

## Town of Pines Budget Workshop

### July 23, 2021

The 2022 Budget Workshop for the Town of Pines, Town Council, was called to order at 5:30 PM. This meeting was held as an open meeting with restrictions, meeting was shared virtually via ZOOM for residents who are unable to come to the Hall. The next regular council meeting will be Wednesday, August 4, 2021 at 6:30 P.M. This will be a regular meeting located at the Town Hall, with restrictions. The COVID-19 Town Hall Meeting Restrictions are still in place until further notice; Masks must be worn in the Hall, Six (6) foot social distancing, and maximum occupancy of 20 people.

James led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance were James Prast, Janice Lowe, Vicki Kuzio, and Shelby Mashburn.

The Clerk Treasurer, Shelby, begins the Budget Workshop with appropriations that need increased for 2022. She suggests an increase in the amount appropriated for telephone/internet, subscriptions and dues, and electric by 15-20% for each fund. Shelby also requests a new appropriation fund for the Board of Zoning Appeals Costs for 2022. There is no fund currently for the BZA, as is it not frequently used. In 2021 the BZA has so far had approximately \$1300 in fees. Shelby suggests a BZA fund of \$5000 for 2021, council agrees to ensure proper coverage of costs if needed.

Vicki Kuzio suggests an increase in Salaries for 2021. James asks about a 10% increase, Vicki and Janice both voice that they feel it should be more than this. James agrees and states that they are looking at this increase for the building commissioner and for the Clerk Treasurer. Council agrees. Janice states that currently the Clerk Treasurer is at \$1000 per month and the Building Commissioner is at \$500 a month. Janice suggests raising the Building Commissioner to \$750 a month. Council all agree. James suggests raising the Clerk Treasurer to \$1500 a month. Council all agree. Council also begins to discuss the amount appropriated for the Wage of Laborers in MVH. It is suggested to raise this from \$13000 appropriated to \$16000 to be able to account for Rob's 2021 raise, as a well as the cost of an assistant helping Rob as needed.

Council moves forward in talking about appropriations and discusses the need for a new tractor soon. As well as discussing the ADA accommodations that need to be made to the Town Hall within the previously recommended timeline. These were both discussed to be able to come out of CEDIT if needed. There is still 99% of CEDIT Available for 2021. Shelby also brings up the outdoor bathrooms. We need to have these bathrooms repaired or remodeled due to being outdated and damaged. James suggests that we can have the bathrooms outside, and all issues in the town hall addressed at once by one contractor.

Janice requests an increase in our MVH Restricted Appropriation for 2022. Janice requests we bring this up to \$50,000 due to increasing street costs. James asks about the cost of street signs as there are some that still need updated. No additional appropriation is found to be needed for this. Vicki mentions that there is supposed to be an increase on price from Salt for winter this year. She requests an increase of 25% for the Road Material appropriation. Council Agrees. James asks about the topic of a new building for extra storage. He asks about storing the salt more effectively as well as having a drive thru building for easier usage by the Street Department. Due to the corrosive nature of salt, research needs to be done to ensure proper storage in a new building.

Shelby asks about the cost of Fire Protection for 2022, as there was talk of an increase in pricing. It is suggested to appropriate \$2500 per month for Fire Protection to allow for this unknown increase. James also asks about the cost of Garbage. Janice suggests increasing this by 10% to be safe. James also asks about the Attorney. He knows that in 2022 he will be more involved due to issues with the Roads and NIPSCO that will be taking place. Janice suggests raising this to \$15000. Council agrees. Council continues to discuss wanting to try to keep improving the look of everything we do from Highway 12. Updating the parks and signage, as well as making sure our buildings and properties are nice and planned well. It was discussed what could be done at the Pines Park or Warden Park to bring in more people. It was suggested for a dog park, redo the baseball field, or to set up an area for the sledders. It is agreed that there are many things we can be doing for the Park but more research is needed.

*As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 P.M*

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James Prast, President

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Shelby Mashburn, Clerk Treasurer