

## Public Hearing on 2011 Budget

November 4, 2010- 7 p.m.

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

At 7:13 p.m. Supervisor Hokanson opened the Public Hearing with the Pledge.

### Public Comment:

Steve Auerbach, Town resident, felt there was a lack of preparation; it's as sloppy as you can get. 1% - \$650,000 mistake-accumulated departmental numbers and presented them as the budget.

Supervisor is doing the foremost spending – be a CEO to the Town. Mike Hein made tough decisions. Freeze expenditures at last year's level. 1.2 in fund balance – overtaxing us – budget is padded by large amount. Tax increases are not sustainable. Do job you were elected to do.

Josh Honig, Town resident is representing “the budget is too damn high group.” He asked the Board to hold to 0% increase. Your turn now

Mike Hein –control property taxes.

Ira Margolis, Village resident: two comments on expenses and revenue. Expense side: allocate for PD negotiating contract – giving up to arbitration is not fiscally responsible. Revenue side: you get money back – where did it go? Agreeing before the contracts to take X, why are you adding Y? 5223120.4-\$169,600 for Police, PS buyout. \$161,000 taken from taxes before that \$58,000. Everybody is struggling. Have to sit with union rep and offer flat rate-not going any further. Don't just give people what they want. Revenue side; office of real property reclassifying properties as 200-there are 254 properties misclassified as non-commercial—landlords making money that we're not getting – we don't see any of that money. It's not unreasonable for bar owners to pay special tax rate

Dan Malinowski, Town resident: anything greater than 0% - let people go if you can't afford them. Freeman story: there are things you can do – cut payroll or expenses. Increases listed in Freeman – garbage collections calls for a 108% increase. We elected you, we'll un-elect you.

Don Kerr, Village resident, co-chair of Public Access Committee – one of the success-PA. franchise fee-cable users pay tax. PA generating revenue – going up every year. Not a place to cut.

John Logan, Village resident, said it was the most padded budget I think I've ever seen; there's not a line in it that couldn't be cut.

Salary: Supervisor, \$49,000 could be cut by 10%. Cut highway salary a few years ago when you were mad at him. Deputy Supervisor cut. Council: cut by 10% –“I'll subsidize you, Jeff.”

Special Prosecutors: up by 6%. So many lawyers –get cut rate.

Auditing: doubled in two years.

Budget, PS: 4600 to 7300-why? Hiring another person; Number of line items belong in B line. Water and sewer districts or fire districts-where are you charging workers? Contingency fund-\$75,000 could easily cut in half.

Police: take \$25,000 out of PS

Police buyout: \$169,000 – cut in half. Taxes beyond what's conscionable.

What is traffic control, PS - \$13,000 to 28,000. (mandated change in street signs) stop signs, et.

DCO in wrong line.

52261440 – Social Services-why is raise so small?

Family - \$25,000 in 2009 – reduced by \$5000. Tough times –difficult to understand.

Recreation playing fields-it's not Field of Dreams.

A budget should be increased and decreased – it's a lousy budget; hardly a line isn't padded. Great place to hide money-insurance, retirement, etc.

Supervisor Hokanson: We received bill for next year. It will be exactly what we're going to pay.

Councilman Logan: Screwing the Village residents.

Geraldine Buck, Town resident: summer recreation program: Middle School; used years ago-free. New Paltz is the only town without a recreation program. Why can't you use the Middle School? Gardiner has a six week program for \$300. It's a great program.

Floodplain: a realtor calls it seasonal waterfront-restrictions on our property-can I assume assessment will go down?

Ray Lunati, Town resident: new member of BTDH-Jeff wanted decreased budget-Dave-you're the man- tilts in favor of taxpayers. Terry Dungan, 1 point: highway fund had been held to 0% - increase of 6410. Page 3 of Highway A fund after 529999. Highway B fund goes down – snow removal moved. Taxing Village residents for service. Disenfranchise half of the people you represent.

Everette Payne; work on DuBois Road-where is it in the budget:

Supervisor Hokanson: it's in PS.

Everett Payne: This is robbery. His lot on DuBois Rd. was assessed at \$48,000, went to \$150,000 – can't sell for \$50,000.

Mike Francese, Amato Lane: retired NYC firefighter. Lives in Highland, pays their school tax, pays New Paltz land taxes. Has doubled in five years. A property near him has had tarps on for five years; theres one rental, one foreclosure, one man took his own life with a shotgun. How can anyone work and pay taxes – it becomes very frustrating.

Ron Turner, Village resident, public safety issue – no sign at the end of Mulberry and Prospect streets. Sound system budget-owns oldest house in New Paltz-tributary 13 runs south and North.

