

Minutes of the Town Board Meeting held at Town Hall on November 3, 2011 at 7:30PM

Present: John Burke, Supervisor
Amidee Haviland, Carlton Levine, Frank Palermo and James Skoufis, Councilmen
Absent: None
Also Present: Richard Liberth, Attorney for the Town; Lorelei Pitt, Budget Officer; Robert Weyant, MEO; Michael Queenan, Village Mayor; Jennifer Bradshaw, Library Director; Dorothy Morris, Library Board; Nancy Simpson, Parks Commission and Library Board

I. Public Hearing:

a. FY2012 Preliminary Budget

Town Clerk Potvin stated a public hearing is being held to entertain public comments on the 2012 Preliminary Budget. The public notice was printed in the Times Herald Record on October 27, 2011 with the salaries of the elected officials posted as follows: Town Supervisor \$53,130; Town Clerk \$53,300; Superintendent of Highways \$72,355; Justices (2) \$28,635; Council (4) \$8,441; Tax Collector \$14,497. Supervisor Burke noted these salaries have not changed from last year and asked if there were any comments to be made regarding the salaries of the elected officials as proposed. The following comments were received:

John Smith stated that when the Village was formed responsibility of the Water/Sewer Department and Building Department shifted to the Village. A salary adjustment to the Supervisor and Town Board was not made to account for the decrease in responsibility. He feels the Board should consider adjusting their salary accordingly. Additionally, during the budget workshops a discussion was held regarding a raise for the non-union employees and he suggests the Board consider it.

With no further comments on the salaries of elected officials, Supervisor Burke stated this portion of the budget hearing was closed. He then stated comments can be received from the public on the 2012 Preliminary Budget as Budget Officer Pitt goes page-by-page. He 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:

Budget Officer Pitt noted that an amendment to the Preliminary Budget has been made in relation to Dental Insurance costs, which increased slightly. Amendments were made in the A, B and L funds only.

Timothy Arrone asked for clarification on the following line-items: A2001 (Park & Recreation Fees) is increased due to all residents needing to renew their park passes next year, which will see a fee increase from \$25 for five years to \$30. A2770 (Unclassified Revenue) \$50,000 is being transferred in from Trust and Agency parkland fees. A3005 (Mortgage Tax) projected information received from the County justifies the amount budgeted. A3089 (NYS Aid) the amount given by the County from MetroNorth state aide payment. A5731 (BANS Redeemed From) has a corresponding expense (A9730.600) and is the BAN principle payment for CV Pool Improvements. A1620.100 (Buildings Personal Service) is the salaries paid to the Buildings & Grounds Department. Regarding the Monroe Joint Fire District budget, he asked if the Town Board has any say in it. Supervisor Burke stated they do not and Clerk Potvin noted that this budget is only applied to taxes paid by the residents of the Town that are located in Harriman. She also noted a public hearing on the budget was held a few weeks ago.

John Smith, regarding the budget for Amdur Park Water (SW6), asked why the projected budget for revenue does not match the expenditures. Budget Officer Pitt stated the difference is the appropriated fund balance, which is the same case in the other funds. He then asked what the tax levy percentage would be without the fund balance being used. Budget Officer Pitt said she was not asked to prepare those calculations so she is unsure.

Councilman Palermo stated during the budget workshops a discussion was held about giving the non-union employees the same percentage raise as the union employees. He would like the Board to decide upon the issue this evening. Since this would require the budget to be revised in several funds, the public hearing would need to be continued. The Board decided to not address this issue at this time and perhaps a budget modification could be entertained at a future meeting.

Councilman Haviland noted that the aggregated tax levy falls under the tax cap imposed by the State Legislature. He is proud to announce that this was accomplished without the need to do any layoffs.

The Board collectively acknowledged the efforts of Budget Officer Pitt and Eileen Sutherland for their help in preparing the budget. Councilman Haviland was also acknowledged for the meetings he attended with the department heads during the early stages of the budget process.

Supervisor Burke stated the Board has worked very hard to meet the new mandates imposed a few months ago by the State Legislature. The only unknown at this time is the County's tax rate, which had decreased over the past few years. He was told by County Executive Diana that Towns can expect a decrease or a very little increase in the county tax portion. He noted that Budget Officer Pitt has spent a tremendous number of hours to be sure that the Town stays within the tax mandated tax cap and he recognized that the Board is fortunate to have a budget officer like Mrs. Pitt. He also thanked Eileen Sutherland from his office for her contribution in the budget process.

With no further comments received, a motion was offered by Councilman Palermo, seconded by Councilman Levine, to close the public hearing.

ADOPTED AYES 5 Burke, Haviland, Levine, Palermo, Skoufis
 NOES 0

Motion was then offered by Councilman Haviland, seconded by Councilman Palermo, to adopt the FY2012 budget as printed in the front of the 2012 minute book.

