

**TOWN OF SAMPSON  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
Public Hearing on the proposed 2023 budget and Special Town  
meeting of the electors to adopt the 2023 tax levy  
Monday, November 21, 2022 @ 6 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Chairman Jerabek. Present were Supervisors King and Butterfield, Clerk/Treasurer Gehl, and six voting members of the town.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The proposed town budget for 2023 was presented and the floor was opened up for discussion from the electors.

Questions were asked about the need for the amount of part time help included in the budget. It was pointed out that in the nineties, the town employed two full time workers, eventually cutting that back to one full time and one part time and then, further cutting that back to one full time. Due to this cutback, many items have been ignored and there is much that needs to be done to catch up. It was also pointed out that the amount of part time help proposed for 2023 is the same as the amount in the 2022 budget. Part time help has been utilized for mowing, brushing, road sign repair, and gradually replacing the old style fire number signs. It is also utilized for tasks that require two people present for safety reasons.

Another question was asked as to why the town needed to purchase a new tractor. It was pointed out that the old two wheel drive unit was equipped with a four foot wide belt-driven flail mower and was only capable of cutting small brush under four inches in diameter; and in reality could only continuously cut two inch and smaller brush without the belt-drive slipping badly and burning up the belt. As a result, brushing of the roads has not been properly done for many years. The new four wheel drive unit has a much heavier frame and is capable of handling larger cutting implements. It is equipped with a five foot, hydraulic driven brush cutter (thus no belts to slip) which is capable of cutting up to eight inch diameter brush. The tractor also has 59 more horsepower than the old unit. Further, a six foot grass mower was purchased, which is mounted to the side of the tractor after the brush cutter is removed. The wider mower makes it possible to make only one pass on our roads as opposed to two passes required with the old unit. This saves over one hundred miles of cutting by eliminating

the second pass which lessens costs for fuel, equipment wear, and employee labor.

A complaint was received about the supposedly poor job of chip sealing done on Tillinghast Road. It was explained that the road had been examined by the town both before and after the work had been done and no problems were noted. It was further explained that chip sealing costs approximately one-sixth of the amount of repaving and extends the life of the road for ten to fifteen years. This year the town did three miles of chip sealing as an experiment to see how it holds up. If, after winter plowing, it appears to be in good shape, more will most likely be done as the town budget does not allow enough money to repave roads on a regular basis.

Several questions were asked about actual budget figures. Explanations were given to the best of the board's abilities noting that the recent abrupt change of clerk/treasurer has made it difficult to obtain some of the smaller items that are normally included on the budget.

No further questions were asked. It was pointed out that if members of the town have questions/complaints about anything the town board or employees are doing, they need to bring them to a board member or attend a town board meeting in a timely fashion. The tractor purchase was made over a year ago with no one complaining and the chip sealing was done over three months ago with the board having received no complaints and several compliments on the process. Further, the amount of part time help allotted is the same as last year and no complaints had been received from the public either last year or this year up until this point.

The public hearing was adjourned at 6:28 p.m. and the Special meeting to adopt Resolution #3-2022 setting the 2023 town tax levy at \$327,850 (which included \$21,721 for debt service on the new tractor) was convened. The chairman called for a vote on the resolution as presented. Of the six people present, one voted yes, five voted no and the resolution failed. Veda Reed then made a motion to amend the resolution to the state mandated levy limit of \$306,129. Chuck Richardson seconded the motion. Chairman Jerabek pointed out that this amended resolution would force the town to cut an additional \$21,721 out of the blacktopping/chip sealing expenditures. This area had already been cut by almost \$70,000 to make the budget balance. There was no further discussion. A vote was called for and five voted yes, one voted no, and the amended resolution #3-2022-1

passed. An amended resolution will be drawn and signed by the board adopting the 2023 tax levy at the state mandated limit of \$306,129 per the direction of the five people voting yes on the resolution.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Susan Gehl  
Clerk/Treasurer