

Minutes of September 22, 2020 Germantown Town Board workshop via Zoom commencing at 7:00pm.

Present: Supervisor Beury  
Councilman Sullivan  
Councilman Kukon  
Councilmember Suarez  
Councilman Christian

Recorded by: Town Clerk, Joyce Vale

Supervisor Beury welcomed everyone and Led with the Pledge to the Flag.

Motion to go into executive session at 7:01pm made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

Motion to come out of executive session at 8:01pm made by Councilman Sullivan, seconded by Councilmember Suarez, with all in favor and none opposed.

Supervisor Beury asked if there were any questions from the Town Board.

Councilman Kukon's question was about the projected tax revenue loss of \$15,000 from the previous year. Supervisor Beury said they were told there would be a 15% cut in sales tax for next year. All Town Board members were in agreement not to raise real estate taxes.

Supervisor Beury said he strove to reduce the amount of fund balance allocated to the budget for 2021. For 2020 the applied fund balance was \$89,382 and for 2021 it is \$29,084. In highway last year \$137,190 in fund balance and for 2021 we allocated \$74,294. We will continue to watch spending going forward.

Councilmember Suarez questioned why bail and fines were doubled this year? Supervisor Beury said we have an enhanced enforcement agreement with the Sheriff's Deputies, and we receive Court security and extra patrols as needed. Supervisor Beury is budgeting \$24,000 for next year to pay for the program and is expecting to pay for it with the revenue generated from the patrols.

Councilman Christian's question is in the general fund and highway. Doesn't real property taxes go up when people make improvements to their properties. Supervisor Beury answered by saying we are doing the re-assessment project now and we should have the results next year and the Town Board will be making their decision then about increasing the levy.

Councilman Christian asked if certain new big buildings would have to pay more taxes? Supervisor Beury said they will be paying tax but that is not in the budget yet. After talking more on the re-assessments, Supervisor Beury said the Town Board and the assessor have to approve all the re-assessments. Councilman Sullivan added that taxes will be spread out more evenly, re-distributed. Supervisor Beury said some people will see their taxes go up and others will see their taxes go down. Supervisor Beury said the tax assessor has to work with a cap on the entire town and makes adjustments to tax bills based on that cap.

There were no more questions from the Town Board.

Next meeting is October 13, 2020 at 6:45pm for a Public Hearing of the Preliminary Budget followed by the Town Board meeting.

Motion to adjourn the workshop made by Councilmember Suarez, seconded by Councilman Kukon, with all in favor and none opposed.

Workshop closed at 8:21pm.

Respectfully submitted,