of living increase with making up to employees for the retirement savings that now must come out of their own pay checks.
- Barb Nelson pointed out that she budgeted for a 2.5% COLA because it usually comes down in the fall. [During the late summer months it was 3.6%.] She stated that the General Government budget doesn't change much from year to year, except that she did add \$765 to the budget to pay for the Town's listings in the Chamber's Essentials Guide. She also budgeted \$600 for a new heater for the old Town Hall room.
- Ham Ross suggested getting a ceiling fan/heater that would both heat & circulate air.
- Greg Nelson stated that most of the proposed department budgets have come in a little under last year's.
- Barb Nelson pointed out that money is still needed to finish paying General Code for the codification project. She also stated that the Clerk is budgeting for four elections this year.
- Barb Nelson said that the amount of room tax given to the Chamber of Commerce will increase this year because the revenue has increased. In August, 2011, the Chamber requested additional funding from the Town Board; this has not been budgeted yet.
- Barb Nelson also stated that \$1750 is being budgeted [for 2012] for a new computer for the clerk as well as \$12,000 for new accounting software. This cost will include training on the software for Barb plus the Posting Clerk and the Treasurer. She will also need a new printer that is compatible with the software. The current copy machine may need to be replaced soon.
- Barb Nelson continued: Town Hall needs to be painted, but this can be postponed till 2013 or perhaps done by the Americorps workers for only the cost of the paint.
- On the subject of revenue, Barb Nelson pointed out that rent from the Sanitary District for the space they use in Town Hall will be reduced when they move to their new quarters in March.
- Regarding debt service, the Town is expecting to refinance the gravel loan in the near future. According to Barb Nelson, \$40,400 has been moved to designated funds at the request of various departments.
- Greg Nelson questions why department heads transfer funds rather than rebudgeting. Barb Nelson responded that while it is more work to do it this way, in the face of possible budget cuts, department heads may feel that they are making a wise choice in transferring.
- Barb pointed out that Special Assessments [for Miller Farm Rd. & Wild Iris Lane] have not been calculated yet. These will be revenue sources.
- Beth Fischlowitz asked if the money for Big Bay Town Park's domain name is in the budget. Barb said that it appears in the line item "computer/website."
- At the end, Barb Nelson brought up the possibility of purchasing & using voice mail at Town Hall; this is not currently in the budget. She wants to look into prices.

There was discussion at the end of the workshop regarding the possibility of Town employees being able to pay for personal transportation with pre-tax dollars. More information on this will be forthcoming.

III. Adjournment time inaudible

Submitted by Patty Hobin, Town Clerk
Approved as submitted on November 8, 2011
Patty Hobin, Clerk