

PUBLIC HEARING
NOVEMBER 5, 2009

Present:

Supervisor Crowley
Councilwoman Gabaccia
Councilman Sacks
Councilman Kiernan

Absent:

Councilman Tompkins

Supervisor Crowley opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with 32 people present.

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

Supervisor Crowley, revenue Summer Rec. Sign up Fees A2390 \$7,000.

Suggest \$100 per child \$200 cap for families, non residents \$300 per child.

Bridget Roberts, it's a large jump, we have about 30 children from out of town

Councilman Sacks, it cost us about \$300 a child.

Councilwoman Gabaccia, I would like to keep the town residents the same.

Bridget, I've been able to stay in budget because of the amount of time the councilors were not working. I can stay within that amount by cutting hours.

Supervisor Crowley, would you prefer cutting the hours or the program one day a week.

Bridget, to stay within this amount we would have to cut the hours.

Non residents were willing to pay the \$100 they liked the program.

Residents rate at \$50 for the first two and \$25 after, they were ok with that.

Councilman Sacks, we need to take care of our residents and not subsidize other towns.

Bridget, I think you'd be better off having residents only.

Jeff Nayer, as a tax payer I have no problem with residents; I do with non-residents.

Councilwoman Gabaccia leave rate same as last year and eliminate the nonresidents.

Councilman Sacks, if nonresidents are willing to spend \$300 then let them in.

Bridget, to keep it within the line amount now the hours would have to be 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Councilman Sacks, \$7,000 increase to keep it the same hours, we should try to save money elsewhere, maybe a \$25 increase in sign up fees. Community Chest interested in fund raising for the program.

Chris Quinby, the tractor pull money is for the summer program, we could do other fund raisers.

Supervisor Crowley, agree to \$75 the first two children \$ 25 for additional child per family.

Increase revenue side from \$7,000 to \$10,000.

Supervisor Crowley, revenue Fine and Forfeited Bail A2610 we dropped from \$50,000 to \$30,000. Judge Herman explained the fines and forfeited. Took last 12 months that how he came up with figure, have no control over the revenues.

Councilman Gabaccia, based on your monthly break down it's \$3,000 to \$4,500, we put in \$30,000 we might be safe putting it up to \$45,000.

Councilman Sacks lets be cautious put it at \$45,000.

Councilman Sacks, I've been resistant to keep the police department fully funded the way it is, for half the budget we could have a full time constable which would give us six days a week instead of two.

Supervisor, the police department does not work two days a week; they work eight shifts a week. Two shifts a day is four days a week.

Jeff Nayer, if you're doing a budget cut then you should be cutting everyone.

If you reduce the shifts we'll be losing our part time officers.

Supervisor, constables are not certified officers which restricts them from what they can do.

Councilman Sacks, you have 911 for day to day functionality you can have coverage at half the price.

Supervisor Crowley, we have a meeting Saturday about the Comprehensive Plan survey one of the questions was does the town need a police department I would like to put off till Saturday and see what the survey says.

Assessor Filipovits, why was \$500 cut from the chairman in the Assessors budget.

Supervisor Crowley, I checked with real property and there's no law that says you have to have a chair.

Assessor Filipovits, it would be utter kazoos if you had no one in charge, the chairman's computer is set up to do more functions then the others.

Supervisor, many towns share that responsibility.

Assessor, in our office we haven't come to that point yet. There is a lot of extra time put in by the Chairman and they deserve the extra money.

Councilman Sacks, lets pencil it in.

Building Inspector Shadic, need to raise A3620.1 to \$1,000 that will just barely cover training and mileage.

Councilman Sacks, by law he has to do the training we need to put it in.

Supervisor Crowley, the celebration money was put up to \$1,500 from \$500.

Councilman Sacks, they lend money to seed organizations and if they make a profit they're supposed to return the money.

Karen Hallenbeck, they don't need it, they did not use it last year and as the budget gets healthy you can always put it back.

Councilman Sacks, The EAB is working to rebuild the foundation of down town and I think it's important to keep it there.

Supervisor, if you cut the health, safety and welfare of the people how do you justify the \$1,500 some where else?

