

PUBLIC HEARING  
TOWN BOARD  
NOVEMBER 10, 2009

**Present:**

Supervisor Crowley  
Councilwoman Gabaccia  
Councilman Tompkins  
Councilman Sacks  
Highway Superintendent Proper

**Absent:**

Councilman Kiernan

Supervisor Crowley opened the meeting at 7:00 pm with 18 people present.

The purpose of the hearing is to review and consider adoption of the preliminary budget for the year 2010.

Supervisor Crowley reported that Taconic Hills School went on immediate lock out this morning as a precautionary measure due to the incident at Pine Plains Middle School.

**Public Comment:**

Mike Salvatore, Young at Hearters: Copake represents 56% of membership. The organization will appreciate *any* contribution the town can make.

George Filipovits: Pointed out Hillsdale gives \$500, Ancram gives \$500 – by giving \$1000, Copake is giving its fair share as the contribution goes by population.

John Keeler: Mr. Nayer had offered to do a fundraiser for seniors. Why haven't the Young at Hearters taken him up on his offer? Thinks group should give up the \$1,000 offer since it could be raised by fundraising.

Karen Hallenbeck: Young at Hearters got \$2,500/year 2001-2004; and \$3,000/year 2005-2008. Total \$22,000 in total.

George Filipovitis: Doesn't agree with making the seniors do a fundraiser – they have paid taxes for a long time.

Jeff Nayer: Clarified his offer to help the seniors “offset” their costs.

Karen Hallenbeck: If Young at Hearters moved their meetings to the Rec Building, they could be saving money.

YAH Representative: Many seniors living alone – go once a month to meetings to have a luncheon and see people.

Barbara Filipovits: Stated that Supervisor Crowley had spoken with Real Property Director Suzette Booy and she told the Supervisor that a Chairman was not necessary. Supervisor Crowley clarified that no, he said Ms. Booy said it was not mandated by law. Barbara read statement from Ms. Booy advising reasons in favor of having Chairman.

Discussion followed with Supervisor Crowley questioning – if we are to follow Real Property’s advice, then we should follow *all* their advice, including going to Sole Assessor.

Jeff Nayer: Questioned Board on salaries –a re they freezing salaries for part-time salaries?

Supervisor Crowley: Agreed that no part-time employees should receive raises.

Rose Pells: In support of Court having one fulltime 30 hour/week court clerk. Is very against eliminating funds for this position. Feels it is necessary to look at the reasons for wanting to eliminate the funds.

Dan Tompkins: Asked – do you have number of case loads for previous three years? They are 2007 – 1365 cases; 2008 – 1151; 2009 – present – 920. Every year there is a drop in the caseload. Back when the caseload was highest, 2 part-time clerks handled it well with 15 hours a week each. There has been a substantial drop in the caseload since 2007.

Supervisor Crowley explained the difference between 2 part-time clerks and one full-time is the cost of the health benefits. Explained that the \$11,000 budgeted for 2010 was for one part-time court clerk @ \$13.80/hour, 15 hours/week. His recommendation is to not fill the full-time court clerk position.

Councilwoman Gabaccia asked Councilman Tompkins if he has spoken to the two judges about these recommendations. Councilman Tompkins responded that the judges have come in only once since August when this process started. He told the Judges today where he stands. He agrees with two part-time clerks at 15 hours each/week.

Supervisor Crowley stated that the Board has no say over how the judges schedule their office; the Board only has control over the funding. His opinion is that there is no need for a full-time court clerk.

Councilwoman Gabaccia countered that the position of full-time court clerk was being eliminated by the lack of funding.

Karen Hallenbeck: Stated that at last hearing the Board said they wanted to get the budget down to a 10% increase. If you fund another \$30,000 – how are you going to get down to that 10%?

Councilwoman Gabaccia stated that cuts are possible to get down to 10% even with keeping the full-time court clerk.

John Keeler: Questioned if Joe LaPorta's recommendations could be utilized.

Councilwoman Gabaccia responded that some could be used, others not.

Supervisor Crowley: Stated Bridget Roberts suggested charging \$15/week for children and allowing families to choose the weeks they will attend – many children do not attend all 6 weeks at present. This could increase revenue up to \$13,500.

Councilman Sacks: Foresee a booking nightmare – who will keep track?

Councilwoman Gabaccia: Look at what you are funding first – six weeks? 9-2 or 9-3?

