

November 6, 2008

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 2009 Preliminary Budget, Supervisor Barrett presiding.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Present: Councilman Paolucci arrived at 7:07 p.m.
Councilman Hughes
Councilwoman Walowit
Supervisor Barrett
Town Clerk O'Donnell

Absent: Councilman Roth

Also Present: Town Attorney McCarthy
Michael Shahan, Town Administrator
John Scavo, Director of Planning

PUBLIC HEARING, 7:00 PM
TO CONSIDER THE 2009 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

The Town Clerk read the Notice of Public Hearing as published in The Daily Gazette on October 24, 2008.

Town Administrator Shahan reviewed changes suggested after the Preliminary Budget was prepared, attached. Total expenditures/revenues for 2009 are \$15,124,455 which is a reduction of \$47,983 from the Tentative budget.

Councilwoman Walowit said the current economy has impacted local not-for-profits, especially the Shenendehowa Senior Center. Though the Seniors have requested more, she recommended transferring \$10,000 from the stormwater line to the Shenendehowa Senior Citizens line.

Councilman Hughes asked the Board to support funds for improvements to the Mary Jane Row Dog Park, noting serious drainage issues. He reported expansion of the park is being studied and \$72,500 will allow very substantive improvements to be made. Councilman Paolucci questioned if this is the right site for the park due to problems in drainage. Mr. Shahan noted there is a very high water table and perhaps a point should be put in. Councilman Hughes noted Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds Handerhan said correcting the drainage problem could be a great improvement.

Supervisor Barrett stated the town will remain without a town tax for 2009. He noted the Highway tax will remain at 15½ cents per \$1000. He reported town debt has been retired and doesn't see adding any debt in 2009, money is in the budget for paving at the Transfer Station, as well as improvements to Barney Road pool and the Mary Jane Row dog park. Supervisor Barrett stated the budget does not include any layoffs or program cuts.

The public hearing was opened for comments from the audience at 7:23 p.m.

Jim Baisley, Barkwood Lane, agreed with the funding for the Sheriff, State Police and public safety. He asked how an audit is done to make sure the town is getting its fair share from cable. He asked that Special District read Special Tax District and noted the park facilities districts are providing a lot of services. He expressed concern that one or two people are making purchase and budget decisions for park districts stating there is no representation. He said an internal review should be taken of all park districts. Mr. Baisley recommended the town pay for all lawn mowing in all park districts rather than having various parks districts contract out to different companies. He recommended cutting back on various program fees. He said park district surplus should be shown and there should be checks and balances for all park districts.

11/06/2008

Supervisor Barrett said there are plenty of checks and balances for park districts, noting the Town Board is the Commissioner of Park Districts.

MOTION BY Councilwoman Walowit, seconded by Councilman Paolucci, to approve changes to the 2009 budget as presented this evening.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON MOTION

Ayes: Councilman Paolucci, Councilman Hughes,
Councilwoman Walowit, Supervisor Barrett

Noes: None

Absent: Councilman Roth

MOTION CARRIED

Everyone was given an opportunity to speak in favor of or against the 2009 Preliminary Budget and no one else wished to be heard. Supervisor Barrett declared the public hearing closed at 7:50 p.m.

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

Motion carried at 7:50 p.m.

Patricia O'Donnell
Town Clerk