

Public Hearing-Preliminary Budget

November 7, 2012

7:15 p.m.

Present: Supervisor Susan Zimet, Councilwoman Jean Gallucci, Councilwoman Kitty Brown, Councilman Jeff Logan, Councilman Kevin Barry.

At 7:24 p.m. a motion was made by Councilwoman Brown to open the public hearing with the pledge. Seconded by Councilman Logan, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Supervisor Zimet distributed a presentation on the 2013 Budget. She indicated that the Town did not go over the 2% tax cap by decreasing spending by \$478,309 and by reducing the amount to be raised by taxes by \$423,286. She also explained how certain items were moved around put in the funds/lines where they belonged. The presentation also reflected the rapid increase in retirement, disability and medical costs over the last 15 years. These costs make up about 63% of the A-Fund expenditures. The 2013 budget reflects a balance that delivers more efficient services without a loss in programming.

Public Input:

Bob Gabrielli noticed a disparity in the taxable value of the Town (74%) vs. Village (26%). Asked if a study has ever been done to determine needed services in the Town vs. Village.

Councilman Logan explained that the Ambulance and Fire Contracts are based on the number of calls from Town and Village, usually 50/50. However, Supervisor Zimet corrected that by indicating the Ambulance is paid fully by the Town, but is hoping the Village will contribute its' fair share.

Councilwoman Brown said that several years ago she requested a breakdown from Chief Snyder that revealed that 70-80% of Police calls come from Main Street in the Village during busy nights.

Councilman Barry stated that families in the Town (\$2,000) pay considerably more for Police protection than families in the Village (\$664), when most of those calls originate from the Village. These costs have been increasing every year, going to get worse. In favor of taking serious action to change this dynamic or disbanding the Police Department.

Supervisor Zimet indicated that the 2013 budget reflects significant cuts, cuts that can't be made again next year. The Town will have to get creative with the 2014 budget because at some point, programs will have to get cut in order to pay for essential expenses.

Bob Gabrielli thanked the Board for all the work they have done.

Don Kerr spoke in opposition of the Supervisor's stipend. He stated that people do not go into public service for the money. He also thanked the Board for all the hard work and explained that this was not a personal attack on anyone.

Supervisor Zimet explained her motives for requesting the increase, which was not an easy thing to do. She stated that she had to make a lot of personal sacrifices in order to put the time in to get the Town back on track. She stated there were no hard feelings.

At 8:15 p.m. a motion was made by Councilman Barry to close the public hearing. Seconded by Councilwoman Gallucci, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Discussion on Police Department:

Councilman Barry feels as though the Town needs to make a deadline. We should fund the P.D. for 6 months and then it ends.

Councilwoman Gallucci prefers 12 months so as to not compromise the safety of the residents. Councilman Barry suggested a deadline of June 30th, which would force the Village to come up with a way to pay for the police. This would also allow the Town to determine its' need for police protection.

Councilwoman Gallucci explained that if the Town relied on outside agencies to cover us, the Town would be billed. Recommended leaving the money for the Police in the budget.

Supervisor Zimet mentioned creating a Business Improvement District (B.I.D.) to help offset the cost of the P.D.

Councilwoman Gallucci stated that she was in favor of a B.I.D.

The Board began discussing consolidation and how other Towns & Villages operate their P.D.s. Councilwoman Gallucci would like to discuss the P.D. after the referendum on consolidation.

Supervisor Zimet indicated that she thought Councilman Barry was trying to force the Village to do something because the status quo is no longer acceptable.

Councilwoman Brown suggested allocating money in the 2014 budget's B-Fund.

Supervisor Zimet read aloud a letter she drafted to the Village relative to the pool.

Councilman Barry supports Councilwoman Brown's idea of allocating money for the pool to the Village for 2014. Supervisor Zimet feels strongly about moving forward with consolidation, not working against it.

Councilman Barry suggested not opening the pool. However, the rest of the Board was not in favor of that. Why is it so difficult to get the Village to put in its' share? Also asked if a portion of B&G personnel should be put in the A-Fund to cover the time that is spent on supervision and maintenance.

More funds may be needed for confined space training for B&G personnel to properly carry out supervising and maintaining the pool. Highway Superintendent Chris Marx will get estimates on costs for training.

The Board discussed different options to offer the Village on the management and operation of the pool. The Town only needs an additional \$15,000 from the Village to put towards the net loss. The Board agreed to revise the letter in an attempt to put the Village on notice relative to the future of the pool. Councilmen Logan and Barry will meet with Trustees Glenn and Basco to further discuss this. The Preliminary budget will be left as is.

The discussion on insurance options will be put on the agenda for the next meeting. The Board agreed that follow up needs to be done on the rent that is supposed to be paid to the Town from the Community Partnership Grant.

At 10:26 p.m. a motion was made by Councilwoman Gallucci to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilwoman Brown, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosanna Mazzaccari
Town Clerk