Supervisor Crowley: Keep at six weeks, 9 am – 3 pm.

Councilwoman Gabaccia reiterated that no pay raises would be given this year.

According to Karen Hallenbeck, with *no pay raises*, the salaries are: Director \$4400, Assistant Director \$4000, Head Counselor \$2100, Assistant Head Counselor \$9.25/hour, Regular Counselors \$8/hour. This totals \$22,942.50. \$26,000 was in preliminary - \$3,000 would be cut on .1 and \$3,000 added to revenues.

Discussion on Summer Program. Deputy Supervisor Joe LaPorta had suggested asking Park to donate to keep program going. Discussion followed on amount to charge for registration fees. Decision was to charge \$300 for out-of-towners to attend program. Discussion on revenues followed. Decision was to put \$13,500 on revenues side.

Discussion on Court revenues. The Judge thought \$50,000 for fines and forfeitures. This amount was agreed upon by board.

Discussion on Sales Tax Revenue. Decided to put \$308,000 in revenues for Sales Tax Revenue and \$110,000 for mortgage tax.

Councilwoman Gabaccia asked about assessor's vacancy and the board's intentions. Supervisor Crowley wants to leave the money in the budget and put out for letters of interest. Councilwoman Gabaccia asked about the extra money for the Chairperson. Added \$500 to .1 account for chairperson of assessors.

Discussion on court clerks (A1110.10). Councilwoman Gabaccia supports full-time court clerk and would like to see the .1 bumped to \$30,000. Supervisor Crowley reminded board that \$7000 would have to be added for health insurance. Supervisor Crowley said he would compromise and go to two part-time clerks. It was agreed to put in \$22,000 for two part-time court clerks.

Lawyer (A1420.4) fees were discussed.

Left at \$30,000.

Supervisor Crowley explained that the 1620.1 for Custodian under Buildings and Grounds would be dropped to \$10,000 as the park will be doing their own bookings.

Contingency fund: Councilwoman Gabaccia would like it returned to original \$500.00 from \$30,000.00. Put at \$20,000.00.

Police Department: Councilwoman Gabaccia will support reducing to 3 shifts. Councilman Tompkins have been reducing the passed years, A3120.4 take out \$3,000 may cause to pull one car. I've always been against five cars. Eight shifts is a good number. Going to \$104,703.00 is pretty safe.

Celebration: \$1,500 Supervisor Crowley, Councilman Tompkins do away with it. Councilman Sacks and Councilwoman Gabaccia disagree its part of the town for the people and public. It's a new program.

Adult recreation: \$1,000 Councilman Sacks, Councilwoman Gabaccia leave. Councilman Tompkins, go to \$500 we can do a fund raiser. Mike Salvatore we would be happy with \$750.00. Put to \$750.00

Hospital and Medical dropped to \$30,000.

Highway: How much salt and sand does Taconic Shores use. Highway Superintendent we always provided salt and sand to any one who needs it as long as they're not profiting from it. George Filipovits, they are not getting for free they pay taxes.

Highway Superintendent, legally I don't think you can sell sand and salt. If it keeps an elderly person from breaking a hip it's worth it.

Highway: Asked the Superintendent to cut 10%. Highway Superintendent if you're asking for \$100,000 you need to give me time. Councilman Sacks, can't pick and choose, we need to give some direction to the Superintendent and have him tell us what's safe and sound.. Highway Superintendent, just give me a figure as to what you want me to cut from last years budget. Councilman Tompkins, asking employees to pay 5% of health insurance. By going to EPO theres a savings. Councilman Sacks, lets not take from employees ask Larry to see what he can do with the department. Highway Superintendent, give me a percentage you want me to look at. Give me till Thursday at 6 pm and I'll see what I can do.

Supervisor Crowley, we should take a stand that any new employee hired January 1, 2010 must pay a percentage of their insurance.

Supervisor Crowley, Ambulance Squad requested \$298,600 for 2010. Art Baird suggested 15% up from last year which would be \$172,500.  
Supervisor Crowley, many of their expenses are state mandated.

Councilman Sacks, This should be on our taxes instead of charge back from county. Find out what Ancram and Hillsdale are doing, you could ask Jeannie.

Supervisor Crowley, the next meeting will be at 6 pm on Thursday November 12<sup>th</sup> .

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

Respectfully submitted,