ADOPTED BY ROLL CALL AS FOLLOWS:

Supervisor Burke	AYE
Councilman Haviland	AYE
Councilman Levine	AYE
Councilman Palermo	AYE
Councilman Skoufis	AYE

II. Administrative Business:

a. Acceptance of Minutes:

Motion was offered by Councilman Palermo, seconded by Councilman Skoufis, to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held October 20, 2011.

ADOPTED AYES 4 Burke, Haviland, Palermo, Skoufis
 ABSTAIN 1 Levine

b. Approval of Abstract:

Motion was offered by Councilman Levine, seconded by Councilman Skoufis, to approve Abstract 23, Vouchers 20112307 – 20112421, totaling \$216,330.35.

ADOPTED AYES 5 Burke, Haviland, Levine, Palermo, Skoufis
 NOES 0

c. Approval of Budget Modification:

Motion was offered by Supervisor Burke, seconded by Councilman Palermo, to approve a modification to the budget of the Highway Fund by increasing DB599 (Appropriated Fund Balance) by \$35,668 and increasing DB5110.456 (Disaster Clean-Up) by \$35,668.

ADOPTED AYES 5 Burke, Haviland, Levine, Palermo, Skoufis
NOES 0

Councilman Skoufis noted that this is for work that will hopefully be reimbursed by FEMA.

d. Acceptance of Resignation:

Motion was offered by Supervisor Burke, seconded by Councilman Levine, to accept, with regrets, the resignation of Kevin Dean from the position of part-time custodian, effective immediately.

ADOPTED AYES 5 Burke, Haviland, Levine, Palermo, Skoufis
NOES 0

e. Appointment to Board of Assessment Review:

Motion was offered by Councilman Haviland, seconded by Councilman Levine, to reappoint Karen Poggio to the Board of Assessment Review with a term to expire September 30, 2016.

ADOPTED AYES 5 Burke, Haviland, Levine, Palermo, Skoufis
NOES 0

f. Advertise for Appointments – Various Boards:

Motion was offered by Councilman Palermo, seconded by Councilman Levine, to authorize the Town Clerk to advertise for letters of interest for individuals interested in volunteering on the Parks Commission and the Library Board. There is seat on the Parks Commission and two on the Library Board that are due to expire December 31, 2011. Letters of interest will be accepted until close of business (4PM) on December 2, 2011 and interviews will be held at the December 12, 2011 worksession.

ADOPTED AYES 5 Burke, Haviland, Levine, Palermo, Skoufis
NOES 0

III. Old Business:

There was no old business to discuss.

IV. New Business:

There was no new business to discuss.

V. Public Comments:

Councilman Levine thanked all town employees and residents that survived the October snow storm. He believes the Highway Department and Buildings & Grounds Department did an incredible job.

Michael Grove asked for a status update on the Morgan Court retention pond. Attorney Liberth stated he spoke with the owner's attorney, Alan Lipman, this afternoon. Mr. Lipman stated he was surprised that the Board was waiting for a plan and was under the impression that the plan was presented verbally at a meeting that was held a few weeks ago. He will confirm this with Building Inspector Thomasberger and Engineer Lindsay. If this is not the case, then Mr. Lipman will make sure his client provides a plan immediately. Supervisor Burke stated strongly that a plan was to be submitted for approval and this has not been done. The December 1 deadline is still in effect and time is running out. The Board is prepared to take the next step, which would be the Sheriff's sale of the property. The goal still remains to get the work done so the Board can be flexible with the deadline date as long as progress is made.

Library Director Bradshaw announced that during the storm the library never lost internet connection thanks to the service provided by RCLS and Cablevision, which is a higher quality Internet

access reserved for educational entities. She invited residents to come to the library to utilize their WiFi service if Internet connection is lost during storms.

Jonathan Swiller announced there will be a debate held at the Central Valley Elementary School on November 4 at 7:30PM between the four candidates for Town Council.

Mayor Queenan promised the Town Board that the Village will issue violations to the owner of the Morgan Court retention pond if he fails to follow through with the clean-up. He then addressed a recent mailer sent by the candidates on the Democratic line. On the piece of literature it states that the Town Board is the only entity that did not back away from legal fights over water/sewer supplies. He feels this implies that the Village is not fighting for the same issue and would like an explanation. Supervisor Burke stated this is referring to the County dropping the ball time and time again regarding issues that affect Woodbury, noting the Kiryas Joel water pipeline and the expansion of the Harriman Wastewater Treatment Plant for the Montco development. Mayor Queenan stated he feels the verbiage is poor and should have been made clear it was the County that was not protecting Woodbury. Supervisor Burke agreed it should have been worded better.

VI. Adjournment:

With no further comments received or business to discuss, a motion was offered by Supervisor Burke, seconded by Councilman Palermo, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45PM.

ADOPTED AYES 5 Burke, Haviland, Levine, Palermo, Skoufis
 NOES 0

Desiree Potvin, Town Clerk