

Town of St. Armand
2024 Budget Work Session #3
Tuesday, October 17, 2023 – 5:30 pm

These Budget Work Session Minutes were approved by the St. Armand Town Board on November 14, 2023.

A Budget Work Session of the Town of St. Armand was held in person at the above date and time at the Town Hall, Bloomingdale, NY, and virtually on-line.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Town Supervisor Davina Winemiller, Deputy Supervisor Karl Law, Councilperson Donald Amell, and Councilperson Sheridan Swinyer. Councilperson Stephanie Mikesell attended on-line.
A quorum of the Board was in attendance.

TOWN EMPLOYEES PRESENT:

Highway Superintendent Douglas Snickles and Town Clerk Barbara Darrah.

GUESTS: Donna Whitelaw, from the community, attended on-line.

Notice was posted regarding the date of this meeting.

Supervisor Davina Winemiller called the Budget Work Session to order at 5:30 pm and asked all to join in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

BUDGET WORK SESSION

Supervisor Winemiller distributed the latest version of the tentative budget.

Supervisor Winemiller asked the Town Board to look at the Highway Equipment Appropriation sheet and she asked Doug Snickles to discuss the tilt trailer quote from Rock Trailer Sales, Keeseville, NY, in the amount of \$15,500.00. Doug explained the trailer the department currently has is the wrong trailer for the current excavator. Doug went over the features of the proposed tilt trailer and they would only give us a \$1500.00 for a trade-in. The second quote is from Kingdom located in Danville, VT quoted \$7,450.00 for almost the same trailer. That amount included a trade-in of \$3,500.00

Supervisor Winemiller stated we have the \$16,000.00 currently in Highway savings. Supervisor Winemiller stated we would do a Motion in the Regular Board meeting to approve the purchase of the trailer from Kingdom in Vermont.

Supervisor Winemiller asked Doug to discuss the Western Star Tandem purchase. Doug stated the Tandem would actually run \$15,000 cheaper by getting the tandem rather than the single axle. Also, a painted box runs \$30,000.00 less than a stainless box. Doug asked the salesman if there was anything else that would lessen the price of the truck, and he stated putting in a standard transmission would lower the price. Doug reported that the Highway crew had taken their test with a truck with an automatic transmission and they learned on an automatic transmission.

Supervisor Winemiller reviewed the trucks listed on the Equipment Appropriation sheet with the Board and Doug. Asphalt is hauled with the two top trucks, along with salt. Discussion ensued regarding the replacement. Supervisor Winemiller stated there would be no loans taken out for replacement of these vehicles. The funds were being appropriated and allocated each year.

Supervisor Winemiller reported there was a decrease in the Fire Protection amount for North Elba. The contract from North Elba was received at \$7,500.00. North Elba contacted Supervisor Winemiller and stated it was transposed, and the actual amount for the contract is \$5,700.00. Winemiller explained she took the difference and increased the General A fund, page 10.

The third budget work session of 2024 included a review of the expected Water and Sewer rates for 2024.

The Sewer rates were reviewed first. The Sewer Usage rate for 2024 will remain \$15.76. Sewer debt increased from \$69.00 to \$72.00, a difference of \$3.00. Supervisor Winemiller attributed the cost savings to Joshua Woodruff's diligence in keeping sewer costs down.

The Water rates were reviewed next. The Water Usage rate for 2024 increased from \$7.66 to \$7.84, a difference of .18 cents per 1,000 gallons. The Water Debt increased from \$1.68 to 1.74, a difference of .06 cents.

The Sewer Capital Reserve will remain at \$10.50. The Water Capital Reserve Repair and Capital Reserve Improvement will remain at .50 cents each.

Supervisor Winemiller brought up the new job description for the full time year round employee for General Maintenance and Water position, working 20 hours a week in each division. The Board reviewed the job description. Councilperson Donald Amell asked what the percentage rate was for the health insurance contribution for this position? Supervisor Winemiller stated it would be 20%. This position could not join the Union. Deputy Supervisor Karl Law stated there should be a section in the position description that states the person would work closely with the Wastewater Superintendent. Supervisor Winemiller stated she would add that to the position description.

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, CONCERNS

Supervisor Winemiller asked participants of the meeting if there were any questions, comments, or concerns. There were none. Councilperson Stephanie Mikesell stated she was very happy that Supervisor Winemiller was so successful in keeping the Water and Sewer Rates down.

MOTION TO ADJOURN BUDGET WORK SESSION

Councilperson Sheridan Swinyer made a Motion to end the Budget Work Session. The Motion was seconded by Councilperson Donald Amell. The Budget Work Session ended at 6:24 pm.

I, Barbara J. Darrah, Town Clerk for the Town of St. Armand, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct transcript of the Budget Work Session minutes held on the above-referenced date.

Barbara J. Darrah
St. Armand Town Clerk

Dated: October 17, 2023