

Minutes of the Town Board Meeting held at Town Hall, 511 Route 32, Highland Mills, New York, on November 6, 2008 at 7:30PM

Present: John Burke, Supervisor
Geraldine Gianzero, Councilwoman
Amidee Haviland, Councilman
Carlton Levine, Councilman
Michael Queenan, Councilman

Absent: None

Also Present: Richard Liberth, Attorney for the Town; Peter Stabile, Highway Superintendent; Robert Kwiatkowski, Police Chief; Lorelei Pitt, Budget Officer

I. Administrative Business:

a. Acceptance of Minutes:

Motion was offered by Councilman Haviland, seconded by Councilman Levine, to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held October 16, 2008.

ADOPTED AYES 5 Burke, Gianzero, Haviland, Levine, Queenan
NOES 0

Motion was then offered by Councilman Levine, seconded by Supervisor Burke, to accept the minutes of the worksession held November 3, 2008.

ADOPTED AYES 4 Burke, Gianzero, Levine, Queenan
ABSTAIN 1 Haviland

b. Budget Modifications:

Motion was offered by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Supervisor Burke, to approve a modification to the Highway Fund by decreasing DB5120.401 (Roselawn Bridge Repairs) by \$10,000 and increasing DB5130.447 (Truck Parts) by \$10,000.

ADOPTED AYES 5 Burke, Gianzero, Haviland, Levine, Queenan
NOES 0

Motion was then offered by Councilwoman Gianzero, seconded by Supervisor Burke, to approve a modification to the Police Department budget by decreasing B3020.100 (Personal Services) by \$10,000 and increasing B3020.414 (Dispatch Legal) by \$10,000.

ADOPTED AYES 5 Burke, Gianzero, Haviland, Levine, Queenan
NOES 0

Motion was then offered by Councilman Levine, seconded by Councilman Queenan, to approve a modification to the Police Department budget by increasing B2770 (Unclassified Revenues) by \$12,000 and increasing B3120.463 (Software Maintenance) by \$800; increasing B3120.466 (Computer Consultant) by \$2,800; increasing B3120.465 (Hardware Maintenance) by \$8,400.

ADOPTED AYES 5 Burke, Gianzero, Haviland, Levine, Queenan
NOES 0

Motion was then offered by Supervisor Burke, seconded by Councilwoman Gianzero, to approve a modification to the Parks Department budget by decreasing A7110.405 (Earl Parking Lot) by \$1,000; decreasing A7110.410 (Roller Hockey Rink) by \$1,000; decreasing A7110.430 (Day Camp Expenditures) by \$6,167; decreasing A7110.481 (Tennis Courts/Repairs) by \$500; decreasing A7110.482 (Trees) by \$1,000 and increasing A7110.417 (Field Maintenance) by \$9,667.

ADOPTED AYES 5 Burke, Gianzero, Haviland, Levine, Queenan
NOES 0

Motion was then offered by Councilman Levine, seconded by Councilman Haviland, to approve a modification to the Library Fund by decreasing L7410.100 (Personal Services) by \$5,000; decreasing

L7410.465 (Processing Supplies) by \$1,000 and increasing L7410.464 (Equipment Maintenance) by \$5,000; increasing L7410.202 (Automation) by \$1,000.

ADOPTED AYES 5 Burke, Gianzero, Haviland, Levine, Queenan
 NOES 0

Motion was then offered by Councilman Queenan, seconded by Councilman Gianzero, to approve a modification to the Tax Collector's budget by decreasing A1330.430 (Transportation and Travel) by \$150 and increasing A1330.464 (Computer Software) by \$150.

ADOPTED AYES 5 Burke, Gianzero, Haviland, Levine, Queenan
 NOES 0

Motion was then offered by Supervisor Burke, seconded by Councilman Levine, to approve a modification to the Library Fund by decreasing L7410.100 (Personal Services) by \$7,000 and increasing L9060.800 (Hospitalization) by \$7,000.

ADOPTED AYES 5 Burke, Gianzero, Haviland, Levine, Queenan
 NOES 0

c. Appointment to Highway Department:

Motion was offered by Supervisor Burke, seconded by Councilwoman Gianzero, to approve the appointment of Timothy Ryan to the position of full-time MEO (Grade 3B, Step 1B) with a starting salary of \$18.09 per hour effective November 12, 2008. Civil Service has already approved this application.

ADOPTED AYES 5 Burke, Gianzero, Haviland, Levine, Queenan
 NOES 0

d. Schedule Special Meeting with Parks Commission – CV Pond:

Motion was offered by Supervisor Burke, seconded by Councilman Levine, to schedule a special meeting to be held on November 12, 2008 at 7:30PM at the Town Hall. This will be a joint meeting with the Parks Commission to discuss the proposed renovations/upgrades to the Central Valley Pond. It was noted that this meeting is open to the public and will be broadcast on Channel 22.

ADOPTED AYES 5 Burke, Gianzero, Haviland, Levine, Queenan
 NOES 0

EXTRA ITEM – Approval of Abstract:

Motion was offered by Councilman Haviland, seconded by Councilman Queenan, to approve Abstract 24, Voucher #20082343 - #20082362, totaling \$22,478.79. It was noted that checks 107568 - 107572 were voided due to a printer error.

ADOPTED AYES 5 Burke, Gianzero, Haviland, Levine, Queenan
 NOES 0

II. Old Business:

There was no old business to discuss.

