

Reconvened Town of Alexandria Board Meeting from November 6, 2019
November 13, 2019, 6:00pm

Attendance: Supervisor Brent Sweet, Councilman Mike Fayette, Councilman John Stine, Town Clerk Jessy Hudon. Absent, Councilman Ron Thomson, Councilman Jim Vancour

Pledge of Allegiance

Continuation of Public Hearing on 2020 Budget:

No discussion on budget or comment from public.

Motion to close the public hearing made by Councilman Mike Fayette, **Seconded** by Councilman John Stine. Discussion, none. All in favor 3 ayes, zero nays. Absent Councilman Jim Vancour, Councilman Ron Thomson. **Motion passed.**

Approval of Minutes from November 6, 2019 meeting:

Motion to approve minutes by Councilman John Stine, **Seconded** by Councilman Mike Fayette.

Discussion, none. All in favor 3 ayes, zero nays. Absent Councilman Ron Thomson, Councilman Jim Vancour. **Motion passed.**

Privilege of the Floor:

Stacey Durand inquired if financials were ever going to be posted on the website again as they were in the past. The accountant Sherry Ferguson used to do it. Town Clerk Jessy Hudon commented that she had spoke to Nicole Milsap (book keeper/clerk to Supervisor) that Sherry's son may do it. Supervisor Sweet advised if anyone was to contact Nicole she would provide any information requested. It will also be made available to the public and is provided as well before each monthly meeting. Supervisor Sweet advised there had been difficulties with Google Cloud in the past, issues out of our hands which is why it was discontinued. Each month's financials could be put on our website as well.

Discussion:

Update on Grossman St Amour audit: letter received from auditor to Supervisor Sweet advising access to the site was just gained. The goal is to get a lot of work done this week. Will provide an update early next week as going through the procedures.

Discussion:

Update on burned out trailer at Parkers Trailer Park: Norris has been in contact with Attorney Slye. We are just waiting for a written document that says the Town can go in there and clean up the site and then put the Towns fees for cleaning up the site on the taxes for the property. The neighbors next door have sent complaints and pictures of rats coming out of the burned out trailer. Its something we are trying to take care of as quickly as we can.

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Discussion:

Data sent to Crowley Hallorhan was sent by Town Clerk Jessy Hudon which consisted of everything else they had requested. Supervisor Sweet also sent an email asking where we stand, we're looking for a report, an answer by next week would be great. Supervisor Sweet received from Crowley Hallorhan that time has been blocked off next Monday (November 18th) thru Wednesday (November 20th) to solely work on this. The employee that was working on this is no longer employed for them. They advised they will try to get something put together by next week.

Discussion:

Budget modifications/revisions: A paper received by the book keeper that had prepared with the budget revisions to the preliminary budget. One of the main reasons we have revisions is we had put property taxes and sales tax in General B Fund and in the DB Fund. There was a discussion with the Comptroller's office and advised we can't have both of those items in there. There were changes to the budget to take one of those items out which would be property taxes and just leave the sales tax in. A lot of the revisions are because of that.

Revisions:

Budget Officer increased \$18,347, purchase the land at Bonnie castle Stables \$310,000 (\$300,000 plus closing fees)(this is an estimate), increase contingency line item \$13,000 to match the budget, personal services at Bonnie Castle Stables decreased by \$22,880 because that was put personal services under contractual, Equipment- Zamboni purchase \$84,000. Zamboni purchase removed from the 2020 Budget because we don't know when the \$\$ is coming (being told 12-18 months, already over 12 months now). If we do have to purchase a Zamboni in 2020 we will take out a bond anticipation note to do that. Contractual expenses BCS increased to \$116,059. Took electricity and heating fuel expenses (\$7500) out of there. We may get temporary electricity at Bonnie Castle Stables to do some work up there but it wouldn't be much and could go under contractual. Social Security and Medicare because of the salary changes and the ban interest on the Zamboni was increased by \$380 if we do take a Zamboni loan out. Ban interest on BCS not borrowing money (not planning on borrowing any in 2020) being reduced by \$37,500. Capital Reserve for BCS is \$60,000 that we're putting aside for future projects at Bonnie Castle Stables. Streetscapes Grant is back on the drawing board, the Village has decided to move ahead. Our portion of the project is \$309,000. Real Property Tax Revenue to \$192,310 and increase the sales tax revenue by \$42,000. Other government aide; SAM grant is \$100,000 for the Zamboni, we took that out because we don't think we will receive that in 2020. Applied Fund balance to Streetscapes that's where we will get our portion is taking it out of the Fund balance. The Comptroller recommends 2 months of expenses for the year in your Fund balance. Youth Program Director, not sure what's being done about a director until after the 1st of the year so now there is \$8,000 for that. Increase FICA increase wages to \$612 for that program director that's in Fund B, unemployment insurance for Program Director increased by \$256 all due to the \$8,000 change. Real Property tax revenue can't raise real property tax in General B if you use Sales Tax, so we took \$37,185 of Real Property Tax out of General B. Appropriated Fund Balance, use the Fund Balance in General B, \$46,000 of fund balance. Total appropriations of General B are \$102,000.

