



Town of Porter

Work Session

~ Minutes ~

3265 Creek Road
Youngstown, NY 14174
TownofPorter.Net

Barb DuBell
716-745-3730

Thursday, November 9, 2017

9:00 AM

Town Hall Auditorium

I. Call to Order

9:00 AM Meeting called to order on November 9, 2017 at Town Hall Auditorium, 3265 Creek Rd., Youngstown, NY.

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived
Mert Wiepert	Town of Porter	Supervisor	Present	
Jeff Baker	Town of Porter	Deputy Supervisor	Present	
Thomas Baia	Town of Porter	Councilman	Late	9:42 AM
Larry White	Town of Porter	Councilman	Present	
J. Duffy Johnston	Town of Porter	Councilman	Present	
Barb DuBell	Town of Porter	Town Clerk	Present	
Kara Hibbard	Town of Porter	Deputy Town Clerk	Absent	
Scott Hillman	Town of Porter	Highway Superintendent	Late	9:22 AM

II. Reports

1. Report 2017-234

Budget Meeting

Review the 2018 budget.

Bookkeeper Siegrist went over the budget.

We're at a 2.5 tax cap right now, so we're over our 2 percent tax cap. We're still running \$22,000 dollars off. The A Fund, which is our General Fund, we used to get a quite a bit of CWM Waste money, which everybody knows, that well has run dry. So we're going from \$150,000 down to \$800 from them.

With the 2.5 tax cap that is also including a \$250,000 fund balance, I don't want to up that anymore. I'm still looking for cuts.

The Greenway grant money, we're at about \$40,000 left out of \$150,000 that started in about 2015 for the park. We're looking at \$22,000 in the parks, some roads, and more handicap accessible.

Forfeitures and fines: you'll see that it's gone up from \$25,000 in revenue to \$30,000.

The mortgage tax from your original sheets, I found a little bit where we can tighten up on some medical coverage costs.

Supervisor Wiepert: That's a big deal; medical went up 14% this year.

Siegrist: \$20,000 a month just for medical costs then you have the reimbursements, the co-pays. The separate eyeglasses and dental. We're looking at approximately another \$75,000 on top of that.

We cut the tax collector from \$14,000 to \$6,000. The assessor we cut \$5,000 off the top, it was for legal

fees. Building and personal equipment had \$73,000 last year we changed it to zero. The senior van is still in there.

Councilman Johnston: If we get that new van that expense is going to go down. That \$15,000, that's for up-keep on this old van. If we get a brand new van it's going to be for gas and to pay someone to drive.

Siegrist: You can see the \$5,000 I cut from contingency. Looking back to 2013 we always kept that \$25,000. Gentlemen, you need to decide if you want your tax rate to go up more than the 2.5. The 2.5 will have to be approved by the state if I can get \$22,000 more in cuts.

Fort Niagara: I cut totally out. There is still that historical project that is done, that's the remaining \$2,000. Fort Niagara has gone thru a lot of changes, when you had the CWM money we were very generous.

Wiepert: The board has to decide what they want to do with that.

Johnston: Their income went up 47 percent in that last 2 years because of that trolley. They're charging at the door, it's tough to be giving them money. Not that we can't reintroduce it later.

Siegrist: We owe the state \$151,000 for water.

Celebrations: I've cut back \$3,000.

Beautification committee: That runs under 2 things, that's been cut back.

Ransomville Business and Flowers: Used to be \$2,700 cut back to \$1,700.

Cemeteries: There is money that was given to them from Clyde about \$6,000 for the one cemetery. Susan Dietz has given money and money from her book sales goes to historical cemeteries.

Fund 4: We cut the Chamber back again, they're here to go over it.

Suzanne Raby went over reports that the chamber had prepared and presented to the Town board. There was much discussion between the board and the people from the chamber. The board will take information discussed into consideration.

Grant Writer: Grants are getting more involved and complicated. He has asked for a raise, most of his pay was coming out of planning. He asked for \$800, Mert offered his \$650. He agreed to \$700 per month.

Transfer to other Funds: Was lowered to \$450, that was strongly recommended.

Services-Other Gov't: Slight increase of \$2,000.

Sewer: That changed, that was a 2%

Sewage Treatment: I did raise that up to \$140,000.

Johnston: Sewer/water, you know that the County is raising the rates. We're going to have to raise it eventually. We talked the other day with the county, our tax rate is 1.910, when you look at the other townships we're very low. The bottom line is your expenses are going up; the health insurance is going up 14%.

Raise & Salary Increase: The town board spent considerable time discussing raises for the employees. It was decided that with the increase for health insurance that employees would not receive a 2% cost of living increase in 2018. Vote as follows:

Johnston:	No
White:	No
Baker:	No
Baia:	Yes
Wiepert:	Yes

Wiepert: What are we doing with Fort Niagara?

Siegrist: Fort Niagara was \$20,000, we cut it back to \$10,000, and then we took it down to zero. Reason being their ticket sales have gone up, we have helped them when they needed help. With what we are going thru with the state, we pulled the fort.

Johnston: And we owe \$150,000 in water and sewer to the state.

Meeting closed at 10:45 AM.

RESULT:	REPORT ISSUED
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