

Public Hearing on Preliminary Budget
& Regular Town Board Meeting 10/8/15

Members Present: Supervisor Nayer, Councilperson Miller-Simmons, Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney, Councilperson Mettler and Councilperson Sullivan.

Supervisor Nayer opened the Public Hearing at 6:45 pm with 4 people in attendance.

Supervisor Nayer advised the Public that there would be zero percent increase in taxes and with 3.289 million dollars added to the taxable value of the Town, we should be looking at a .4% reduction in taxes.

Supervisor Nayer closed the Public Hearing at 6:49 pm.

The Regular Meeting of the Copake Town Board followed at 7:00 pm.

A motion was made by Councilperson Miller-Simmons and was seconded by Councilperson Mettler to waive the reading of the Regular Town Board Meeting 9/10/15 and the Budget Meeting 9/24/15 minutes and accept them as written. Motion was carried.

Announcements:

Copake Parks & Recreation's Haunted House will be 10/16 & 10/17, October 17th a concert to benefit the Roe Jan Food Pantry in memory of Betty Gallup at 7:00 pm at the Hillsdale Methodist Church, Copake Community Service Inc. are once again selling Christmas Wreaths for \$20.00, you can sign up at the Town Clerk's Office, the stream work on the Bash Bish Creek has been completed.

Correspondence:

From Erin Robertson – an email advising that Mr. Casino is filling in wet lands with C&D Material.

From Kelly Decker, Mayor, City of Port Jervis – a letter requesting support in presenting to our State Legislators a proposed New York State Border Enterprise Zone that if passes would tremendously help small towns, villages and cities with increased commerce.

From the Department of the Army – a copy of a letter to Joseph Simeone advising that his proposed work of stabilizing 150' of shoreline may fall under Department of Army nationwide permit number 13.

From Thomas Cohan, Director of Government Affairs, Charter Communications – a letter advising of increase in price to provide cable service in the Town of Copake.

From George Wilson – an email thanking the Town Board and the Town Attorney for the recent enactment of the new Anti-Littering Law.

From Grant D. Langdon – a letter and a petition requesting the Columbia County Board of Supervisors to publicly post and support the attached petition.

Public Forum: None

Department Head Reports:

Highway Superintendent Gregory advised the Board the Highway Department spent four days removing large trees with a tree company, finished replacing culverts, mixed sand and salt and started setting the winter maintenance equipment.

Planning Board Chairperson Robert Haight advised that they did not have a quorum for a meeting and they had a full agenda scheduled for the meeting.

Supervisor Nayer reported that we are having vandalism problems at the outside restrooms at the Park.

Councilperson Mettler reported that the Copake Ag Advisory Committee will not be meeting in October.

Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney reported that there is nothing new to report from the Conservation Advisory Committee and they will be meeting at the end of the month.

Councilperson Mettler reported that the Hamlet Taskforce is working with the Copake Community Service Inc. with their fund drive to raise money for the proposed Rapid Care Facility, information is available in the Town Clerk's Office. Councilperson Mettler will get an electronic version of the fund drive letter to Supervisor Nayer to distribute to the Towns of Hillsdale and Ancram.

Supervisor Nayer announced there will be a resolution added to tonight's agenda to deal with the annual Court Grant.

Councilperson Mettler reported that initially the Hamlet Taskforce was going to appear this evening to ask the Town Board to adopt the final Hamlet Plan and choose not to until the Board has a chance to review a hard copy of the proposed plan and requested to table this matter until the next meeting.

A motion was made by Councilperson Miller-Simmons and was seconded by Councilperson Sullivan to adopt the Zoning Revisions that the Board received from the LURC last month, to accept these revision as a Draft until everyone involved has a chance to review these revisions. Motion was carried.

Councilperson Mettler explained the benefits to the Town to designate the Roe Jan Kill and the Bash Bish Creek as Designation of Water Ways with the State. These two streams would have to be designated by the State Legislators and then it would make the Town of Copake eligible for additional group of grants. Councilperson Mettler has contacted our State Representative's Offices for their support in this matter.

A motion was made by Councilperson Mettler and seconded by Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney to proceed with necessary steps to designate the Roe Jan Kill and the Bash Bish Creek as Designated Water Ways. Motion was carried.

Supervisor Nayer asked the Board to review the Policy Manual, it has recently been brought to our attention that under the Affordable Care Act Employers have to provide health insurance after 90 days of employment instead of after six month period as stated in our Town Policy Manual. Also there was a discussion about changing the way resolutions can be brought before the Board.

A motion was made by Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney and was seconded by Councilperson Sullivan to advertise for the following positions; ZBA member, ZBA alternate member and 3 Parks & Recreation Commission members. Letters of interest have to be returned by November 10, 2015. Motion was carried.

