

Town of New Paltz
Public Hearing on 2010 Preliminary Budget
November 12, 2009

Present – David Lewis, Jeff Logan, Kitty Brown, JaneAnn Williams, Toni Hokanson

At 7:04 p.m. Supervisor Hokanson opened the meeting. Supervisor Hokanson moved to open, seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Public Input: Rick Bunt, property owner in Village, former New Paltz resident, said he is concerned with the way the Board is moving – we're in a dire economic situation – higher unemployment – much higher than government shows- people are losing jobs or part-time jobs – the Board is looking to raise taxes year after year – concerned – moving in direction to raise tax burden. He stressed to look at ways to cut budget – everybody else in community is cutting – out of step to not move in right direction. Falling on deaf ears – people asking for money. Suggested looking at a plan in Newburgh, called a service tax, which is paid by all property owners even those tax exempt, who are utilizing protective services yet pay nothing. If cannot cut, find other areas to bring in revenue.

Supervisor Hokanson wish you had been here – looked at a lot of lines to be cut – the whole Board did not agree – that is what we have been doing. Taxing non – profits for police. Supervisor Hokanson said she talked to comptroller. Fire department is Village, town pays as a contract for service. If we create a fire district then non-profits can not be exempt.

PILOTS will also get taxed. Utility costs go up for homeowners and for Town. Difficult decisions made at the last meeting. Increase in tax rate affects tax payers.

Rick Bunt added that the bottom line is taxes are going up, school taxes also will be up with the renovation of the Middle School. Maybe one way to save gas without cars idling all day. Supervisor Hokanson responded cut stuff we never intended on things, i.e. training.

Rick: attorneys, engineers ?

Supervisor Hokanson explained lot of attorney and engineer lines; offset by revenue brought in to offset the fees. Has not done math.

Supervisor Hokanson Board has 3 lawsuits right now.

Rick added that so does Village. Town has infrastructure problems – no water. No direct path to how to supply – traffic – Village sewer problems. We are taking our eye off the ball – stuck in loop – we need to break free. Look at money for attorney and engineers – 5% might be wiped out. Tightened our belts on in last few years. Appreciates chance to voice opinion. Flat budget with no increase would be appreciated by consistency.

Councilman Logan: correction: Library is not a slap – people voted for library – pay by cutting large items in budget. Jeoparding public safety...look outside of box.

Councilwoman Williams – heavy taxes supported by residential property.

Councilwoman Brown: would state facilities pay too?

Supervisor Hokanson said she would look into service tax.

Councilman Lewis – it has not been tested in Newburgh.

Councilwoman Williams added that cities are taxed differently.

Ira Margolis – agrees with Rick re: unemployment and taxes skyrocketing. First problem is the Library – people voted – they did not vote for private corporation –the Library used a fear tactic threatened community with closing the library. Scare tactic used. Proposition 414

does not seem to be legitimate. Misleading wording. "Be increased from what? You have a contract? For next year?"

Supervisor Hokanson responded there was no opinion from the attorney on wording.

Ira Margolis, Village resident: Public Library – 501-C-3 it is a private corporation.

Councilwoman Brown – their meetings and budget are open to the public.

Supervisor Hokanson: the proposition was placed on ballot, it passed and we are obligated to an increase in our budget unless it is challenged.

Ira Margolis, Village resident: Second problem – enforcement and recreation are killers in budget. Police – questions Dare program – forcing New Paltz residents to pay taxes due from other Town's. Program ineffectual – questioned if the Board should be funding this. Put allocation in reserve expense (?) account. No longer have a canine program.

Supervisor Hokanson corrected Ira by stating we have a program, but no canine.

Ira Margolis: the cost is a little over \$100,000/yearly. Argument on the canine program, Ira stated it is a program only with a dog; Supervisor Hokanson: no.

Ira suggested while you are in negotiations take a hard stance.

Councilman Logan – canine – see tape

Ira – dispatchers researched elimination. Having two detectives is overkill – quantifiable.

The Enforcement department has no responsibility to the general public. **CHECK THIS OUT CAUSE I DON'T GET IT)**

Revenue ideas – police coverage at sports – police fees \$3000 - 9801520

Letter from commission re: KB's letter for school funding – biggest problem – Main Street – bars – suggest Special Tax district.

