

SPECIAL MEETING
JUNE 23, 2009

Special meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Copake the following were present: Supervisor Crowley, Councilwoman Gabaccia, Councilman Tompkins, and Councilman Kiernan and Accountant Brian Fitzgerald. Councilman Sacks was absent.

Supervisor Crowley opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with 11 people present.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss budget issues.

Councilman Tompkins asked for resolution to go forward with engineer for solar.

A motion was made by Councilman Tompkins seconded by Councilwoman Gabaccia authorizing Supervisor Crowley to sign contract for engineering report for solar in the amount of \$1,000.00. Motion carried.

Approval for Robin Bruce to spend \$300.00 on split rail fence at William Cemetery.

Approval for Sean Carbine to work on Assessors computer.

A motion was made by Councilman Tompkins seconded by Councilwoman Gabaccia to transfer three checks in the amount \$2,400 made out to Lawrence Howard from Attorney 1420.4 to Planning 8020.4 Motion carried.

Accountant Fitzgerald cash balance total for town is \$300,000. \$7,200 in hole on general side, suggest temporary loan from highway in amount of \$100,000, this will tie you over till September.

A motion was made by Councilman Kiernan seconded by Councilman Tompkins to approve a general fund short term loan from highway fund in the amount of \$100,000. Motion carried.

Accountant Fitzgerald went over the projected revenue short falls, appropriated fund balance was \$75,000 we came in at \$ 62,732 short \$11,268.

Councilwoman Gabaccia asked why we miss calculated that much and didn't know till April. First notification I got of being short was in April.

Accountant Fitzgerald apparent with budget reports in December.

Franchise tax came in \$1,265 short.

Fines & Forfeitures half way through year we only have \$11,220, budgeted \$105,000. Possible \$82,000 short fall

Mortgage tax shortage of \$45,500

Look at borrowing \$160,000.

Supervisor Crowley got two quotes on rates.

Salisbury Bank 2.18% variable rate, .67 above prime, adjustable.

First Niagara one year 2.75% fixed two years slightly higher.

Accountant Fitzgerald said if we borrow, next years revenue needs to be adjusted down, if you borrow \$160,000 on top of that .

Supervisor Crowley said taxes will be going up.

Councilwoman Gabaccia asked if there are any nonessential services we can cut to reduce the amount we have to borrow.

Maybe the Police Department.

Supervisor Crowley said 90% of fine money from local police.

Morris Ordovery said if you have \$120,000 police budget and they are only taking in \$8,000.00 a month that's \$48,000.00 in six months.

Councilman Tompkins said the police are out there protecting people and if we approach it that way we might as well not have a police department.

Councilman Gabaccia said she's thinking in short term perhaps of spending activity.

Highway department budget is cut to bare bones.

George Filipovits suggested layoffs in building department and highway.

Councilwoman Gabaccia suggested have every department head come in and sit down and see if we can reduce the amount we need to borrow.

Accountant Fitzgerald said if you borrow the \$160,000 it needs to be done by September.

Morris suggested a four day week.

Supervisor Crowley said we went through cuts dead set against laying people off.

Councilwoman Gabaccia said she's not saying not bond she just wants to be certain before we do.

Accountant Fitzgerald said call banks and see what lead time we need for loan meantime go through budget again.

Councilman Tompkins said we could look into selling two police cars.

Councilwoman Gabaccia will talk to Key Bank about loan as we need three.

A motion was made by Supervisor Crowley seconded by Councilwoman Gabaccia any expenditure over \$150.00 needs board approval. Motion carried.

Supervisor Crowley said records were taken out of town hall checked with Albany , the Town Clerk is keeper of records with only Town Clerk having key, if need access must go through and review with Town Clerk.

Councilwoman Gabaccia had hearing pertaining to Cascino, went extremely well.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gabaccia seconded by Councilman Tompkins there will be a mandatory Department Head meeting on Tuesday, July 7th at 6:30 p.m. If department head or representative is not present their budget could be cut 20%. Motion carried.

Supervisor Crowley said budget requests were sent out due back by July 15th.

Accountant Fitzgerald said he will have a binder of the budget for each department will be kept in town clerks office.

Councilman Tompkins asked if there are other things in budget besides the Rescue Squad that we pay more then other towns, library.
Carol Sacks said Copake has twice the population of other towns.

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

Respectfully submitted,