

November 5, 2015

A special meeting the Town Board of the Town of Clifton Park was held in the Town Office Building at 7:00 p.m., in order to hear comments on the 2016 Preliminary Budget, Supervisor Barrett presiding.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Present: Councilwoman Standaert
Councilman Romano
Councilwoman Walowit
Supervisor Barrett
Town Clerk O'Donnell

Absent: Councilman Whalen

Also Present: Town Attorney McCarthy
Mark Heggen, Comptroller

PUBLIC HEARING, 7:00 PM 2016 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

The Town Clerk read the Notice of Public Hearing as published in The Daily Gazette on October 23, 2015.

Supervisor Barrett reviewed various aspects of the 2016 budget: Highway tax at .239 resulting in a tax of \$34.70 for a home assessed at \$250,000; EMS tax decreased by two percent; with the retirement of Barbara McHugh, the position of Director of Community Development will be eliminated; employee benefits decreased by almost three percent in 2015 and will remain even in 2016; Highway Bargaining Unit approved the contract while the Town Hall Bargaining Unit did not so there is no contract in place for those union employees; everyone outside of the bargaining units is slated to receive a two percent raise; investing in equipment, vehicle and trail maintenance continues; funds for bulk waste pickup are included with the intention that this be offered every other year. He continued there have been minor changes since the Tentative Budget as follows: add another \$6000 to the Building Department equipment line; with the resignation of Joe Champagne from the Buildings and Grounds Department, town vehicles will now be maintained by the highway mechanics and with this change it will be necessary to make improvements to another highway garage by adding a cement floor and lift at some point but no cost estimates have been run. Maintenance of small equipment is to be added to the MEO Light position, focusing mainly on mowers and small equipment. Justin Latniak, currently a Grade 3 Laborer in the Buildings and Grounds Department, would fit this position to take on additional duties of maintaining mowers and small equipment. Mr. Latniak would be promoted to MEO Light Grade 4. Supervisor Barrett suggested moving Mr. Champagne's salary in the 2016 budget into contingency line.

The public hearing was opened for comments from the audience at 7:25 p.m.

Jim Baisley, Barkwood Lane, asked from where the mechanics are being paid. Supervisor Barrett responded this will be a highway charge back to the general fund. Mr. Baisley commended the Town Board's decision to continue to contract with the policing agencies. Supervisor Barrett, responding to Mr. Baisley's question, said the interfund transfer of general fund money to highway is to reduce the highway tax. Mr. Baisley asked what entities get gas from the town gas tanks. Supervisor Barrett responded town departments, Water Authority, Clifton Park EMS, Fire districts and Sheriff's Department. Town Comptroller Heggen said these entities are billed three times a year.

Everyone was given an opportunity to speak in favor of or against the proposed local law and no one else wished to be heard. Supervisor Barrett declared the public hearing closed at 7:40 p.m.

Mr. Baisley suggested the John J. McKenna Way sign should have a different pole and should acknowledge his service and rank.

11/5/2015

Supervisor Barrett thanked Town Comptroller Mark Heggen for all the work he put into the preparation of the budget.

MOTION by Councilwoman Walowit, seconded Councilwoman Standaert, to adjourn the meeting to the next regular meeting or any other meeting necessary for the conduct of Town business.

Motion carried at 7:42 p.m.

Patricia O'Donnell
Town Clerk