

**LOWELL TOWN COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
AUGUST 6, 2015**

A work session of the Lowell Town Council was called to order on Thursday, August 6, 2015 at 10:30 A.M. by President Christopher Salatas. Members present were LeAnn Angerman, Donald Parker, Christopher Salatas, and Edgar Corns. Councilman Earley was absent. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Judith Walters, Town Building Administrator Tom Trulley, Public Works Director Greg Shook, Police and Attorney David Westland.

President Salatas stated the purpose of the meeting was the final direction of the 2016 budget and discussion of building permit fees.

Discussion followed. All present agreed that they would like the Town Manager position budgeted for 2016 and the police pension rate calculated for a first class patrolman at a maximum of \$65,000. Clerk-Treasurer Judith Walters stated she had budgeted the town manager position, the police pension increase, a patrolman salary for a six month period, and a 3% across the board salary increase and we were over our proposed budget for the General Fund by \$144,000. Discussion followed on increase in miscellaneous revenues and using operating balance on hand. Clerk-Treasurer Walters stated we need to maintain an operating balance for a six month period because you don't receive your tax draw for six months and you may not receive all miscellaneous revenue anticipated. Clerk-Treasurer Walters will look into budgeting the patrolman salary from the CEDIT Fund and a portion of the Town Manager's salary from the M.V.H. Fund. A 6:00 Budget Work Session will be held on Monday, August 10th with Financial Consultant Greg Guerrettaz. Also to be discussed at the work session is Ordinance #2015-10, Firearms Ordinance.

Building Administrator Tom Trulley presented proposed building permit fees on a 2,000 square foot house w/ full basement and 576 square foot garage to be estimated at \$2,175.00. The current building permit fees are \$1,373.80. Mr. Trulley stated he is proposing the Town change to building valuation data. He compared the proposed fees to Cedar Lake, Crown Point, and Lake County. The fees would still be a little less than those communities, but Lowell's water/sewer tap fees are a little higher. Councilman Parker questioned why Crown Point's water/sewer taps are so much less than Lowell. Public Works Director Greg Shook stated Crown Point has lake water and it is less to treat. Mr. Trulley stated the fees presented are more realistic to what we should be charging. He showed based on the last four year trend on single family homes the difference of what revenue would have been received if building permit fees were based on total construction value. A discussion was held for Council members to attend the August 27th Annexation Meeting on new state laws. A Public Hearing will be held by the Plan Commission to approve building standards and park impact fees. Council members concurred to set a public hearing for August 24th on proposed building permit fees.

Councilman Corns stated he has been contacted by Commissioner Gerry Schueb who will be writing a letter to the State asking them to carry improvements on Route 41 to Route 2, and asked that a letter also be sent by the Town.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 P.M. by motion by Councilwoman Angerman, and seconded by Councilman Corns and carried.

Christopher Salatas, President

Attest:

Judith Walters, Clerk-Treasurer

