

TOWN BOARD  
Special Meeting  
October 4, 2021

**DRAFT- "SUBJECT TO BOARD REVIEW"**

A special meeting of the Oneonta Town Board was held on October 4, 2021 with the following members present:

Councilman: Brett Holleran  
Councilwoman: Patricia Jacob  
Councilman: Randy Mowers  
Councilwoman: Patricia Riddell Kent  
Supervisor: Robert Wood  
Town Clerk: Sara Robinson

No one from the public was in attendance.

**2022 Budget Message**

As a general overview, we were allowed to go up \$65,000 to stay under the tax cap. Taxes in the general and highway funds are not budgeted to increase. However, since the Fire Protection District is now a part of our budget, and the formula has generated an increase of \$155,000 we are looking at a budget that is \$90,000 over the cap. Reducing services or exceeding the cap are our only options.

**General Fund**

Spending in the general fund is down slightly again. As proposed, there is a 2% increase in wages for employees. All department heads have been very careful in their requests this year. General Fund will be sharing sales tax with the Highway Department this year. Debt service is scheduled on the new highway garage. Health Insurance has a minimal 3.25% increase.

**Highway Fund**

The Highway Budget has increased about \$331,000 for this year with no increase in the tax levy. This increase is basically due to our accounting for CHIPS, EWR, and PAVE NY funds in the budget. And the anticipated revenue from the sale of our loader to offset the cost of the replacement for this piece of equipment. The new title of Working Supervisor and the rearrangement of staff is working out well. We continue to replace equipment as needed without borrowing. We do need to find more funding for road work as we have two long roads in need of resurfacing. If we receive the TAP Grant next year, we will have another large financial commitment to the Southside Corridor that will need financial attention, most likely through bonding.

**Water & Sewer**

Our Water & Sewer Districts are in good condition physically and fiscally. Place holders for Districts 5&6, Southside Water are set up but we won't know what expenses to anticipate until we have water coming out of the pipes, hopefully by summer of 2022. Bond repayment will be due this year but it will be minimal and won't likely hit taxpayers until 2023. We will be doing our own billing for water and sewer using new software purchased in 2021.

**Oneonta Fire Protection District**

The cost of the Fire Contract increased very substantially again this year. This was due to two factors. One was that the equalization rate for the town went to 94% which increased our percentage in the formula by 1.3%. The other was a reduction in the billing receipts for ambulance service dropping by \$257,000 which was used to offset costs. The city did offer some relief by depreciating some equipment purchases over the useful life of ten years. As presented this budget will cause district residents to see an increase in tax rate \$.37131/1000 due to the increased cost.

Motion was made by Holleran to approve the JCAP grant application for desks, a shredder, a footstool and wiring for surveillance cameras in the amount of 1,553.00. Seconded by Mowers  
VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0      Motion Carried

Motion was made by Riddell Kent to approve the hiring of AnnMarie Hill to be a part-time court clerk at \$13/hr. for 20 hours a week. Seconded by Holleran.  
VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0      Motion Carried

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Holleran. Seconded by Mowers.  
VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0      Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Robinson