

SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING NOVEMBER 20, 2018

A special meeting was held on November 20, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. at the Kent Town Hall, 25 Sybil's Crossing, Kent, New York 10512.

Salute to the Flag

At 7:40 p.m. Supervisor Fleming called the meeting to order with the Salute to the Flag.

Present: Supervisor Fleming, Councilpersons Denbaum, McGlasson, Huestis and Woolley. Also present Town Clerk Cappelli, Director of Finance Kelly.

Resolution #416 - Reopen Public Hearing Lake Carmel Fire Department Contract

On a motion by Supervisor Fleming

Seconded by Councilman Huestis

Resolved: The Public Hearing on the Lake Carmel Fire Department Contract was reopened.

Motion carried unanimously

Supervisor Fleming was hoping to have a representative from the Lake Carmel Fire Department to discuss the proposed budget. She said a modified version of the budget was received on October 29. They are no longer asking for a two year contract but a one year contract in the amount of \$999,040 which is a 3.36% increase over the 2018 adopted budget. She said questions were sent to the President, some answers were received. One increase is due to the new medical cancer bill. The legal fee increase is due to obtaining a new attorney. Some supply costs have increased because they have to replace some breathing apparatus and ambulance supplies other questions still remain unanswered. She met with Vice President Ed Schaeffler who explained the medical and the request for clearing land and trees, repairs to a well at the substation and recruitment costs. She said we need to come to a meeting of the minds and have been unable to discuss the numbers with the President leaving the board with a few alternatives. She said we can close the Public Hearing and vote the contract up or down, we can adjourn the hearing to further negotiate but the Town Budget must be adopted tonight by law. If we do not want to accept the numbers and continue to negotiate we have been advised by counsel a number can be put in the budget or any kind of permutation thereof. She thinks the medical line needs to be accounted for. She spoke with the Commissioner of Emergency Services and the County radio project is not etched in stone, grants might be received though the LCFD wants to set aside the money. She said a budget line can be created for this as a separate fund dedicated to the purchase of the radios and can be carried over, if the project does not come to fruition or funded that money can be diverted to LCFD levy. The service awards were explained it is a pension benefit. The board discussed Truck Maintenance. Councilman Denbaum said the LCFD total increase is 3.36%. The Kent Fire Department passed because they are a commission set up a 1.5% increase. LCFD is asking for double the increase of a neighboring fire district, with no one here to explain it. He recalled setting the Library's line the same as the year before and they came to the board and explained the reasoning for increases. He said it seems out of the ordinary to increase budgets carte blanche by almost 4%. Councilwoman Woolley thought they would want to explain the reasons so we can work with them. Councilwoman McGlasson suggested taking last year's budget adding in the additional lines for the Health Bill. Councilman Denbaum asked if the Cancer Bill is an unfunded mandate. Supervisor replied yes. The board discussed adding the Health Bill of \$8,000 to last year's budget and the County Radio project of \$10,000 to be placed in a separate fund. Supervisor explained this would set the levy number; the contract cannot be approved because they have not accepted it. Councilman Denbaum said we can allocate the money in the budget. Director of Finance explained the contract does not have to be voted on this evening only the budget. Councilman Denbaum asked if the board would have to approve the transfer of the funds for the radio. Mrs. Kelly said it does not have to be done now, but yes they would come back to the board. She asked about the ambulance supplies if added that would bring it to a 2.59% levy increase. Councilman Denbaum asked if we can still negotiate a contract that is at or below the levy increase we approve. Mrs. Kelly said yes and if it were more there is a little cushion in Fund Balance. Supervisor Fleming thought the board would be fine with the \$980,445. Councilwoman Woolley thought there is not much difference. Councilman Denbaum explained his point if the board approves \$990,000 as the levy it is not approving what we are actually going to give them, it is approving what we are able to give them. If they make a compelling case they need \$990,000 the money is available. Mrs. Kelly explained that sets the tax levy, you

do not have to give them that amount, but you would have to figure out what you are going to do with the rest. We know \$10,000 will be in a separate line item, staying in the Fire Fund. Councilman Denbaum thought if that the case he would vote for setting the levy at last year's amount and keeping the rest back into a separate Fire Fund line, allocating as necessary. He doesn't know how we can make decisions when we do not know last year's actual. That is how we determine the Town's budget. Mrs. Kelly said the Fire Departments fund balance is \$12,000, if you do set it at \$965,000 you would only have an additional \$12,000 to work with, plus the \$10,000 for the radios. Councilman Denbaum asked if there is a formula for the new law. Mrs. Kelly said it is \$8,000, a \$100 or so per person. Mrs. Kelly said if you increase the 2018 budget by \$10,000 and the \$8,000 it would be a 1.9% levy increase. The levy would be the 983,445 with the contractual amount would be \$973,445. The board was in agreement.

Resolution #417 - Adjourn Public Hearing Lake Carmel Fire Department Contract

On a motion by Councilman Denbaum

Seconded by Councilwoman McGlasson

Resolved: The Public Hearing on the Lake Carmel Fire Department Contract was adjourned to November 27, 2018.

Motion carried unanimously

Resolution #418 -Adopt the 2019 Preliminary Budget

On a motion by Supervisor Fleming

Seconded by Councilwoman McGlasson

Resolved: The 2019 Preliminary Budget was adopted with the following amendments; the Lake Carmel Fire Protection District #1 Contractual SF.3410.400 be decreased to \$973,445 and a Fire Equipment line for County Radios 3410.200 be created in an amount of \$10,000.

Roll Call:

Councilman Denbaum: aye, the budget is not perfect, never will be, keep spending in check it address's some road needs by bonding instead of doing it in house, we can get more bang for our buck instead of blowing up the highway department budget. It's not perfect but it is good, better than most in the area, and voted yes.

Councilwoman McGlasson – aye

Councilman Huestis – aye as long as he can find some wiggle room for the future of Kent, technical support, we have some grants we are working on and will be in need of some professionals to cross the T's and dot the I's before turning over to the financial wizard – yes

Councilwoman Woolley – aye

Supervisor Fleming – aye, she is very proud this Town Board for the fifth year in a row has brought in a budget without an increase in General fund and any of the other funds other than the two Fire Departments. This has taken a lot of hard work on the part of our Department heads to work very closely with the money allotted to them. She thinks the staff does a wonderful job, she thinks the Town of Kent is moving ahead without overburdening our tax payers and very proud to be the Supervisor of this Town, and voted yes.

Motion carried unanimously

Resolution #419 - Adjournment

On a motion by Councilman Huestis

Seconded by Supervisor Fleming

Resolved: The Town Board meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Yolanda D. Cappelli

Town Clerk