

BUDGET WORKSHOP  
AUGUST 5, 2009

At the budget meeting of the Town of Copake the following were present:  
Supervisor Crowley, Councilman Tompkins, Councilman Kiernan, Councilman Sacks  
and Councilwoman Gabaccia.

Supervisor Crowley opened the meeting at 7:10 p.m. with 22 people present.

A motion was made by Supervisor Crowley seconded by Councilman Tompkins to go  
into executive session on personnel. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Kiernan seconded by Councilwoman Gabaccia to  
return to budget meeting. Motion carried.

Supervisor Crowley has talked numerous times with Accountant Brian Fitzgerald in  
reference to having the records for the town returned. They presented a bill to town for  
extra work that the board disagrees with. Recommend we call him in morning ask for  
records which he cannot withhold by law.

Supervisor Crowley - Colonie had same problem last year as us, what they did was  
negative fund balance elimination tax, one time payment, if we borrow \$200,000 it's a  
one time payment to taxpayer per parcel of \$68.24. We could still maintain services and  
do cut in our 2010 budget.

Councilman Sacks said it's an interesting plan but we need to look over and bring it up at  
the regular board meeting. We should consider cutting what we can now.

Councilman Tompkins - I think it's a good plan.

Councilman Kiernan - I agree.

Michael Torchia said you're taking the money now in anticipation of the money coming  
in January and you pay off your note. You need to get legal council and banks involved  
you're looking at a 2 month period to process.

Supervisor Crowley contacted Captain Brown and Sheriff Harrison they said if they had a  
call for the town they would respond to it, support the Copake Police.

Councilman Sacks asked who's covering Monday thru Friday; Supervisor replied  
Sheriffs and State Police.

A discussion followed about Police Force.

Police Commissioner Nayer asked the board to consider reinstating the eight shifts till  
Labor Day.

Councilman Kiernan said we know we have to figure out this problem now; this budget  
crisis is too complex to sit here and hash out day after day. Solve the problem at the end  
break it down and see it doesn't happen again.

Jeanne Mettler - could this tax be done on assessed value, Michael Torchia said it would be a line item on the tax bill, .30 per thousand on a \$200,000 assessment would be \$60.00 increase in taxes. We need to look very carefully at the 2010 budget.

Councilwoman Gabaccia - I would still like to look at more tax cuts.

Charles Dodson, how long will it take to get an accurate number? These are accountant problems you're still in position to make the best estimate as to what the total income and expenses are. I don't think you've done well enough on that side.

Supervisor Crowley, Planning Board cut about \$1,800, Parks 'n Recs \$6,000, ZEO \$150, Court \$3,000 approximately, Highway picked up gas bill for police.

Councilman Sacks said we need a plan of action, sheet from budget officer of proposed budget cuts by next meeting.

Councilwoman Gabaccia stated she would like to take one last chance at cuts.

Jeff Nayer asked for an answer to his letter about the police.

Charles Dodson, the board needs to reconsider budget objectively reconsider there is no plan to present; you need to take a week before next board meeting and have a plan for us.

Supervisor Crowley made a motion seconded by Councilman Tompkins to rescind the motion which had previously cut the police department to four shifts and allow Police Department to continue with regular schedule through Labor Day after which Police will be cut back to four shifts. Motion carried. Councilman Sacks and Councilwoman Gabaccia voted NO.

John Keeler asked if the board could look at disposing of the West Copake Firehouse again.

Supervisor Crowley it needs legislative approval which takes time.

Highway Superintendent sent proposal to board for spraying of trees in the park at a cost of \$550.00.

Councilman Tompkins suggested it comes out of the park fund.

Mike Bradway presented it at park commission last night for discussion.

Supervisor will e-mail Highway Superintendent back; park commission will discuss it at next meeting.

Councilman Kiernan said Charles had a valid point lets get to it get the numbers and then decide.

Judge Herman e-mailed the following cuts in Court.

Full time court clerk 27 hours per week, plus court time, computed as follows: Mon – Thurs 9am to 3pm, Fri. 9am to 12:00 pm.

Fill in clerk: 8 hours per week plus court time, computed as follows: Mon & Wed 9am to 1pm.

This should save the town about \$3,000 for the balance of the year.

A motion was made by Councilman Kiernan seconded by Councilwoman Gabaccia we accept Judge Herman budget cuts. Motion carried. Effective immediately.

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

Respectfully submitted,

