

November 8, 2007

A special meeting of 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 2008 Preliminary Budget, Supervisor Barrett presiding.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Present: Councilman Paolucci
Councilman Hughes
Councilman Roth
Councilwoman Walowit
Supervisor Barrett
Town Clerk O'Donnell

Also Present: Town Attorney McCarthy
Michael Handerman, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds
Myla Kramer, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Affairs
Kathleen Maynard, Director of Planning
Steven Myers, Director of Building and Development
Michael O'Brien, Environmental Specialist
Michael Shahan, Town Administrator
Walter Smead, Assessor

PUBLIC HEARING, 7:00 PM TO CONSIDER THE 2008 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

The Town Clerk read the Notice of Public Hearing as it appeared in the Daily Gazette on October 26, 2007.

Councilman Roth, noting he did not attend the budget workshops, said he did review the budget, as well as requests received at the budget workshops, and sent questions to Mr. Shahan. He reviewed items that need to be considered:

Mike O'Brien to be fulltime with Clifton Park Sewer District No. 1, leaving the Environmental Specialist position open. Supervisor Barrett commended Mr. O'Brien on his work with the sewer district. With regard to costs, Supervisor Barrett recommended salary and costs associated with sewer work to be charged not only to the Clifton Park Sewer District No. 1 but all the town-owned sewer districts, based on size. Mr. O'Brien said the additional laborer requested would not replace the current sewer employees but is needed due to safety as no one should be working alone. He explained "confined space" work requires 3 employees. The new employee could be trained in repairing grinder pumps which would result in significant savings.

Request from Director of Building and Development Myers for a Code Enforcement Officer to monitor stormwater activities on construction and other sites in town as required by New York State in taking over the role of DEC. He reviewed the daily activities of a Code Enforcement Officer. Supervisor Barrett asked Mr. Shahan to get quotes from three engineering firms for investigation of stormwater issues.

Councilman Roth recommended giving the town sponsored theater group, Not So Common Players, an additional \$5000 plus \$1500 for their biannual newsletter which would come under "advertising and promotion".

Discussion ensued regarding eliminating the Environmental Specialist position and placing the responsibilities with Open Space Coordinator. Director of Planning Maynard reported the Open Space Coordinator role has expanded, in addition to open space duties, to include land trust functions which, though very cost effective, are time consuming, as well as grant writing administration.

Town Administrator Shahan suggested removing trails duties from the Open Space Coordinator.

It was noted a new position at the Transfer Station is in the 2008 budget. Councilman Roth reported Transfer Station Supervisor Vedder said this position could reduce summer help. Mr. Shahan reported mowing and maintenance of the mulching area is time consuming for current employees.

Buildings and Grounds Supervisor Handerhan said the laborer requested is filling an open position.

Question came up as to Buildings and Grounds and the Transfer Station sharing an employee.

Supervisor Barrett agreed with Councilman Roth's recommendation of Director of Community Affairs taking over the Household Hazardous Waste Day and trails.

Councilwoman Walowit spoke favorably of requests from Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Affairs Kramer. Ms. Kramer requested a new fulltime position along the line of a Program Coordinator which the Summer Rec Director position, at over \$9000 in 2008, would easily fit into, particularly in the spring and summer. She stated additional funding will allow additional programming throughout the year.

Councilman Hughes reported some children do not attend the summer camp due to life-threatening allergies. He recommended having people on staff trained to administer the "epi-pen" which would be a modest cost. He reported New York State has given prior approval for this program. Councilman Hughes said there could be a partnership with the Red Cross for training. He said this could be budget neutral as there may not be 100% participation in the tax rebate program and this cost savings could cover the "epi-pen program".

Town Attorney McCarthy said Department of Health requires partnership with a medical doctor.

Councilman Roth reported the training is not difficult, however, it entails more than just giving the injection. He said the Health Officer could monitor the program and it is worthwhile to look at.

The public hearing was opened for comments from the audience at 7:50 p.m.

Sally Burke, Evergreen Terrace, Ballston Lake, representing the Not So Common Players, presented the Town Board with information explaining the reason for the increase request, e.g. royalties are unknown, Shenendehowa fees and the additional costs anticipated with the summer production the "The Wizard of Oz". She also distributed statistics of all shows since summer 2001. She expressed appreciation for the Town Board's support over the last seven years.

Jim Baisley, Barkwood Lane, praised the personnel at the Transfer Station, the cleanliness of the area and spoke in favor of additional personnel. He further spoke in support of Department Heads' requests, the theater group request, as well as contracting with the Sheriff's Department, noting it is important to protect investments and necessary to look at the returns. Mr. Baisley stated the Town Board needs to make sure Department Heads are getting the needed resources. He recommended reviewing park district representation and questioned why some park districts contract out and others use town resources. He said the town should be providing all park district work. Mr. Baisley recommended using pea stone at the dog park in order to eliminate the mud problem.

Mr. Shahan reported Rexford Water District wants to change their bottom line tax levy from \$25,000 to \$23,000; Longkill I wants to increase the tax levy by \$1000; some numbers have been changed around for the Blue Barnes Water District but remains budget neutral. Mr. Shahan explained a desk audit has been done by the County regarding the payroll clerk's position and due to added responsibilities over the years a pay increase of \$3000 is being suggested. Mr. Shahan feels it is appropriate to have \$400 - \$500 in a department's equipment line without identifying exactly what it is for. He feels it is cumbersome for a department head to have to come to the Town Board for a chair, table, etc.

11/08/2007

Everyone was given an opportunity to speak in favor of or against the 2008 Preliminary Budget and no one else wished to be heard. Supervisor Barrett declared the public hearing closed at 8:15 p.m.

Councilman Paolucci thanked Mike Handerhan, Buildings and Grounds Supervisor, for coming in on a holiday to pick up debris on Ushers Road. He said this was above and beyond the call of duty and shows his dedication to the town residents.

MOTION by Councilman Paolucci, seconded by Councilman Hughes, to adjourn the meeting to the next regular meeting or any other meeting necessary for the conduct of Town business.

Motion carried at 8:18 p.m.

Patricia O'Donnell
Town Clerk