

**Budget Meeting, Town of New Paltz
November 6, 2008**

Present: David Lewis, Kitty Brown, Toni Hokanson, Jane Ann Williams

At 7:06 p.m. the meeting was opened by the Supervisor with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda: Justice Court, Kathy Cartagena, Jim Tinger, Bob Leghorn,
Supervisor Hokanson made a motion to accept the agenda. Seconded by Councilwoman Brown, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Community Announcement

A representation for HEAP Applications and Food Stamps here 11/7 and 11/14. Food Stamps application can be taken at Family during the week.

Town Justices Jim Bacon and John Katz on Court Budget:

Supervisor Hokanson said she did not include installation of Air Conditioner.

Councilwoman Brown had questions on check for Justice Court and how a big percent about 85% goes back to New York State. She questioned paying the public prosecutor as well as work hours. Supervisor Hokanson explained that the revenues received would pay for the Prosecutor and position. Councilwoman Brown questioned the VTL surcharge. Judge Katz explained that is a tax state imposes on conviction. Councilwoman Brown 100% of that goes to state. Questioned if the Town could charge administration fee? She suggested "tacking" on a \$25. fee. Judge Katz never heard of such a thing but this was not his field.

Councilwoman Brown going over court budget. CE \$16,154.; PS \$206,764. Nothing added to Equipment and 30% of PS for benefits.

Judge Katz questioned the electrical system. Bob Leghorn from Buildings and Grounds stated you can not add anymore to electrical system. Supervisor Hokanson stated she did not want to put anymore money into a building that in time we will be moving out of. Judge Katz said he has heard this for the last 14 years. Both Judges said when moving the Board should consider moving both the Police and the Courts together. This would make easier arraignments.

Judge Bacon wanted to talk about reducing 3% raise for Judges. He spends no money on conferences in the city, saving the Town money.

Councilman Lewis questioned increase in revenue taken by the courts. Judge Katz warned the board talking revenues with salaries, it is a conflict of interest for the judges.

Judge Bacon talked of chief clerk working for the town for 22-23 years, he thought she deserved more. Supervisor Hokanson explained she would get longevity.

Supervisor Hokanson spoke about court officers, specifically the number of hours budgeted exceeds hours worked. Judge Katz asked if in paring down budget what would happen if they exceeded the hours budgeted.

At 7:38 p.m. Councilwoman Brown moved to go into Executive Session to discuss a particular employee. Seconded by Councilwoman Williams, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 8:05 p.m. Councilwoman Brown moved to come out of Executive Session. Seconded by Councilman Lewis, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Ira Margolis talked about adding a special Prosecutor to the budget. He is against it.

Judge Katz tried to explain the work of the prosecutor.

Councilwoman Brown said she was interested in trying it for six months.

Kathy Cartagena of Family: She read State Law, feels confused and is having her attorney review. *Family* has been receiving money from the Town since 1993; in 2002, on the advice of Supervisor Wilen, a contract was drawn with the town.

Supervisor Hokanson explained *Family* must meet certain defined criteria for a contract. The Town must find a way to give money legally, and to do this they must talk to an attorney.

Bob Leghorn on Buildings and Grounds:

Councilwoman Brown said that people do not hear enough good things about the department.

Bob said the only difference that now the state is requiring an employee work 7 days.

Councilwoman Brown questioned infrastructure and if it was adequate. Bob responded that it was ailing but improvements have been made. He went on to say that we need a loop system to our water system to insure water pressure. Supervisor Hokanson suggested applying for grants

Bob stated it was poor planning on our part – dead ends need to be addressed, and the loop is needed not only for fire protection but to prevent contamination.

Councilwoman Brown questioned if the water problems would be solved if Crossroads comes and the PUD is approved. Bob confirmed this would be a solution. It would be another source of water, which would be an advantage to both the Town and Village.

Joe Storch questioned if the cost of the new prosecutor would increase taxes.

Supervisor Hokanson explained that the revenues brought in by the prosecutor would cover the cost.

Councilwoman Brown suggested they try the prosecutor for 6 months.

Supervisor Hokanson learned that the newspaper reported a 13% increase in Town Taxes, and that this is not true

Joe Storch stated that Woodland Ponds is scarring the landscape.

Supervisor Hokanson informed him there is a PILOT for 20 years then they would be exempt. Joe

Storch said this is not right-people should know this. Both Councilwoman Brown and Supervisor

Hokanson reminded him that Woodland Ponds is a Village project.

Jim Tinger speaking on Community Partnership

Supervisor Hokanson explained that Community Partnership is applying for a Grant and they need a sponsor. The grant is \$125,000. and \$125,000. would be made up by fund raising. The grant would pay for a coordinator and other plans. Their goal is to reduce drug and alcohol abuse.

Supervisor Hokanson explained the person hired would be for the life of the Grant. Town is the fiscal agent and the purpose for Jim being here is to inform board of their plans.

Amendment to Budget:

Minus \$1520.00 from line 7150.44 Sports league

ADD to Highway \$55,000.00 take from unexpended funds for Truck

Add \$9,800.00 camera –should come from income and revenue.

In 2010 live scan – apply for grant.

Presently as is the budget is down \$1520.00 from the initial proposal.

Prepays:

Supervisor Hokanson moved to approve the prepayment of voucher #87315 from buildings & grounds, Eq. AAA522162020 \$19,000.00 to Keil Equipment. Seconded by Councilman Lewis, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Supervisor Hokanson moved to approve the prepayment of voucher # 87329 for \$4,107.00 from budget code AAA522513220 to Steelmaster Buildings Inc. Seconded by Councilwoman Brown, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 9:32 pm Supervisor Hokanson moved to go into Executive Session to discuss the hiring, firing, compensation of a particular person. Seconded by Councilwoman Brown, all aye votes cast.

At 10:29 p.m. Councilwoman Brown moved to come out of Executive Session. Seconded by Councilman Lewis, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 10:30 p.m. Councilman Lewis moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilwoman Williams, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Submitted respectfully

Mary Ann Liggan
Deputy Clerk