Jillian Duffield, Village resident, has been here since 2000, is paying the same here – taxes too high. (more than 1/3rd to County less than 1/2 to School) Questioned if Woodland Pond generates taxes?

Supervisor Hokanson stated Woodland Ponds is tax exempt.

Recreation page 18 - AAA527020.10 increased from year – more people there. Increase in directors salary and 2 additional part time people. BBB 5223989.40

Erin Quinn: recreation personnel – Community Center – answer phone, collect fees, do scheduling. Some money will be recouped thru fees.

At 8:07 p.m. Supervisor Hokanson made a motion to close the Public Hearing on the 2010 budget. Seconded by Councilwoman Williams, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Councilwoman Brown questioned of other changes to be made? Recreation – 2 people – where?

Supervisor Hokanson oops might be seasonal grounds people, not community center staff.

Erin – seasonal grounds people

Supervisor Hokanson: there are two new and two more baseball fields – Building and Grounds strapped already and getting new Police Department facility to take care of.

7150.15 community center personal services line was missed in the tentative budget, voted back in: 30 hours week.

Councilman Logan – up to \$ 48720 for lawn mowing etc.

Erin \$30000 and \$18000

Councilwoman Brown suggested to pay the 20 hour volunteer and get a 10 hour volunteer.

Councilman Logan – can we charge enough to cover payroll costs? Over \$400 per week to cover two salaries.

Councilwoman Brown – Chuck has to determine programs that will bring in revenue. For next year only have Town programs – not in favor of hiring.

Councilman Logan not comfortable to keep adding people what about ½ ton truck equipment line # 7150.26? \$26000 (bought 2 grooming machines this year)

Supervisor Hokanson suggested bringing Chuck back before the Board.

Councilman Logan responded no need to bring him in, just ask him. Use on Saturday and Sundays?

Supervisor Hokanson said she would have to ask Chuck Bordino or Bob Leghorn.

BMX – asked to spend under \$2000 for shale.

Councilman Logan 5227150.26 – do we need to buy truck; we just bought 2 grooming machines for infield and tractor. Chuck will address payroll.

Ambulance hand out – when town and village shared contract in past, calculate done as shown. Do we want village money coming to us to send to ambulance? We need to go back to one contract – illegal for village to have separate contract.

Councilman Logan suggested having the Village pay the ambulance directly.

Councilwoman Williams said – discuss with lawyer to acct.

Councilwoman Brown – 145957 in A fund – we write a check for our portion and Village has to pay them.

Supervisor Hokanson would like to avoid having village pay us but for the first year we may have to. The Village contribution to the ambulance is (page 5 revenue)9803000 – should go up to \$34,299.89 go back to original contract.

Supervisor Hokanson moved to amend 9803000 amount in final budget to \$34,299.89.

Seconded by Councilwoman Williams, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Councilwoman Brown feels the school district should fund the DARE program – reduce personnel in Police Department or additional revenue?

Supervisor Hokanson - the schedule is two days a week as per the chief. New Paltz residents will pay him, but not Gardiner people.

Councilwoman Brown trim Personal Services in Police Dept. by \$30,000, Supervisor Hokanson asked if the school district does not fund, are we cutting a position. School district already pays for police coverage at events.

Supervisor Hokanson sees it as preventative. Decision was made last year.

Councilwoman Williams explained then he goes into ranks – in rotation back filling, cutting or eliminating overtime.

Councilwoman Brown made a motion to reduce the overtime budget by \$15,000 as a way to say we do not intend to fund the officer in the school after June of 2010. Councilman Logan seconded for discussion purposes, indicating the Police commission and Chief Snyder determine programs not the Town Board.

Councilman Logan suggested Supervisor Hokanson talk to school, which she did. How about billing them?.

Councilwoman Brown or we could put in \$15000 in revenue line from school district. She amended her motion to put in revenue line \$7200 would be revenue owed us by school district. Seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes cast, except for a no vote by Supervisor Hokanson. Motion carried

Agenda item: at 9:13 p.m. Super 8 motel fee waiver rebuttal – Councilman Lewis made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Williams, to send out a new letter form Supervisor Hokanson as amended. All aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 9:17 p.m. Councilwoman Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilwoman Williams, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Marian Cappillino
Town Clerk