Don Daddario, Town resident, echoes sentiments of these fine people – frustration – sees number of *for sale* signs – its' beautiful but hard to enjoy.

Shari Osborn, Village resident, no salary increase, mayor took decrease. Family – questioned once about a donation –ok-should not decrease them. (NP Board-no decrease)

Street signs: timeframe to change; take to bed at night, give it one more shot. Recreation program: we prepared a zero program with no profit. Use Gardiner model.

Curt Colopy: Town resident, you know what we know. Go back to department heads, what are you going to cut.

Pete Healey, Village resident, shares concerns of other taxpayers consolidation study committee-even if doesn't save lot in taxes.

Brian Wallace, Curator at Dorsky Museum, signs regarding concealed weapons –event on 11/8 at 7 p.m. at Village Hall. 50 signs-pistol packing pupils

Josh Honig- Wood burning stoves-DEC Albany nowhere in sight they will be passing law. No federal or state regulations.

Ray Lunati : Town website – Open Space; his and many neighbors have publicly identified land-they can pay my taxes.

At 7:32 p.m. a motion was made by Supervisor Hokanson to close the Budget Public Hearing. Seconded by Councilwoman Brown, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Break; 8:45 p.m. reconvened.

**Announcements:**

Matthew Shepherd-NMOB at unison.

Corrections; \$650,000 BAN page 24 of A Fund.

A motion was made by Supervisor Hokanson to reduce line 52730.20 to zero. Accountant said to take it out – payment of a loan from a loan. Seconded by Councilwoman Brown, all aye votes, motion carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Hokanson to reduce \$253,954 on page 23 of A Fund, A9010.8- Seconded by Councilwoman Brown, all aye votes cast, motion carried. (Patti made a mistake) State retirement, Page 9 – B Fund 9010.80 State retirement – correct.  
Page 2 DA 9010.80

A motion was made by Supervisor Hokanson to reduce \$14,147. Seconded by Jane Ann Williams, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Hokanson to reduce to \$43,323 on Page 4 DB. Seconded by Councilman Lewis, all aye votes cast, motion carried. Page SA correct \$1981;

SSE correct, SSF correct, SWA correct (\$3396); SWB \$987 correct. SWC \$840 correct; SWD \$840 correct. \$334,874 grand total for State Retirement down from ? something., reduces budget by \$95,071& \$650, 000-\$745,071.

Fire Control-give them a check-figured out 5 months.

\$1,456,869 in unexpended fund-Councilwoman Brown- how much of that using to offset budget? \$232,000?

\$1,456,8a69 in unexpended fund - \$273,830 total buyouts - \$128,141 is difference.

\$161,264 3120.4 Supervisor Hokanson will have buyout number for Wednesday

Page 14-1990.41 522... Councilwoman Brown would like to reduce \$150,000 (?) to \$142,500 (500) Seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

PA television-165,44 Town Board, Police Commission in A fund-1200/month for videography; 8 hours for that-35 hrs. general.

Councilwoman Brown: remove \$6120 1650.44 and put in B fund –other \$6000 will come from Village’s franchise fee- Bob should invoice separately. Seconded by Councilman Logan, no votes by Supervisor Hokanson and Jane Ann Williams, aye votes cast by Councilwoman Brown, Councilman Lewis. Where’s JL?

Increase B Fund by \$6120. Seconded by Councilman Logan, nay votes cast by Supervisor Hokanson and Jane Ann Williams, aye votes cast by Councilwoman Williams, Councilman Logan and Councilman Lewis, motion carried.

Increase to BG: reduction in recycling; save for Wednesday Executive Session.

Councilwoman Brown- call to Time Warner: we are moving \$120,000; now Supervisor

Hokanson should call. Supervisor Hokanson feels if we move money they will start charging franchise fee back to individuals.

Councilman Logan- Engineer -1440.40 PS A fund keep increasing, over \$50,000 for this year.

Increase for Supervisor Hokanson- no increase over \$30,000; \$50,000 take 10% decrease.  
Councilwoman Brown- smaller decrease than 10%.

Some personnel run wonderful programs but swollen-pick ceiling-significant reduction

Councilman Logan feels market value \$15.4 Senior Clerk at Ulster County; Secretary: \$13.94  
per hour; account clerk/clerk: \$14.90 per hour typist.

Policy: any employee non contractual making more than \$30,000 – no increase.  
(salaries – last place to look at)

For salaries over \$50,000 take 5% decrease-total compensation.

Justices: PT-20 hours per week. Increase this year? There were no increases last year.

At 10:13 p.m. a motion was made by Supervisor Hokanson to adjourn. Seconded by  
Councilwoman Brown, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marian Cappillino