

TOWN BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING BUDGET
PUBLIC HEARING LOCAL LAW #8
November 9, 2010

PRESENT:

Supervisor Crowley
Councilwoman Gabaccia
Councilman Tompkins
Councilman Kiernan
Highway Superintendent Gregory
Attorney Rappleyea
Accountant Torchia

PUBLIC HEARING PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Supervisor Crowley opened the hearing at 6:30 p.m. with 25 people present.

Supervisor Crowley – the budget started out with a 27% increase and after budget workshops we have it down 7.6 %.

Jeff Nayer – line item on the auditor - I thought that was going down with the new program from BAS.

Supervisor Crowley, its costing us more this year because he'll being doing 2 year audits for court, required by the state.

Jeff Nayer – police line; when we left the last meeting you told us 11 shifts, then we find out you cut to 4, we went from 11 to 8 shifts than 11 to 4 shifts.

Councilman Tompkins – I was not at the last meeting but I support the police and judicial system, recommend 11 shifts for the police and \$700.00 more for the court. It's a financial benefit for the town.

Councilman Sacks, we spent \$100,000 last year on this police, according to your rule of thumb we lost 40%, that would take the \$60,000 to \$40,000 that the court takes in. We're spending \$100,000 to take in \$60,000 that's a \$40,000 lost. If we did not have a police force we would make a net gain of \$40,000.

Councilman Tompkins, the benefit is protection and services. When you had control of the board the police was up to \$150,000 since we've had control we've knocked it down and we're still providing services.

Supervisor Crowley, there's more to police than just writing tickets and collecting money. Burglaries are up in other town's, not Copake.

David Proper – you cannot put money value on public safety. We do not have the burglaries that towns without police have.

Jeff Nayer, last year the Judges were given \$22,000; you were going to look at it in June, it never got looked at. You put \$5,000 back to them. Next year's budget you went from \$22,000 to \$32,000. If the tickets are less and the police are not writing, what are the Court Clerks going to do. You have full time and part time what are they going to do; being you cut the police shifts.

Lindsey Lebrecht – as a taxpayer and citizen, I ask that you give the shifts back to the police.

Morris Ordovery – I feel the County should provide police protection to town.

Marcia Becker - our budget was cut 66% , I would like to know what other departments were cut that much.

Supervisor Crowley, the biggest cut from yours was attorney .4 as we passed a Local Law the fees are to be incurred by the applicant.

Marcia Becker, when the application is complex and involves a lot more work we need the funds for our own engineer.

How much % is appropriated for Planning Board under the Attorney?

Supervisor Crowley, if you need money and it's in the Attorneys fees that's where it will come out of. If you have article seventy eights it will come out of there.

Marcia Becker, what's missing is the accounts receivable owed by Mr. Cascino to the town.

Supervisor Crowley, we can't count on the money coming, if I don't feel confident that its coming in, I wouldn't want to put it in receivables.

Morris Ordovery, no part timer had an opportunity to review the budget. I went to the Clerks office Sat. morning and it was closed. We have a real problem presenting this budget when half of the taxpayers didn't get a chance to review. Councilman Sacks is it legal if the town had access for only two days when it is five days.

Attorney Rappelyea, I don't know.

Lindsey LeBrecht, when I need something from the Clerks office I call and leave a message and she gets back right away.

Joe LaPorta the budget was available Thursday by law.

Town Clerk Hotaling, the offices have been closed on Fridays at 12:00 for years. Jeff Nayer, the clerk chooses to come in on Saturday for the public, she doesn't have to and she's entitled to take a Saturday off, every other office does.

Chris Quinby – Is Community Day canceled as there is not much money in there. Supervisor Crowley, its not canceled, there was talk of merging with Hillsdale. We needed to make hard cuts.

Judge Spencer – court budget, I thought it was settled.

Councilwoman Gabaccia, I think it is.

Supervisor Crowley, are you coming back to us next spring and ask for more money. I talked to Judge Cieses office and they went over the case load and they recommended 40 – 45 a week, we budgeted you for 45. Now you want another \$700.

Judge Spencer, you're taking the flexibility away from us by making it a salaried position.

Supervisor Crowley we figure full time clerk at 30 hours and the deputy at 44 weeks a year 15 hours a week. We covered your 45 hours.

Councilman Sacks, the \$700 is to absorb the extra trial cases we may have, if we don't spend it goes back to unexpended balance.

Councilwoman Gabaccia and Councilman Sacks supports giving the Judges the \$700 and putting the clerks back to hourly.

Councilman Kiernan, will the two judges state that they will say within their budget.

Judge Spencer, I will go on record saying we will do everything possible to stay in budget.

Supervisor Crowley, the Court line will go back to \$32,000.

Jeff Nayer, you have one full time clerk that works January and February an average of 30 hours a week and miraculously in March the whole world gets busy, and we go to 45 hours.

