

PUBLIC HEARING -TOWN OF SHELBY

Meeting is live streamed. You may see complete meeting on the Town of Shelby website page.

Preliminary Budget 2024

	November 9, 2023	6:00 PM
Present:	Scott Wengewicz, Supervisor	
	Steve Seitz, Councilman	
	John Pratt, Councilman	
	Jeff Schiffer, Councilman	
	Darlene Rich, Town Clerk	
	Kathleen Bennett, Attorney	
	Claude Grimes, Constable	
	Dale Root- Highway Supt.	
	Miranda Bennett, Bookkeeper	
Excused:	Ed Zelazny, Councilman	
Others	Michael Rich	Sharlene Pratt
	Michael Sargent	Halli Gray
	Linda Limina	Alana Koneski
	Jim Heminway	Pat Eick
	James Zelazny	Jess Marciano
	Joy Waters	Lawrence Waters
	Bill Eick-Co. Leg	

Public Hearing was called to order at 6:00 PM

Purpose of the Public Hearing- To hear comments for and against the 2024.

Preliminary Budget. Supervisor went over the budget. He said appropriations were cut in half. Judge contractual went up as he has some court cases up where he will need a stenographer and jury trials so he expanded for that. Engineering was cut in half. Councilman Seitz had a question why attorney contractual went up 50,000. It's because of the STAMP project, Borrego, Solar project going on, investigation going on currently so it was budgeted whatever is left over can be recycled back into the system.

Councilman Pratt- engineering- Is it wise to cut that in half? You're looking at water districts, you're looking at do we have to do any engineering with what they are going to do with the STAMP. Supervisor said they already have a contract with Jason for the water, that's already paid for. They used \$15,000 last year for Jason. Supervisor asked if they would be comfortable with 45,000. They agreed.

Records management-Councilman Pratt-Why has that been cut down too low like 30% or better. He said it was a little above from what she requested. Councilman Pratt -under clerk personnel it's the same as last year. Does that allow for the deputy clerk to get a raise. Scott said the deputy clerk got a raise. There was overage from last year's budget. All employees in the town got a 3 % raise. Elected officials did not get a raise. The only person that got more than 3% was

the court clerk. She has been here 10 or 15 years and she made less than our part time clerks so he brought her up with even pay with the rest of the clerks. Councilman Pratt- buildings- what was the other equipment we had adopted budget 2023 was 10,000 and we took that all away. What did we or didn't we use that for? Dale- said it was for the generator after the fire. On the raises, the highway guys – the contract is 3%, the clerks 3%. All employees got a raise. Elected officials and Miranda Bennett did not get a raise. She got a raise in the summer. Councilman Seitz -asked about street lighting because we went to LED's. Zero figures mean it didn't change. What was happening with the LEDs and we are taking over Furness Parkway so he didn't cut that because he wasn't sure. Councilman Pratt -Revenue. Fire department contract is going to be 2% for the next 3 years. Councilman Pratt-Youth programs-can we add some money to that. Everything has gone up. Minimum wage has gone up with the parks program. Suggest \$13,000. Under appropriations what was the General Government support? Last year it was \$57,000 went down to zero. It got moved down 4 lines. It's a new line reserve so they don't have to take out bonds. If we can do that for 3 or 4 years we can pay for a truck. Councilman Seitz-under misc. local sources for sale of scrap. It was under estimated. Anything above that is a bonus for them. Councilman Pratt-Insurance for employees went down \$10,000-is that because somebody isn't taking it- but shouldn't we keep the money there in case of future employees? Shouldn't we shop the insurance to get the best quote? So, you have a list of the other insurances and this is the lowest. Councilman Pratt - Water Districts. He said WD 1 is up quite a bit. He asked about the size line coming off of Royalton. Supervisor said it is 8 inch main. Dale explained the reason for using this. Councilman Pratt asked if infrastructure would handle it, the infrastructure is older. Larry Waters - snow removal. Increased because of salt, diesel. He also asked about the LED. There was supposed to be substantial savings. But it wasn't taken into consideration with the budget. Supervisor did not want to take anything off until he knew how much of a savings.

