

10-23-2008– WORK SESSION ON 2009 TOWN BUDGET

Present:

Councilman Ronald L. Kenyon
Councilman Heather M. Phelps
Councilman Norman J. Uhteg
Supervisor Kathleen M. Balus

Also Present:

Highway Superintendent Walter J. Baker
Town Clerk Betsy A. Marsh
Secretary to the Supervisor Peggy A. O'Brien
7 guests

The Sardinia Town Board held a Work Session for the purpose of discussing the 2009 Town Budget on October 25, 2008 at the Town Hall/Community Center. Supervisor Balus called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM, with the Pledge to the Flag.

The Supervisor stated that in the Lighting District Budget, three years ago there was a negative fund balance in some of the accounts. She stated that she would like to get a price to have an audit done of those Lighting Districts, and in that case, the amounts may change. After discussion, it was determined that the new Lighting District would be called the 2D District.

The Revenue section of the budget was then reviewed. The Supervisor stated that the Town's largest source of revenue is the sales tax, and due to the economic downturn, only felt justified raising that line by 5%. She stated she has included landfill fees in the amount of \$800,000.00, and has decreased the mortgage tax because of the slowing of the housing market.

The appropriations portion of the 2009 Town Budget was then reviewed. The Supervisor stated she felt the best way to proceed was to go page by page and line by line, and comment if anyone felt there was a problem or a suggestion for a line. The Town Clerk asked that the amount budgeted for her Deputy Clerk be increased. After discussion, the amount budgeted was increased from \$6,000.00 to \$9,970.50. The Supervisor included 3% raises for all personnel except for the Supervisor, who will take no raise, and the Court Clerks and the Assessor's Clerk, who will receive increases in their hourly rate of pay, from \$11.00 per hour to \$13.50 per hour. The Supervisor stated that she looked at the experience issue, and feels that the starting pay should be lower, but the people in those positions currently have at least several years of experience. Councilman Kenyon stated he had spoken to Town Constable Donna Maier, who feels that the Constables should make more than the current \$8.00 per hour, and he agreed. Supervisor Balus stated she has increased her secretarial budget quite a bit, stating she uses her secretary differently than previous Supervisors have used theirs and stating that Peggy's duties changed. She stated she has also kept the \$6,000.00 for an auditor, stating she would like to have an audit done of the Town's books, as well as the lighting districts. Supervisor Balus stated she has increased the Attorney contractual to \$52,000.00, stating that it is hard to predict what legal costs will be. She stated that in the Engineering account, they have also done a ballpark estimate for what the cost of a master plan for the Parks might be, and have put \$20,000.00 in that budget line. Supervisor Balus noted that she has put \$25,000.00 in the budget for Community Center improvements, stating that the courtroom is not adequate and the court clerks have share a computer. She stated that she has increased the Contingency account by \$10,000.00, bringing that line to \$30,000.00 to cover overages. The Constable budget line was increased from \$1,855.00 to \$3,000.00, with the Board decision that they would like to increase the Constable's duties and possibly the hourly rate of the position. The Supervisor stated she would also like to put out a flier asking the Senior Citizens what the Board could do for them that isn't done now. She pointed out that the Recreation Administration line has been increased for the Recreation Director to be paid for full time, 13 weeks at \$14.00 per hour. It was agreed that Jim Helmicki did a great job last year and they would like him back for summer 2009. The Park equipment and Park Contractual budgets were also increased so that some of the improvements not done in 2008 can be done in 2009, such as the blacktopping of the basketball courts. Supervisor Balus stated she has decreased the Planning Board's contractual budget from \$2,500.00 to \$1,000.00, stating that she wants the Planning Board to get the OK from the Town Board before entering into contracts. In the Environmental Control line, she stated she has put \$35,000.00 in the budget for water testing, stating that the estimate from Panamerican for 5 to 8 wells being tested on a regular basis would be between \$21,600.00 and \$31,600.00.

In the Highway Fund Budget, The Supervisor stated that she went with whatever Highway Superintendent Baker asked for, since he is always right on with what he budgets. It was agreed that no changes were needed in the Tentative Highway Fund Budget.

The Supervisor then asked that, with the changes made to the Tentative 2009 Budget, that the Board adopts the revised Tentative Budget as the Preliminary Budget for 2009. The following resolution, to be known as Resolution #48 of 2008, was then introduced by Phelps, seconded by Uhteg:

RESOLUTION #48 – 2008

RESOLVED, the Sardinia Town Board hereby adopts the 2009 Tentative Budget, with the above changes made, as the Town of Sardinia 2009 Preliminary Budget, to go before the Public for comment on November 5, 2008.

Upon roll call vote, Kenyon, aye, Phelps, aye, Uhteg, aye, Balus, aye. So Resolved, 4 ayes, 0 noes.

There being nothing further to come before the Board, on a motion by Phelps, seconded by Kenyon, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM. Carried, 4 ayes, 0 noes.

Respectfully Submitted,

