

Town of Hamilton

900 S Wayne St – PO Box 249

Hamilton, In 46742

August 3rd, 2020- Town Council Meeting - BUDGET
6:00pm

1. Council President Mary Vail called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Roll call: Councilors Gerry Martin, Nancy Renner, Danny Lingo, Steve Blum and Mary Vail were present. The Clerk Treasurer, Hester Stouder was present to record the meeting. Town Manager Brent Shull was also present. Attached is a list of audience members.

*** All members present were wearing a mask and practicing social distancing.

Town – The Council discussed pay increases for the Council members themselves, as they have not had one for several years. With their current pay at \$3,600 they looked at where surrounding communities were and had a lengthy discussion about what kind of increase should be approved. In conclusion of their discussion they agreed to increase their pay to \$4,005 per year.

Street Department –

Mower trade in will be set for \$4,000

Tree Removal will remain at \$6,000

Drainage will be \$5,000 with a problem spot on Railroad street in mind

Sidewalks will be budgeted out of the CEDIT fund in the amount of \$25,000

*** Mark asked about the plowing responsibility for sidewalks. The Council said any that are 5' in width should be plowed when the snow is over 2". They do not need to be salted, just cleaned for those who may use them. The Council supported Mark in using his judgement when scheduling snow plowing based on the weather and his experience.

The Council discussed where to improve or extend sidewalks in the community. After several suggestions, the Council agreed the area on Bellefontaine where the sidewalk ends going west to Lane 221 would be ideal. Because of the narrow shoulder area, the sidewalk would have to cross Bellefontaine and go onto farm ground in order to have enough room. At one point the Otsego Township trustee was willing to help fund a sidewalk project in this direction. Brent will reach out to her and see if this is something, she is still willing to do.

Maintenance for maintaining roads – The Department will use the separate MVH restricted fund for maintenance each year.

Equipment – future needs, trading in the Kubota – The department would like to budget \$30,000 for replacing the 2013 Kubota. This amount will include the equipment needed for the new one. The plow used on the 2013 Kubota will go with it when it is traded in.

3rd Employee – Superintendent Mark Gerardot does not anticipate a need in 2021, but would look at it in 2022

Police Department –

School Programs/Community Outreach will stay at \$5,000

Vehicle purchase – This will not be in the budget until 2023

Drone Training/Purchase – This amount will stay at \$20,000. The drone has yet to be purchased and the 2 officers are still going thru training

Marine Patrol - \$3,000, this will include maintenance and other items they may need for patrolling.

5th Officer – Marshal Jeremey Warner talked about hiring a 5th officer to cover patrol duties. This would allow him to have a Monday thru Friday schedule and would eliminate the current part time administrative position. The Council and Marshal discussed the involvement of the additional officer with the school, but nothing was decided at this time. A 5th officer will be put into the budget so the Council and Marshal can review the impact before making a final decision to hire someone.

Detective Position – Marshal Jeremey Warner asked the Council to consider increasing the detective pay from \$500 annually to \$1000 or \$1,500. He said the additional workload and paperwork are worth more than the \$500 that is currently allowed for the position. The Council agreed to put a range in the salary ordinance from \$1,000 to \$1,500. This will not take effect until the 2021 budget year. The Council said Marshal Warner could work with the Town Manager and Clerk to find a way to compensate the detective the additional amount for 2020.

Water Department –

Brad Haskins reviewed the Capital plan with the Council and the following changes were made.

Boring Machine upgrade – This will be put on hold until further notice. The department doesn't have a need for a larger boring machine at this time.

Truck Replacement – Brad will check prices for newer trucks and make sure the \$60,000 projected for 2022 is accurate.

Meters – The department is working on changing them but is unable to do them as aggressively as they planned due to being short staffed.

Filter Media, replacement and testing – The \$75,000 projected for 2021 will be reduced as they will only be doing visual inspections on 3 and 4, and core samples on 1, 2 and 5.

Brad hopes to take his water test again by the end of 2020 and if he passes and is promoted to Superintendent, he would like to hire a 3rd person for the department.

Public Comments/Questions concerning ADA or other items of Business –

With no other comments or items of business, the motion to adjourn was made by Steve Blum and seconded by Nancy Renner, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Hester Stouder, IAMC - Clerk Treasurer

Mary Vail –Council President