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Highway DA Equipment, we put \$300,000 in a Type Reserve fund for purchase of plow equipment. We are going to take \$202,000 out of the Reserve Fund we set up to buy a new Volvo plow truck that was ordered last year and is expected to be here in April 2020. Alex Bay Fire Protection, proposed \$15,900 increase, at last Board meeting a motion made to split over two years so it wouldn't be such a large impact on the taxpayers; increasing to \$7,950 and increasing the real property tax revenue also. Appropriated Fund Balance is \$18,000. Have \$19,000 of appropriations for street lighting, too much of a cost, so there will be not cost on the taxpayers bill in 2020.

Motion to approve the revisions made by Councilman Mike Fayette, **Seconded** by Councilman John Stine. Discussion, none. All in favor 3 ayes, zero nays. Absent, Councilman Jim Vancour, Councilman Ron Thomson. **Motion passed.** (signed by Councilman) Will be put on website and made available to public.

Discussion: This meeting will be adjourned until November 20, 2019 at 6:000 pm for adoption of the budget and any other Town business.

Discussion: DOS Streetscape Grant is back on with the Village. Re-doing boat ramps, re-do docks at boat ramps, create parking kiosks, lighting and benches downtown, some sidewalks that are owned by the Village and Town IE: front of Chamber of Commerce.

Question from Stacey Durand; What is the Villages contributions; Councilman Mike Fayette responded 50/50 Village & Town. Supervisor Sweet added the have some FEMA money awarded and some REDI money awarded. They will be able to use some of the money awarded to lessen their cash contribution but we don't have the figures yet.

Discussion: Thomson Park

The Village and Mark Reynolds (and we haven't heard from the Village yet; we have asked the Village to send us a formal request for funds from the Community Improvement line item that we have in our budget that is for the Village). We have about \$24,000 left in that line item for 2019. The Village has created a project for Thomson Park to basically rehabilitate Thomson Park. They have a total of \$19,500 worth of work they want to do to the park; fence posts (vinyl coated fence posts), light fixtures, electric service, benches and so on. The Town and Village will be discussing all of this and will probably come to a final decision by the December Board meetings. They have some rough estimates, but we do need to get some firm quotes as far as the different things they want to do.

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Discussion: Ask Attorney to research and explain procedures for changing elected positions to appointed, making tax collector a separate position and changing wage amounts all by public referendum. Supervisor Sweet expressed that from the minutes from last meeting Attorney Slye explained the process thoroughly, it's in our minutes. What he didn't go into is that we can make the tax collector a separate position and we can also change the wage amounts. Our (the Towns) feelings are since we are changing duties of certain elected officials are doing and we're taking duties away from them (certain elected officials) because Nicole (Milsap, book keeper/clerk to Supervisor) is doing more of this "stuff". Deposits have been made by Supervisor and Nicole, Councilman Mike Fayette has been doing work on Water and Sewer, Nicole is doing Water and Sewer billing now. Since some of the duties have been taken away, we know that we change by public referendum wages we pay elected officials. We know we can do it, but we would like Attorney Bob Slye to research it and explain to us at the December meeting what the process is. Supervisor Sweet stated he thinks the process is what we want to change them to and there has to be a referendum and it has to go on the ballot in November (2020), what the changes and wages would be. On of the things that is locked into is when a person gets elected to a position and you're paying that person "X" amount of dollars the year they get elected, their first year, you can't decrease that amount you pay them We have taken duties away so we want to decrease some amounts that's why we're asking. We will ask Mr Slye to give us report on that at the next meeting.

Question from the public (John Huddleston): Did you go over the 2% cap? Supervisor Sweet replied we are about 12% which is \$.10. The tax rate as it is proposed right here will go from \$.84 to \$.94. So on a \$100,000 house you'll pay \$10 more per year or on a \$1 million dollar propert you would pay \$100 more per year. The proposed rate is \$.94xx. There has to be a tax cap override process anything over 2%.

Discussion: Supervisor Sweet advised to Mr Randall that we don't have any further answers right now for him. Will have to contact Attorney Slye for further info and get together with him and Mr Randall.

Motion to adjourn meeting to November 20th at 6:00pm for Budget Adoption and any other Town business made by Councilman John Stine, **Seconded** by Councilman Mike Fayette. Discussion, none. All in favor 3 ayes, zero nays. Absent Councilman Jim Vancour, Councilman Ron Thomson. **Motion passed.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm

Minutes taken and recorded by Town Clerk Jessy Hudon
Minutes written by Deputy Clerk Cheri L. VanBrocklin