

Wawayanda Town Board Meeting 11/09/2006

November 9, 2006

A Special Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Wawayanda was called to order at 6:05 P.M., on Thursday, November 9, 2006, at the Town Hall, Ridgebury Hill Road, Slate Hill, New York. The main purpose of this meeting was a Public Hearing on the Preliminary Town of Wawayanda Budget for 2007.

Those present were:

| | | |
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| | 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: Howard Goldstein - Bookkeeper for the Town; Laura Slowik & Susan Hutchings - Assistant Budget Officers; Michael Green - Highway Superintendent; Mary Markiewicz & Barbara Parsons - Planning Board Members; Gladys Hall - Historian; and approximately 10 other individuals.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Supervisor Razzano apologized to the audience for the early time of this meeting, and explained that this was due to a conflict with a Zoning Board meeting which was set to take place at 7:30 PM this evening.

Supervisor Razzano took a moment to clarify questions regarding the amount of money which was actually left in surplus from the Year 2005. He provided a figure of \$444,000.00. He then went on to explain the financial status of the Town for the year 2006. Explained that considering an amount over \$200,000.00 was spent without being budgeted (Saratoga Contract and Dump Trucks ordered last year), we are currently \$120,000.00 below budget. He estimated that, overall, we will be somewhere in the vicinity of \$190,000.00 in excess revenue. Added that \$130,000.00 will be taken from surplus to add to the 2007 Budget, in order to bring down the amount to be raised by taxes, and at the close of the year it looks like we will be able to add approximately \$170,000.00 back into the surplus. The Town earned approximately \$40,000.00 in interest for 2005, and we are looking at approximately \$72,000.00 for the year 2006.

David Whitworth said that the interest was due to the federal reserve and their steady increase in rates.

Supervisor Razzano stated that he is responsible for making the phone calls to get the best rates, and it all stems from money management. Added that he had \$1 million less in surplus to invest than was available in the prior year.

Councilwoman Soro asked how much money was left in surplus at the beginning of 2006, and the Supervisor informed her the amount was \$444,000.00. She then commented that contrary to that fact, people were told that there was no money left in surplus.

Highway Superintendent Green asked where the money was coming from to pay down the taxes and was advised that it was coming from the General Fund.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PRELIMINARY BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF WAWAYANDA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2007:

Supervisor Razzano read aloud the Notice of Public Hearing as it appeared in the Times Herald Record on November 3, 2006.

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MOTION by **Supervisor Razzano**, seconded by **Councilman Krajewski**, to open the Public Hearing.

ALL IN FAVOR - CARRIED

Barbara Parsons stated that before the meeting continues she would like to make a correction to Mrs. Soro's statement, and said "We had been told there was more than \$400,000.00 left in surplus, but at that time the money was not paid out or budgeted for the trucks, and there was no money budgeted for Saratoga Associates. Both of these expenses added up to over \$450,000.00".

Councilwoman Soro responded that there was nothing to correct, and that Ms. Parson's was wrong in what she was she was stating.

Deevey Greitzer spoke about the salary for the Highway Superintendent, and stated that it was seriously low, and as far as she was concerned the Highway Department is the most important department in the Town because when it comes to bad weather she has never had a problem going to work. The roads have always been maintained better than any other towns. Spoke about her commute to the Town of Newburgh and the conditions of the roads outside of Wawayanda being impassable. She also spoke about the time she had a flood at her residence and the actions the Highway Department took to help her through that ordeal. Added that Mr. Green has done a good job and should not be hassled or shackled by his budget being cut.

David Whitworth referred to a conversation he had last year with Supervisor Razzano and that at that time they were both in agreement that they were dealing with junk numbers and that in his opinion the 2007 budget is still reflecting numbers from 2005. Said that we have never had a reconciliation of numbers in this town, and does not feel that the current numbers are accurate. In his opinion, the projected revenues are underestimated.

Supervisor Razzano said that things will be better shortly, when we receive the up-to-date numbers. Said the new accounting software is up and running, and explained that the old software would only allow the Bookkeeper to close out one month at a time. Explained the process by which the projected year-end numbers in the budget were arrived at, and acknowledged that they are just educated guesses. Added that, in preparing the budget, they do the best they can.

Councilman Krajewski said that he is more comfortable under estimating revenues in hopes that they will be higher. In his opinion, the numbers did not reflect a severe under estimation.

Mr. Whitworth commented that he does not agree, and that the revenues should be more accurately reflected.

Supervisor Razzano noted that the Budget is comprised to two components which are the General Fund and the Highway Fund. For the Year 2007 the General Fund budget is going down 16%, and the Highway Fund is going down 1%.

