

**Town of Jackson Town Board
Budget Meeting
October 15, 2019**

The Town Board of the Town of Jackson held a Budget Meeting on October 15, 2019 at 7:30 pm at the Town Hall.

Member Present:

- Supervisor Jay Skellie
- Councilman Mike Nolan
- Councilman Travis Rea
- Councilman Carol Rich
- Councilman Edward Rouse

Others Present:

- Budget Officer Donna Nolan
- Highway Superintendent Sean Carney
- Town Clerk Tammy Skellie-Gilbert
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Also, Present: John and Chris Kapitan, Bill and Laura Zeppetelli

7:38 PM PUBLIC HEARING – LOCAL LAW #3 OF 2019

Supervisor Skellie opened the public hearing to welcome comments regarding Local Law #3 of 2019 – Override the Tax Levy. Jackson’s 2020 tax cap is 3%, however, the current preliminary budget substantially exceeds the cap. Town resident Bill Zeppetelli said he wasn’t happy about a potential override of the tax cap but after learning what factors are increasing the budget, he better understands it. The hearing closed at 7:42 pm.

2020 Preliminary Budget

The Town Board reviewed the 2020 Preliminary Budget line item by line item. Several items were discussed and/or adjusted:

- CDPHP (Medicare) and Blue Shield expect to have no premium increases in 2020, while MVP will increase 5.5%. Health insurance costs to the Town will decrease because the current assessors are leaving office and the newly elected assessors will no longer have the option to take health insurance unless one chooses to pay the full premium.
- Anticipating the formal resignation from the Chair of Assessors, the Board decided to first ask an experienced, local assessor if s/he would be interested in helping Jackson for one year at the current salary. If the Town is forced to use the County’s assessor services, an additional \$10,000 would need to be added to the budget.
- The Town Attorney fees have been increased to \$2,000.
- In an effort to address the decaying roads and aging equipment, Supt. Carney proposed large increases in the Highway budget line items totaling \$135,500. Upon review, the Town Board decided on the following which would result in a total increase of \$25,200 in the contractual expenses of the Highway Budget:
 - General Repairs request was reduced to a \$5,000 increase;
 - Bridges increased to \$5,100, as requested;
 - Machinery request was reduced to a \$10,000 increase;

- Brush & Weeds increased to \$3,100, as requested; and,
 - Snow Removal request was reduced to a \$2,000 increase.
- Salem and Shushan Fire Districts each requested 2% increases while Easton was unchanged. Cambridge requested a 5% increase each year for the next two years. However, the Town Board was not comfortable with a two-year plan so they agreed to a one-year increase at 5%.

RESOLUTION #83-19

A motion by Councilman Nolan, seconded by Councilwoman Rich; Resolution passed 5-0, to approve the following salary increases:

- 2% increases for the following positions as requested: Budget Officer, Court Clerk, Town/Planning Board Clerk; and,
- 3% increase for the Highway Superintendent.

RESOLUTION #84-19

A motion by Councilman Rouse, seconded by Councilwoman Rich; Resolution passed 5-0, to pass Local Law #3 of 2019 allowing for an override of the 2020 tax cap effective immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

Roll Call:

Supervisor Skellie	Aye
Councilman Nolan	Aye
Councilman Rea	Aye
Councilman Rich	Aye
Councilman Rouse	Aye

A Public Hearing on the 2020 Preliminary Budget will be held on Wednesday, November 6, 2019 at 8:00 pm prior to the regular monthly meeting.

8:53 PM

RESOLUTION #85-19

A motion by Councilman Rouse, seconded by Councilman Rea; Resolution passed 5-0, **to move into an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing matters related to collective negotiations under the Taylor Law.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Skellie-Gilbert, RMC
Town Clerk