Jim Heminway-Called the Comptroller regarding the process. The legal notice that was published in the Pennysaver stated there would be a public hearing and the budget would be available in advance in the clerk's office for anyone to look at. He requested it as well as others and was not able to see it as she did not have it. Tonight is the first time I am looking at it and cannot comment on something I was just given. There was supposed to be five-day opportunity to review the budget. The taxes in this town are out of sight but at least the public should be able to review it so they could comment on it. He asked what the next step would be to follow this budget. He said without another public hearing this doesn't follow any rules either in the town or the Comptroller. As per the legal notice there should have been 5 days in which to review the preliminary budget. Supervisor also said he had called the Comptroller. He got a different answer than him. Supervisor said he is not trying to hide anything from him.

Linda Limina-Like Jim she only had a few minutes to look at it. Linda came in late due to work and asked about the attorney line and the insurance line.

Larry Waters- Asked where we are per thousand with this budget. Supervisor said the drop is due to the assessments. Miranda-with the numbers presently outside was 4.17 and inside was 2.15. Last year was 6 and 4.5 so it was a significant drop. Our tax cap is 1.3. We are well under the tax cap. Larry said he is seeing a lot of plusses and some minuses he just wants to see where we are headed in 2024. Supervisor said we will know the rate per thousand once we get the numbers in the budget. The board needs to finalize those numbers. Larry asked when the Supervisor would know. Supervisor said as soon as the numbers are finalized, he can let everyone know. Larry asked if it would be at a Town Board meeting or at special meeting.

Supervisor asked the attorney. She said its whatever the board wants to do. It depends on how many changes they have talked about making tonight, whether you're comfortable with approving this as the preliminary with changes. Supervisor asked what the board wanted to do. Councilman Seitz said he would like to see the preliminary budget under way. They have already made their requests. Doesn't know why they couldn't vote on it to make it the preliminary. Supervisor asked Councilman Schiffer what he thought-. Supervisor said your good with these changes? Councilman Pratt said we haven't had time to go over the budget Supervisor said he had not heard from him in a week. Councilman Pratt said that was why they were here tonight to go over the budget. Supervisor asked if the board wanted to make it a preliminary budget. Supervisor said the board will vote on this tonight to make it a preliminary budget and then

schedule another public hearing before the board meeting at 6 PM for the preliminary budget. If we make this a preliminary budget, it will be available to the public. People in the audience agreed they wanted another budget hearing.

Town Clerk told of her wages since she started and said she would like to be considered for a raise. Supervisor asked if the board was good with the changes to the preliminary budget.

RESOLUTION 76-23

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE PRELIMINARY BUDGET WITH NOTED CHANGES THAT WILL BE MADE

Motion -Schiffer, second-Seitz

Roll call vote.

Schiffer-aye

Seitz-aye

Wengewicz-aye

Pratt-abstain

Zelazny-absent

Motion carried

Supervisor told Larry he would work on it and get him the numbers.

Public Comment-Mike Sargeant-Personally feels what he saw here tonight there are struggles. He doesn't feel there is a lot of transparency in some things. He did not feel there was a good break down of things. He agrees with Town Clerk and wages are pathetic around here. He said the town board needs to start pushing back on the county and state. When the state and county are divvying into our monies it is causing this kind if dissension. He wants the town to start challenging the county to start getting the truth and reporting transparency on financials. It's needed. It's the boards responsibility. The board also needs public support. He encourages the board to start speaking to the constituents of this area and start getting the support. He talked about logistics. He referenced the snow storm last Christmas when many were without power. He said the state did not do anything for him. Neither did the county. Town of Shelby finally got the road open. He is looking at the bigger picture- water. When the water lines went in, he could not afford to have it put in his house. Why wasn't that budgeted for? Why aren't you planning that so everyone has water. There is your revenue. We are really quick to call out certain things from the perspective what the town does for revenue. He said he supports the town but they need to start fighting. Kids leave home once they graduate as there is nothing for them after graduation.

Motion to adjourn-Councilman Seitz, second Councilman Schiffer
Ayes-4
Excused-Zelazny

After no other comments the public hearing was closed at 7:34 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Darlene A. Rich, MMC, RMC
Town Clerk