Mary Markiewicz commented that Mike Green and the Highway Department do a very good job. Said that she noticed in the paper, that the Town of Deerpark's Highway Superintendent makes somewhere in the area of \$47,000.00 plus. The Town of Deerpark is 66 square miles where we are 33 square miles. Added that she is not saying that Deerpark has twice the amount of roads, and then expressed the opinion that Mr. Green makes an adequate salary.

Superintendent Green responded to Ms. Markiewicz's comment and said "The Town of Chester's Superintendent makes \$67,000.00 and there is about the same amount of roads, and the Town of Mt. Hope is at \$57,000.00 at about 35 miles of roads. Concluded that it just depends on the area that you are in.

Barbara Parsons questioned the amount of money that the Highway Department MEO's (Machine Equipment Operators) are making because they do 95% of the work and that it is a joint effort.

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Supervisor Razzano responded that the top man in the Highway Department is around \$44,000.00, and they do receive overtime on top of that.

Laura Slowik, Assistant Budget Officer, provided salary information for the top two Highway Employees and it was determined that with overtime they were somewhere in the vicinity of Superintendent Green's salary.

Cemetery Up-Keep: Daniel Myers questioned a line item regarding maintenance of cemeteries in the Town and said that there is a requirement in the New York State Cemetery Law to maintain them. Claimed that this year it was not done, and he is not sure if Mr. Green's time has been cut back to the point that he just could not do it. Said that if the money is allotted, it should be getting done.

Highway Superintendent Green said that once a year the Highway Department goes to the three larger Cemeteries in the Town and cleans them as a courtesy, usually for Memorial Day. There used to be money in the budget for someone to maintain them once a month, but he was not sure if that should be the job of the Highway Department.

Senior Activities: Supervisor Razzano informed the Board that Bill Longcore, the President of the PACERS, submitted a request to increase the Senior's recreation budget to \$6,000.00. At the budget workshop, the Town Board had allotted \$4,000.00 for this purpose. When Mr. Longcore submitted his request, he explained all the activities that took place so far this year, and what activities were planned for the rest of the year. Overall, the total expense will exceed the \$4,000.00 amount. At this time, 90% of the trips have been scheduled for 2007.

In regards to concerns about non-residents attending the trips, Mr. Longcore had explained the circumstances why this was necessary, and the Supervisor said that he now has a better understanding on how their programs work.

Councilwoman Soro said that just for clarification in other Town's there is a fee schedule for non residents, and that she believes this is being reviewed by our Senior Citizens.

Carriage House: Gladys Hall, Historian, questioned what happened to the money that was supposed to be placed in an account designated for the restoration of the floor at the carriage house. Added that from what she can gather, the account was never established.

Supervisor Razzano said that he is aware the work needs to be done, and that he visited the Pines with Bryce Flynn, and there is more work entailed than what he had thought. Added that this does need to be addressed.

Councilwoman Soro said that she believes that this account was supposed to be established in 2003-2004, but it never happened.

Supervisor Razzano reiterated that this is something that does need to be addressed and they will get moving on it.

Highway Department: Highway Superintendent Green said that he has noted a budget reduction for the Highway Department that in the amount of \$104,000.00 and 74,500 is in Item I which is basically stone, etc.

Supervisor Razzano responded that he did receive a memo from Mr. Green but it was late in the day and was not able to contact him about it. He did some research on this but was not able to come up with the amount of \$104,000.00. From the tentative budget to today all that was removed was \$45,000 out of line one, \$5,000. out of machinery, and \$20,000 out of snow.

Highway Superintendent Green spoke about not having enough money in the budget for the purchase of salt, and that they have placed an order for 3,000 tons. This amount of tonnage, which comes to \$136,410.00 must be paid for since it has been reserved for us. He had budgeted \$137,000.00 but since that amount has been reduced by \$20,000.00, he wondered where the money would come from to cover the expense.

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A lengthy discussion took place regarding the contract with Cargill Salt, the facilities to store the product and the funds to purchase along with the bidding process. Discussion also took place regarding the purchase of sand and the use of the sand across the street.

Barbara Parsons commented that if an item has been ordered the money should be budgeted.

David Whitworth & Barbara Parsons both commented that the position of Town Supervisor should be a full-time position.

No Other Comments - All persons wishing to speak had been given an opportunity to do so.

MOTION by **Supervisor Razzano**, seconded by **Councilman Cole**, to close the Public Hearing.
ALL IN FAVOR - CARRIED

A discussion took place amongst Board Members and Howard Goldstein in regard to increasing the Senior Citizen's recreation budget to \$6,000, and increasing the Highway Department's allotment for salt by \$20,000.

At one point **Councilwoman Soro** questioned if we were going to ask the Seniors if they would consider charging non-residents an extra fee for the bus transportation.

The Board felt the need for someone to speak to them about accountability for the extra money that they would be allotted, and about possibly charging non residents a little extra.

Councilman Krajewski was directed by the Board to take on this task.

Councilwoman Soro volunteered to assist him.

MOTION by **Supervisor Razzano**, seconded by **Councilman Cole**, to adopt the Preliminary Budget as the final Town of Wawayanda Budget for 2007, with amendments as follows:

1) Budget line item #A7620.4 (Adult Recreation) will be increased from \$4,000 to \$6,000.

2) Budget Line Item #A5142.4DS will be increased by \$20,000 to cover the cost of salt.

The additional funding for these two line items will be coming out of the unexpended fund balance.

VOTE

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|----------------------|---|---------|
| Supervisor Razzano | - | Aye |
| Councilman Cole | - | Aye |
| Councilman Krajewski | - | Aye |
| Councilwoman Soro | - | Abstain |
| Councilman Penaluna | - | Aye |

MOTION CARRIED

***Councilwoman Soro** explained that she was abstaining because she did not have a problem with increasing the funding for Adult Recreation, and she agreed with the \$20,000 increase to cover the cost of salt, but she did have a problem with the Supervisor's appropriation to cover his Medical Insurance.

PROPERTY PURCHASE / SETH DRIVE:

MOTION by **Councilman Krajewski**, seconded by **Councilman Penaluna**, to authorize the purchase of a parcel of property on Seth Drive, identified as SBL 8-1-5.2, at a price of \$650.00.

ALL IN FAVOR - CARRIED

PROPOSED WATER AND SEWER RATES FOR 2007:

Resolution as follows:

**TOWN OF WAWAYANDA
RESOLUTION # 14 OF 2006
USAGE RATES FOR SPECIAL BENEFIT DISTRICTS
ARLUCK WATER DISTRICT
RIDGEBURY WATER DISTRICT**

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DENTON HILLS WATER DISTRICT
ROBINN MEADOWS SEWER DISTRICT
RIDGEBURY LAKE SEWER DISTRICT

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Wawayanda, sitting as Water District Commissioners, hereby amends the rate schedules for the said districts pursuant to Town Law, Section 198, as follows:

A. For Arluck Water District:

- 1. The flat fee charge for usage shall be \$71.85 per month per individual lot that is connected to the system.
- 2. Charge for **Capital Costs** shall be \$360.00 billed annually per individual lot in the district. **This amount will be placed on the property tax bill for he year 2007;**

B. For the Ridgebury Water District:

- 1. Minimum charge for each lot in the district that is connected to the system shall be \$100.00 per quarter up to 15,000 gallons; plus \$13.00 per thousand gallons for the next 5,000 gallons up to 20,000 gallons; and plus \$18.00 per thousand gallons for additional usage exceeding 20,000 gallons.
- 2. Charge for **Capital Costs** shall be \$302.63 billed annually per individual lot in the district. **This amount will be placed on the Property Tax bill for the year 2007;**

C. For the Denton Hills Water District:

- 1. Minimum charge for usage for each lot in the district that is connected to the system shall be \$135.00 per quarter up to 15,000 gallons plus \$13.00 per thousand gallons for the next 5,000 gallons up to 20,000; and plus \$18.00 per thousand gallons for additional usage exceeding 20,000 gallons.
- 2. Charge for **Capital Costs** shall be \$361.59 billed annually per individual lot in the district. **This amount will be placed on the Property Tax bill for the year 2007;**

D. For the Robinn Meadows Sewer District:

\$869.92 billed annually per individual lot connected to the system. This amount will be placed on the Property Tax bill for the year 2007;

E. For the Ridgebury Lake Sewer District:

\$1,879.34 billed annually for each lot in the district. This amount will be placed on the Property Tax bill for the year 2007

MOTION by **Supervisor Razzano**, seconded by **Councilman Penaluna**, to accept the foregoing resolution, which sets the usage rates for the municipal Water & Sewer Districts.

VOTE

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

MOTION CARRIED

VACANT POSITION IN TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE:

MOTION by **Supervisor Razzano**, seconded by **Councilman Cole**, to authorize the Town Clerk to hire Lois Yntema as a part-time employee in the Town Clerk's office, with a starting salary of \$10.00 per hour.

ALL IN FAVOR - CARRIED

NO OTHER COMMENTS, AND NO OTHER BUSINESS.

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

ALL IN FAVOR - CARRIED

MEETING ADJOURNED: 7:27 P.M.

**PREPARED BY KATHRYN SHERLOCK
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**

Teresa E. Pierce, RMC

***NOTE FROM TOWN CLERK:**

For Clarification purposes, the money budgeted for **Thrall Library** is covered by a special tax on **Town of Wawayanda property owners within the Middletown School District**. It is **not** an expense of the entire Town.