Jeff Nayer, we asked for \$120,000 and you cut us \$12,000 you've already added \$3,000 to the budget. No one got raises but the summer program workers did.

Joe Laporta, is there a goal the board has set for the budget? I sat down with budget at home and have made \$120,000 in cuts no one is going to be happy about, but I'm working for the tax payer.

Councilman Sacks, could you get a copy to us before the meeting?

Councilwoman Gabaccia, what is an acceptable tax increase?

Councilman Kiernan, last time we spoke it was 21%.

Councilman Sacks, would like to see 9%, we can't take 10% from everyone.

Why do we have the most expensive highway department in the county?

Supervisor Crowley, traveled every road in County, Copake has the best roads as far as conditions and maintenance.

Highway Superintendent Proper, asked Councilman Sacks where he got his figures from, about Copake's highway budget being the most expensive in the county.

Councilman Sacks, we're the most expensive from what I found on the internet.

Superintendent Proper, quoted Councilman Sacks, here is something to think about, Copake has the most expensive highway in the county, did you say that?

Councilman Sacks, yes I did I compared it to five other towns on the internet.

Superintendent Proper, you looked at five budgets out of eighteen in the county.

Copake rates fifth in the county, there are 800 people who read your paper and how many people did they talk to. They got the wrong information. I think you owe the highway as well as the readers an apology.

Councilwoman Gabaccia, who are the four towns who are higher.

Superintendent Proper; Germantown, Stockport, Greenport, and Kinderhook.

Councilman Sacks; Germantown with an \$80,000 truck they're buying this year, but that doesn't matter.

Superintendent Proper; you also mention that the 2006 budget that was listed on the web-site was up 10%. Did anyone look closer at that budget - It was amended not adopted. It wasn't even correct.

Councilman Sacks, I will gladly apologize to you and the highway if in fact at end of day its necessary, right now we're spending \$20,000 a road mile and we're asking you can we spend less per mile.

Superintendent Proper, we have the best roads in the county and I'm not ashamed to say that, were # 5 in ranking we're not spending the most.

Councilman Sacks, is it possible the people will accept the second best roads in the County.

Superintendent Proper; I would never accept second best. I have pride in my men.

Councilman Sacks; It's not about pride its time to do the right thing for everybody in an extraordinary complex situation.

Superintendent Proper, the reason we have the best roads is we have been doing the right thing for a long time.

Councilman Kiernan; a road is an investment not something you look to cut on; it will save you money in the long run.

Supervisor Crowley; roads as far as being maintained is safety issue, there's case after case where there's accidents and you're faced with law suits.

Superintendent Proper; keep in mind the highway came up \$9,000 short in revenue, we had to make that up, the general side was \$340,000 short you make that up.

Ronald Piper; public safety #1 Mr. Viebrock from Taconic Hills keeps his buses running under 2% on the safety level the best in any county because of our roads. Ask people who run the roads everyday before you slam someone in public, its safety. I don't care what I pay for public safety because our families are on them.

Jeff Nayer; asked Councilman Sacks if he's on the board in Taconic Shores, private community, where does your salt and sand come from? Answered Larry. Jeff Nayer why are we supporting a private community.

Councilman Sacks; we don't get it for free, we do utilizes the services to buy it.

Jeff Nayer asked Larry if they pay for it. Answered no.

Councilman Sacks; I'm trying to do the best I can for the town as we're in \$100,000 debt. I will have Glen Ganz speak with Larry. I'm not suggesting we don't have safe roads I'm just looking for ways to save money.

Supervisor Crowley; we've already decided to switch health insurance to APO and cut \$14,796.

Karen Hallenbeck, other towns are giving the Young at Hearters \$500 why are we giving \$1,000?

Councilman Sacks, we want to help the seniors like we help the kids, most members are from Copake.

George Filipovits, these people pay taxes.

Supervisor Crowley asked Mike Salvatore to have a break down of how many from Copake belong to Young at Hearters.

Councilman Kiernan lets try to cut the 21% budget to 10%.

Councilman Crowley, continue the public hearing on Tuesday November 10, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilman Sacks seconded by Councilwoman Gabaccia the hearing be closed. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,