Judge Herman, certain tasks can be deferred and certain anticipated, the fact is when Janet comes back there's catch up.

Lindsey LeBrecht, if the police are cut will this put an impact on the court.

Morris Ordover – the general part of the budget is basically the same as last year. Is 7% increase were looking at for highway?

Councilman Kiernan, No, its insurance, retirement, etc.

Supervisor Crowley, if you had left the budget the same as last year you would still have a 6% increase due to retirement, insurance, etc. things we have no control over.

Joe LaPorta - the largest percent of increase in the budget is general.
Councilman Sacks, the town has had no reserve for at least two years; we need to build that up.

Lindsay LeBrecht- once we have a reval and at 100% we will be getting more money from the state.

Supervisor Crowley - we did not figure saving with insurance, we met with teamster for the highway and signed a memorandum of understanding which will be voted on tonight. Highway agreed to higher deductible in hospitalization which will bring us a \$33,000.00 in savings.

Police

Councilman Sacks, I'm not for the raise I feel the town can't afford it.

George Filipovits – is contract settled with highway and what was the pay raise. Supervisor Crowley, it's a three year contract, 3% raise the first and second year third year open for negotiation. Agreed to higher deductible, any new employee hired after January 1, 2011 will pay 25%of hospitalization. Martin Luther King day a floating holiday.

Councilman Sacks, I'm not comfortable with contract, \$33,000 savings is a one year savings, there's nothing to protect us for long term savings.

Councilwoman Gabaccia, there was a lot of give and take, it was a lot of positive. Supervisor Crowley, it's going to be savings every year.

Mike Bradway - my park worker at the park has been there for six years and he's never had a raise. I asked last spring and you said to bring it up at the budget workshop. To find someone to replace him if he leaves is going to be hard to do, especially with his great work ethic.

Supervisor Crowley, if you give one a raise you need to give all them. I know he's a good worker but we can't do for one and not the rest.

Marcia Becker - I need you to put more money in my contractual account.

David Proper - you voted the court clerks extra hours and if you do away with police what will they be doing.

Supervisor Crowley closed the public hearing at 7:30 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING LOCAL LAW # 8

Supervisor Crowley opened the public hearing at 7:30 P.M. with 23 people present.

The purpose of the hearing is to hear comments on Local Law # 8 regulating the Licenses of Dogs.

Attorney Rappleyea – we learned a couple of months ago Ag and Markets are closing the door to dog licensing, and shifting the burden on to Towns & Villages. We need a Law Local to authorize the clerk to take over the duties, this law will do this.

Supervisor Crowley, the state has shifted this to us we do all the work and the state will be collecting a sur charge, and there's nothing we can do about this.

Supervisor Crowley closed the public hearing 7:35 P.M.

REGULAR MEETING

Supervisor opened the meeting at 7:36 with 23 people present.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gabaccia seconded by Councilman Kiernan to accept the minutes of October 14, 2010 with the following correction. Typo pg 2 *form* should have been from.
Motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS

Supervisor Crowley – Set interviews for Sole Assessors
Planning Board, Zoning Board, Comp Plan date on cell towers

Councilwoman Gabaccia – forward the Audubon International to the Comprehensive Planning Committee.

1. Town Clerk Hotaling – consider appointment of a foil officer as the work has increased substantially in my office.
2. Jason L. Shaw – joined Whitman Osterman & Hanna LLP, request to meet with the board to discuss how they can provide high quality and cost efficient legal representation.
3. Donald Shadic – requesting appointment of temporary Building Inspector.

Supervisor Crowley will advertise position have back by Nov. 15, 2010

4. Joe LaPorta – request considering him for Building Inspector.
5. Roe-Jan Historical Society – line item of \$1,000 in budget for programs, equipment etc.
6. Highway Superintendent Gregory – equipment contractual line has a negative budget, suggest transfer.

A motion was made by Councilman Kiernan seconded by Councilwoman Gabaccia the Town Board of the Town of Copake authorizes Supervisor Crowley to make the following budget transfers.

DECREASE

INCREASE

Highway

DA5110.4 \$5,000

DA5130.4 \$5,000

DA5140.1 \$1014.00

DA5130.4 \$1014.00

Motion carried.

7. Highway Superintendent Gregory – request to buy fuel tank from Jeff Nayer at his cost. Jeff will assist with installation for a total cost of approximately \$1800. There is enough money in account to cover the purchase and installation. Suggest that what ever balance we have in garage account at the end of this year be added to next year’s budget as DEC said we may suspend use of existing tank and do the removal in the spring of next year.

Councilman Sacks, Jeff Nayer is an extraordinary citizen in Copake, and remarkable volunteer who has continued to volunteer his time and services at his cost to benefit the town.

A motion was made by Councilman Sacks seconded by Councilwoman Gabaccia to authorize Highway Superintendent Gregory to purchase fuel tank from Jeff Nayer at his cost and the balance of what ever the garage account has at the end of the year be added to next years budget. Motion carried.