Supervisor Nayer reviewed the condition of the 2009 pickup truck sander and the 2004 pickup truck and what it will cost to fix these two pieces of equipment verse replacement of them. Supervisor Nayer went on to explain that there is money in this year's equipment line to replace the sander and there is enough funds in unexpended balance to purchase the new pickup in 2016.

A motion was made by Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney and was seconded by Councilperson Miller-Simmons to authorize Highway Superintendent Gregory to purchase a new pickup truck sander from the written quotes the six quotes he received for \$4,095.00. Motion was carried.

A motion was made by Councilperson Sullivan and was seconded by Councilperson Miller-Simmons to declare the 2009 pickup truck sander as surplus equipment and authorize Highway Superintendent Gregory to advertise the sander for sale on Auction International Website. Motion was carried.

A motion was made by Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney and was seconded by Councilperson Miller-Simmons to authorize Highway Superintendent Gregory to bid the purchase of a new 2016 pickup truck with a plow to replace the 2004 pickup truck in 2016. Councilperson Sullivan questioned if the 2004 pickup truck was mechanically sound. Superintendent Gregory replied at this time they are having issues with rusting of the frame of the vehicle. Motion was carried.

Old Business:

Councilperson Mettler reported that the Roe Jan Ramble was a huge success with over 150 riders, great weather and raised over \$15,000.00 for the Rail Trail extension. The ride was sponsored by Hillsdale, Copake and Ancram and the Bike Copake Team did a great job organizing this event and some great volunteers also helped on the day of the event. A special thanks goes out to the 28 local businesses that donate money to purchase the shirts for the riders and 37 businesses that offered discounts for the weekend for all the riders that were wearing their wrist band. The Roe Jan Ramble Bike Tour Committee is chaired by Jon Strom. The Copake members are members of Bike Copake : Cassandra Miller, James Redmond, Devyn Bessette, Peggy Lewis, Gary Lewis, Ed Werfelman and Chris Quinby. Copake volunteers on the day of the Ride included: Stosh and Carol Gansowski, Paulette Bonanno, Pat Placona, Dick Barton, Rose Aulino, Jennifer Redman, Robin Bruce, Cecele Kraus, Jeff Nayer, Kelly Miller Simmons, Leslie Wood and John Pollok. Lorraine Strohmeire, Pat Placona and Chris Quinby took photographs. Chocolate milk was donated by Hudson Valley Fresh and food was donated by the Harlem Valley Rail Ride. Grant Herman of Bash Bish Bicycle volunteered to fix bikes at the starting point.

Resolutions:

The following Resolution was made by Councilperson Miller-Simmons and was seconded by Councilperson Mettler:

RESOLVED, the Copake Town Board hereby authorizes Town Justices GLENN R. SCHERMERHORN & JOHN P. SPENCER to file an application for updated security system, office furniture, and security equipment. Funding will come from the New York State Office of Court Administration 2016 Justice Court Assistance Program.

Resolution # 15	Supervisor Nayer	yes
Dated October 8, 2015	Councilperson Miller-Simmons	yes
Copake, New York	Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney	yes

Councilperson Mettler	yes
Councilperson Sullivan	yes

Budget:

A motion was made by Councilperson Mettler and was seconded by Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney to authorize the following transfers:

From

A1420.4 (Attorney)	\$800.00
Total	\$800.00

To

A1410.4 (Clerk Contractual)	\$300.00
A3510.4 (Dog Control)	\$500.00
Total	\$800.00

Motion was carried.

A motion was made by Councilperson Sullivan and was seconded by Councilperson Mettler to adopt the 2016 Preliminary Budget as the 2016 Adopted Budget. Motion was carried.

Councilperson’s Report:

Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney applauded the Association of Towns Trainer for the great job she did on Tuesday night. The turnout was less than expected, there were no one here from the other Towns in Columbia County. Councilperson Mettler and Councilperson Sullivan agreed that the training was very informative and the trainer did a great job.

Public Forum:

Robert Haight thanked Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney for organizing this training, the one thing Mr. Haight was disappointed that the Town’s Ethic Board was not there to speak on the Town’s Ethic Policy. Councilperson Sweeney stated that the Town’s Ethic Board will be involved in the second training session coming up.

Chris Quinby brought up that the Parks & Recreation Commission Halloween Party will be on 10/31 beginning at 6:00 pm followed by the costume judging at 6:30 pm. Copake Sunoco is sponsoring the Halloween Party this year.

Councilperson Sullivan announced that the “21st Annual Golden Gathering” for Columbia County: Saturday, October 12, at Columbia Greene Community College, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and will feature 75 exhibitors, free health services, useful information, door prizes and raffles for attendees.

A motion was made by Councilperson Miller-Simmons and was seconded by Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney that the bills from the Highway Abstract # 10 and the bills from the General Abstract # 10 be paid. Motion was carried.

A motion was made by Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney and was seconded by Councilperson Miller-Simmons that the meeting be adjourned. Motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted,