

**TOWN OF FORESTPORT  
BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES  
FORESTPORT TOWN HALL  
OCTOBER 7, 2014 @ 4:00 PM**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Councilwoman Nancy Kardash  
Councilwoman Joanne Kwasniewski  
Councilman Ronald Scouten  
Councilman Charles Scott  
Supervisor Parker Snead  
Town Clerk Shelley Entwistle  
Bookkeeper Dawn Campbell

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by Supervisor Snead.

**PLEDGE OF ALLIEGENCE:**

Recited.

**BUDGET ITEMS:**

**GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS:**

**SUPERVISOR'S SUGGESTIONS:**

Supervisor Snead reviewed his budget suggestions. The following are the highlights of those suggestions.

**SUPERVISOR:**

The Supervisor position currently earns \$15,649 in salary in addition to health insurance. Supervisor Snead feels the salary should be reduced to approximately \$7,000 so that with health insurance the position will TOTAL \$15,649.

**ASSESSOR:**

The assessor currently earns \$33,749 in addition to health insurance and retirement. Supervisor Snead stated that the legal opinion is that Ms. Brown does not have a binding contract with the town, and her working conditions have changed in the last year as per her wishes. He feels the position should earn \$30,000 including the health insurance.

### **PLANNING:**

The Planning Clerk currently earns \$19,128 in salary, a \$2000 stipend for attending the planning meetings, health insurance, and retirement. The Planning Board members total \$10,000 in stipends. Supervisor Snead feels the clerk's hours should be reduced from 24 per week to 7 per week. Additionally the \$2000 stipend should be rescinded, and the family portion of the health care should be rescinded as well.

Councilman Scott stated at this point the budget issues have been created across the spectrum of employees over many years, and solutions for reducing the overall budget should be sought across the spectrum as well. Councilwoman Kardash concurred, stating that the budget reductions should take place in steps, as opposed to sweeping cuts. She also inquired as to where the proposed savings would be allocated. If the proposed savings were to be returned to the taxpayers in the format of paying down the highway tax, Councilwoman Kardash stated she would consider the proposal.

Supervisor Snead stated that the savings would be returned to the taxpayers in a manner of speaking. The savings may be applied to improvements made to town properties, as well as beautifying the town.

### **TAX COLLECTOR:**

Supervisor Snead feels the position should be eliminated for the savings of the health insurance, which is approximately \$8795. Municipal law states the town board can eliminate the position as long as it is done 150 days prior to the election of said position. However, for the 2015 year the Tax Collector salary will remain the same as last year.

Discussion ensued regarding the Supervisor's suggestions to this point. Cuts to the health care of town board members, the severity of the suggested cuts across the spectrum, and the possible impact on the quality of the candidate pool were all discussed.

### **TOWN BOARD:**

The board will revisit this area.

### **ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER:**

The position currently earns approximately \$6100, and Councilman Scouten stated he feels this is too much. Councilman Scott inquired as to the possibility of paying on a per call basis. Supervisor Snead stated he is communicating with the ACO from Boonville about the possibility of taking over Forestport as well for a stipend. He will report back to the board.

### **SCOUTEN FIELD:**

During the previous week's budget workshop, the board set the budget at \$4000 for 2015. Supervisor Snead stated that he would like to see it at \$6000 for 2015. Dugout roofs and a 20x20 pavilion are on the list of improvements he would like to see

done in the coming year. Both Councilman Scott and Scouten stated they will volunteer their time to build the pavilion.

**CELEBRATIONS:**

Fireworks for Old Forestport Days will total \$1600, and \$800 will go toward purchasing flags to place throughout the town. Total budget will be \$2400.

**PROGRAMS FOR THE AGING:**

Discussion took place regarding the director's hours. Supervisor Snead stated he would discuss the matter with the director.

**CODES DEPARTMENT:**

The board will revisit this area.

**COMMUNITY SERVICES (WEB DESIGN):**

Councilman Scott stated that the budget for 2015 has been tentatively set at \$1500, but the website maintenance has cost over \$2000 through September for 2014. Will the web personnel be held to the budget? Councilwoman Kardash reiterated her desire to have someone within the town personnel maintain the site now that it has been set up.

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:**

Discussion took place among the board regarding personal services as well as contractual services. Supervisor Snead stated he definitely wants \$20,000 in the budget toward repairing the Horton Road bridge sometime in the next five years. The board ultimately decided on \$25,000 toward the Horton Road bridge, but Supervisor Snead would like to review the budget with the Highway Superintendent before making a decision.

**FIRE PROTECTION:**

The 2015 budget will be as follows:

Forestport Fire Department: \$74,145

Woodgate Fire Department: \$60,685

Otter Lake Fire Department: \$59,304

The next budget workshop will be October 14, 2014 at 3:00 pm at the Forestport Town Hall. Supervisor Snead adjourned the meeting at 6:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Entwistle – Forestport Town Clerk