PUBLIC FORUM

Lindsey LeBrecht – thank the Highway Department for agreeing to co-pay on insurance for a savings to the town.

Morris Ordovery – is there a chance the board will reconsider Sole Assessor in light of additional budget money.

Supervisor Crowley, you passed a local law and you can't go back.
 Councilwoman Gabaccia, my understanding is since it hasn't taken place that yes technically we could rescind the law and it would be up to the board to over ride us.

George Filipovits – where are you getting the extra money for third building inspector, Don has gone to Florida every year maybe he can stay for one year. Supervisor Crowley will have to take a look at that.

Joe LaPorta – I would help till the end of year and I'll do it for nothing to stop the problem.

ACTION ITEMS

Supervisor Crowley – new signs are covered under our insurance policy
 Ed Ferratto – Mann property is cleaning up waiting for e-mail from India on other property.

Councilwoman Gabaccia – voting machines, hang on to for now.

Councilman Sacks – will be setting up zoning meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Sacks- re: Cascino, received word today we won the TRO, has to remove steel bridge, fix the road, everything we asked he has to take care of.

OLD BUSINESS

Cell Towers; Supervisor Crowley, have meeting with Planning Board, ZBA, and Comp Plan. Will get a date this week

Supervisor Crowley - we need to set dates for interviewing Assessor.

Councilman Sack - Harvey Weber is on four committees it seems excessive.

Supervisor Crowley, we can't get other people to respond.

A motion was made by Councilman Sacks seconded by Councilwoman Gabaccia to run for two weeks ads for positions in the town for 2011. Motion carried.

Supervisor Crowley – have memorandum of understanding from the teamsters for highway department.

A motion was made by Supervisor Crowley seconded by Councilwoman Gabaccia to ratify the contract with the highway department.

Councilman Sacks, negotiation should have at least 1% contribution on their health insurance.

Roll call vote:

Councilwoman Gabaccia	Yes
Councilman Sacks	No
Councilman Tompkins	Yes
Councilman Kiernan	Yes
Supervisor Crowley	No

Motion carried.

Supervisor Crowley – can the \$30,000 savings on the insurance side be shown in budget?

Councilwoman Gabaccia - we can amend the budget, I would like to address issue of the truck on the highway side.

The following resolution was offered by Councilwoman Gabaccia seconded by Councilman Sacks.

RESOLVED, that we the Town Board of the Town of Copake do hereby enact Local Law # 8, A Local Law regulating the Licensing of Dogs.

Dated at Copake, NY	Supervisor Crowley	Yes
November 9, 2010	Councilwoman Gabaccia	Yes
Resolution # 21	Councilman Sacks	Yes
	Councilman Tompkins	Yes
	Councilman Kiernan	Yes

BUDGET

Supervisor Crowley -we've agreed to increase the court to \$32,000.

A motion was made by Councilman Tompkins seconded by Councilman Kiernan to return the police department back to eight shifts.

Discussion

Councilman Sacks, I don't think the town can afford it. We spent \$1,000,000 in seven years, are we prepared to spend another \$1,000,000 in another seven years.

The answer is No.

Councilwoman Gabaccia, one of the positive things about a local police is it does give you control with the budget. From financial point I feel more comfortable with six shifts.

Supervisor Crowley, big supporter of public safety.

Supervisor Crowley Yes
 Councilwoman Gabaccia No
 Councilman Sacks No
 Councilman Tompkins Yes
 Councilman Kiernan Yes
 Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Tompkins seconded by Councilman Sacks to take a police vehicle with the most mileage and use it as a town vehicle for employees. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Crowley seconded by Councilwoman Gabaccia the increase in deductible for hospitalization applies to all fulltime employees. Anyone hired after January 1, 2011 will pay 25% of the premium for family hospitalization who did not hold the position prior. Motion carried. Councilman Sacks voted NO.

Supervisor Crowley – November 15, 2010 special meeting at 6:30 to consider adoption of the 2011 budget.

Representative from Audubon International who works out of Selkirk gave a presentation.

We provide people with education and assistance needed to practice responsibility of land, water, wildlife, and natural resources.

Working with national parks and golf courses.

Will contact Comp Plan and work with them.

DEPARTMENT HEAD

Jeff Nayer, Zoning – very busy, five public hearings

COUNCILPERSONS

Councilwoman Gabaccia – I heard Ralph Platt resigned from the Park Commission; he's been an asset to the park and the town.

Councilman Sacks – Saturday was the opening of the Library, they've raised \$3,000,000 from volunteers. It's an incredible environmentally friendly building. Our community will be thankful for the next 100 years.

Supervisor Crowley - having meetings on County budget, looking at different options.

A motion was made by Councilman Sacks seconded by Councilwoman Gabaccia the bills from general abstract # 11 and highway abstract #11 be paid. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Kiernan seconded by Councilman Sacks the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

