

Wawayanda Town Board Meeting 10/26/2006

October 26, 2006

A monthly workshop/meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Wawayanda was called to order at 7:30 P.M., on Thursday, October 26, 2006, at the Town Hall, Ridgebury Hill Road, Slate Hill, New York. In addition to other topics, the primary purpose of this meeting was to work on the proposed town budget for 2007.

Those present were:

	John R. Razzano	Supervisor
	David S. Cole	Councilman
	Edward Krajewski	Councilman
	Gail M. Soro	Councilwoman
	Richard Penaluna III	Councilman
	Teresa Pierce	Town Clerk
Absent:	Richard Guertin	Attorney for the Town

Also Present: Catherine Cole - Tax Collector, Dennis Ketcham - Assessor, Laura Slowik & Susan Hutchings - Assistant Budget Officers, Mary Markiewicz & Barbara Parsons - Planning Board Members; and approximately 12 other individuals.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2007 PRELIMINARY TOWN BUDGET:

Supervisor Razzano informed the Board that the Bookkeeper was able to close out another month, and adjustments have been made to the Water & Sewer District's. Also, more appropriate salary distributions were made for Jeffery Mills and Laura Slowik for their work associated with these districts. .

He then explained that the amount to be raised by the General Fund will be down about 15% from last year. The amount that will be taken out of surplus, the unexpended balance is \$126,000. (one hundred twenty six thousand) which is far less than what has been taken out in the past twelve years. The amount is generally in the area of \$300,000. - \$350,000. Added that he anticipates putting at least \$100,000. back into surplus when all is said and done.

The Board proceeded to review specific line items of the proposed budget, as follows:

1) Planning Board: Changes were made on page 11 regarding the fees for the Engineers and Attorneys. Since the Local Law to require Escrow Deposits for Consultant Fees was adopted, there is no need to have that money budgeted for 2007.

Councilwoman Soro asked where Jean Rose's salary, as Planning Board Stenographer, is budgeted.

Supervisor Razzano informed her that payment for Ms. Rose's services comes out of the Special Trust & Agency Account from the escrow fees paid to the Planning Board.

2) Thrall Library: **Supervisor Razzano** noted that information was just received last week, and the amount for the tax levy for the year 2007 is \$49,299.64.

3) Adult Recreation: **Councilwoman Soro** inquired about the funding for the funding for the Senior Citizens' recreation program. The Supervisor noted that his tentative budget did not include an appropriation for the Slate Hill Pacers. He asked for advice from the Board, and they agreed to appropriate \$4,000.00 to account code A7620.4 on page 10. (In prior years, the appropriation was included in line item A7610.4).

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4) Building Department: Due to recent legislation, the Building Inspector has indicated several increases to the work in his office, effective in 2007. He offered some recommendations on how to address the matter. The Board briefly discussed those recommendations. One of those, specifically, was to increase the working hours of his clerk from 30 to 35 hours per week.

5) The budget for the Highway Department is going up a little over 3%, and **Supervisor Razzano** recommended that since this budget is \$1,449,000.00, it could be cut by at least \$70,000. (seventy thousand dollars). A lengthy discussion took place about possible line items which can be reduced.

MOTION by **Supervisor Razzano**, seconded by **Councilman Krajewski**, to remove \$70,000. from the Highway Department Budget.

VOTE

Supervisor Razzano	-	Aye
Councilman Cole	-	Aye
Councilman Krajewski	-	Aye
Councilwoman Soro	-	Nay
Councilman Penaluna	-	Aye

MOTION CARRIED

**** Councilwoman Soro** stated that she does not agree with this action, and that Highway Superintendent Green should be consulted to see how this reduction will impact the performance of his job.

MOTION by **Supervisor Razzano**, seconded by **Councilman Krajewski**, to accept the amended Tentative Budget, (\$4,000 added for Senior Citizen activities, and a decrease of \$70,000 from the Highway Department budget) as the 2007 Preliminary Budget, and to schedule a Public Hearing on it for Thursday, November 9, 2006.

4 Ayes , 1 Abstain (Councilwoman Soro)
MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by **Supervisor Razzano**, seconded by **Councilman Krajewski**, to interrupt the regular meeting so that the Board may convene in Executive Session in regard to a personnel matter.

ALL IN FAVOR - CARRIED

EXECUTIVE SESSION: No action taken.