III. New Business:

a. Reduction in Bonds – Brigadoon:

Motion was offered by Supervisor Burke, seconded by Councilwoman Gianzero, to approve the release of the bonds for the Brigadoon development, based on the recommendation of Engineer Lindsay in his letter dated September 24, 2008, once a replacement cash bond in the amount of \$118,900 is posted with the Village of Woodbury.

ADOPTED AYES 4 Burke, Gianzero, Levine, Queenan
 ABSTAIN 1 Haviland

IV. Public Hearing:

a. 2009 Preliminary Budget:

Town Clerk Potvin stated a public hearing is being held to entertain public comments on the 2009 Preliminary Budget. The public notice was printed in the Times Herald Record on October 31, 2008 with the salaries of the elected official posted as follows:

Town Supervisor	\$53,130	Town Clerk	\$50,000
Supt of Highways	\$72,355	Justices (2)	\$26,730
Council (4)	\$8,195	Tax Collector	\$14,075

Supervisor Burke then asked if there were any comments to be made regarding the salaries of the elected officials as proposed. With no comments received on the proposed salaries of the elected officials, Supervisor Burke stated that portion of the budget hearing was closed. Supervisor Burke then stated comments can be received from the public on the 2009 Preliminary Budget as Budget Officer Pitt goes page-by-page. Supervisor Burke requested that individuals state which specific line-item or department they wish to comment on when the page is being addressed. The following comments were received:

Robin Crouse asked for an explanation of the amount that is budgeted for A1620.421 (Central Valley Pond Repairs). Budget Officer Pitt stated this amount is for anticipated general repairs. Mrs. Crouse then asked if the Town Board is in "good shape" with this proposed budget given the uncertainty of the current economy. Councilman Queenan stated he feels the budget is sound and conservative. He noted there is still reserves funds that are active and that the Board did the best they could to keep the tax impact low. Mrs. Crouse then stated she hopes the Board continues to monitor the fuel/gasoline usage and restrict it as much as possible.

Frances Huang asked what makes up the General Fund. Budget Officer Pitt stated it consists of several departments and then listed some of them. Mrs. Huang then asked how the unreserved balance in the General Fund was determined. Budget Officer Pitt stated this is the amount of money that is estimated to be unspent at the end of the fiscal year. Mrs. Huang asked if that amount is from 2008 funds only or other years as well. Supervisor Burke stated it would be both. He noted that the Board is appropriating \$600,000 of the estimated balance to be used to offset the tax levy for the General Fund. Mrs. Huang then asked why B3120.408 (DARE Program) has no money budgeted for in 2009. Supervisor Burke stated the Police Department did not request money for this line-item. Councilman Haviland added the State Legislature has removed the DARE Program from their funding.

John Smith asked if the \$600,000 appropriated fund balance in the General Fund was from many different items. Councilman Haviland explained that each fund has its own appropriated fund balance which is an estimate of what will not be spent by the end of the year. The Board then evaluates these estimates and decides what they feel is a safe amount to reduce the tax levy by.

With no further comments received, a motion was offered by Councilman Haviland, seconded by Councilwoman Gianzero, to close the public hearing.

ADOPTED AYES 5 Burke, Gianzero, Haviland, Levine, Queenan
 NOES 0

Supervisor Burke and Budget Officer Pitt recommended voting on the budget at either the November 17 worksession or November 20 meeting. Supervisor Burke then stated that a lot of time, energy and effort went into creating this budget. He thanked the Department Heads for helping to create a budget that he feels is good and solid with tax bills that will be reasonable. He also thanked the Town Board, Eileen Sutherland and Budget Officer Pitt for their time and effort.

V. Public Comment:

Councilman Queenan stated the NYS Department of Public Service has created a program entitled "Heat Smart NY". There is a website and toll-free telephone number where individuals can get

tips on how to reduce heating costs. He will post the information on the website and asked that it be on Channel 22 as well.

Councilman Levine thanked Supervisor Burke, Councilman Haviland and Budget Officer Pitt for their work on the budget. He also thanked the Department Heads for understanding the cuts that were made. He feels the budget is very responsible.

Superintendent Stabile reminded the public that the snowy weather will be starting soon and that, beginning November 15, there is no parking on public roads permitted during inclement weather. He noted that means even when it rains as it could turn into freezing rain required the need to spread salt/sand.

Jonathan Swiller congratulated Assemblywoman Calhoun on her re-election this week. He noted that one week ago, her opponent sent out 1000s of flyers stating Assemblywoman Calhoun sponsored legislation that would raise taxes on condominiums. This was not true and he was glad to see it did not affect the election like the similar inaccuracy that was sent out one year ago by three sitting members of the current Town Board. He feels that the residents of Timber Ridge should not forget that they were lied to.

John Smith thanked the Town Board for their hard work and effort in preparing the budget. He asked if the percentage of increase over last year's tax levy was known. Budget Officer Pitt stated the General Fund increased by 1.24%; General Outside by 6.16% and Highway Fund by 0.39%. Supervisor Burke noted that these three funds represent 80% of the operating budget of the Town.

VI. Adjournment:

With no further comments received or business to discuss, a motion was offered by Councilwoman Gianzero, seconded by Councilman Levine, to adjourn the meeting at 8:25PM.

ADOPTED AYES 5 Burke, Gianzero, Haviland, Levine, Queenan
 NOES 0

Desiree Potvin, Town Clerk