MOTION by **Supervisor Razzano**, seconded by **Councilman Cole**, to close Executive Session and re-open the regular meeting.

ALL IN FAVOR - CARRIED

LAURA SLOWIK /CIVIL SERVICE ISSUE: **Supervisor Razzano** stated that more information is required before a decision could be made. This matter was tabled for a future meeting.

HIGHWAY CRACK FILLER /JOINT MUNICIPAL REQUEST FOR FUNDING:

Michael Green, Highway Superintendent, is requesting authorization to move forward with a grant applicant for the purchase of a crack filler. This request, on behalf of the Orange County townships of Wawayanda, Minisink, Mount Hope, and Greenville, is for funding to purchase this piece of road maintenance equipment.

MOTION by **Supervisor Razzano**, seconded by **Councilwoman Soro**, to authorize Michael Green, Highway Superintendent, to move forward with the submission of a second grant

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application for Joint Municipal Request for Funding for a Crack Filler.

ALL IN FAVOR - CARRIED

PARTNERS IN SAFETY / DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING: Partners In Safety submitted a renewal contract in respect to drug and alcohol testing. Throughout the year, they randomly conduct tests on employees who drive town vehicles.

MOTION by **Councilman Krajewski**, seconded by **Councilman Penaluna**, to authorize the signing of the contract with ‘Partners in Safety’.

ALL IN FAVOR - CARRIED

PERSONNEL POLICY: **Supervisor Razzano** stated that a lot of work has been done on the new proposed Personnel Policy, and that they were ready to get on board with the specifics. However, there was a fax received earlier today from the Teamsters Local 445 that advises that their Union represents an overwhelming majority of employees in the town’s Highway Department and the Water and Sewer Department, in a unit appropriate for collective bargaining. In light of this correspondence, the Board is unable to discuss the Personnel Policy any further.

AMENDMENT TO TOWN OF WAWAYANDA PERSONNEL POLICY:

Supervisor Razzano stated that he would like to make an amendment to the current Personnel Policy to add the Supervisor and the Town Board Members to the list of eligible employees as defined in Section 8, to participate in the Town of Wawayanda medical insurance plan.

Resolution 13-2006

Amendment to Town of Wawayanda Personnel Policy

MOTION by **Supervisor Razzano**, seconded by **Councilman Krajewski**, to adopt a resolution to amend the existing Personnel Policy, Chapter 31 of the Code of the Town of Wawayanda, Article III (Employee Benefits), Section 31-12 entitled Health Insurance Premiums, A. “Eligibility”, to read as follows: **(1) Any regular full-time employee as defined in §31-8, the Town Supervisor, and members of the Town Board, will be eligible to participate in the Town of Wawayanda Health Insurance Plan, single or family, at no cost to the employee.**

VOTE

Supervisor Razzano	-	Aye
Councilman Cole	-	Aye
Councilman Krajewski	-	Aye
Councilwoman Soro	-	Nay
Councilman Penaluna	-	Aye

MOTION CARRIED

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS: **Councilwoman Soro** inquired on the status of the **Solid Waste Laws; Carol Moore**, and the cost for the hook up into Water & Sewer District’s #1; **Certificate of Deposit and Investments;** where the Town is with the **Water & Sewer Codes;** the **Lakeridge Subdivision;** and whether the Supervisor’s Office had received any correspondence pertaining to **Chartwell / Masada**, and the **Old County Landfill site.**

Supervisor Razzano responded to each inquiry, as presented by **Councilwoman Soro.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS & QUESTIONS:

Gregory Bosh questioned the Supervisor on the proposed Personnel Policy change regarding employee contribution for medical benefits.

Supervisor Razzano informed Mr. Bosh that he could not discuss the Personnel Policy because

of a letter he received about possible unionization of town employees.

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Dave LeBlanc expressed an opinion that the Supervisor's job should be a full time position.

Mary Markiewicz asked, "If an elected official became ill and is unable to perform his/her duties, how would the Town handle that situation?". She was advised that they would just make the best of the situation.

No Other Comments, and No Other Business.

MOTION by **Supervisor Razzano**, seconded by **Councilman Penaluna**, to adjourn the meeting.

ALL IN FAVOR - CARRIED

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:45 P.M.

PREPARED BY KATHRYN SHERLOCK

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

**Teresa E. Pierce, Town Clerk/RMC
Town Clerk**